

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2009 4:47 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Call from Sam Lewis

Fyi

----- Original Message -----

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Valenzuela, Arturo A; Llorens, Hugo;
Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Fri Nov 27 16:18:22 2009
Subject: Call from Sam Lewis

B6

I would like to keep this close hold please:

Former Panamanian VP/FM Sam Lewis just called to say he and former President Torrijos have been talking informally to Presidents Colom, Funes and Ortega. He said all three are concerned about finding a way forward in Honduras and that they realize elections must be part of the picture. They think the president-elect of Honduras will have a chance to pursue national reconciliation, including a unity government. They also said the region needs better mechanisms to head off coups and wondered about amending the IADC.

I told Sam about our step by step package approach and the vital role of elections in that package. Keep an eye out for our statement today, I added. We have always believed in changing the Honduran dynamic one move at a time -- he agreed. I noted that many Hondurans have talked of an eventual national dialogue to address social inclusion. Sam said Pathways could be a great vehicle for Honduras in that regard, and I said we were already looking at the Honduran chairmanship of Pathways Working Group One as an opportune way forward.

In the short run, I said, it would be important for Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua to avoid negative statements about the elections and to say positive things after Monday if the vote goes smoothly.

Sam agreed to pass that message and said he would stay in touch.

ck