

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2010 5:03 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 3/4/10 Senior Staff and Regional Bureaus Meeting

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Thu Mar 04 12:01:31 2010
Subject: 3/4/10 Senior Staff and Regional Bureaus Meeting

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

ISRAEL

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INDIA

- Bill said we are making progress on the reprocessing agreement with India.

INDONESIA

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HAITI

- Pat reported that he had authorized continued recovery of remains at the Hotel Montana because we have no way of knowing definitively whether there are more American remains there or not.
- Rich noted Senator Dodd has dropped out of the Friday Haiti CODEL. It will be Senator Menendez and five House members.

MEXICO

- Embassy Mexico City's report on violence along the eastern portion of the U.S.-Mexican border contains some hyperbole, but does reflect a very significant problem. Post is pressing for danger pay for those stationed along the border. Pat is willing to authorize, even though there is no evidence of targeting of official Americans, but wants to combine it with authorized departure. This would make it easier for families with children, most of whom go to school on the American side of the border, to remain on the American side for the time being.

CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

- U/S McHale testifies before the Senate Intelligence Committee today on strategic communications.

- Dan Fried participated as part of an interagency briefing led by Bill Lynn for the Senate Armed Services Committee. Almost a quasi-hearing. McCain and Sessions asked a number of tough questions. Dan reported later that the Republican members suggested that political appointees had pressured lower-level intelligence officials to acquiesce in the transfers despite their misgivings. All Administration officials present denied this.
- HFAC will take up the Armenian Genocide Resolution today. Have assurances it will remain in Committee, but would like Secretary to call Berman, Hoyer and Speaker Pelosi to ensure this. In the follow-on meeting, Phil [REDACTED] Rich Verma said we had heard there was agreement to oppose, but not necessarily to make a public statement. Rich noted that the Secretary had been clear in her testimony last week where we stood on this and that her calls to House leadership would also make clear we do not believe this is helpful and should be left to the Turkish-Armenian reconciliation process we have helped initiate. [REDACTED]

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NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

- [REDACTED]

LEGAL AFFAIRS

- Harold noted that it's not clear from today's *New York Times*' story on Senator Graham's negotiations with the WH on detainees whether a deal has been reached or not.
- On the *Samantar* case, Harold said that the Supreme Court arguments had gone fairly well, but that the Solicitor General's office had misread the court on this. Harold believes the Justices will find that the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act does not pertain, but will remain concerned about leaving it to the Executive to determine which standards apply.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- PJ noted today's Kristof column on child brides in Yemen ended by questioning why we don't allocate more of our assistance to Yemen for civil society instead of the military. Jack may get questions about that when he appears before the NYTimes editorial board.
- The Times also seems determined to try the Blackwater case from 2007 in the press. They have asked to interview all our DS agents who were on the ground at that time. We will decline.

REGIONAL BUREAUS MEETING

EAP

- Earthquake in Taiwan has apparently not caused too much damage. No reports of American casualties.
- The Public line out of China is that Jim Steinberg's trip has been successful and things are "improving."

NEA

- First day of "special needs" voting in Iraq went well, despite bombings in Baghdad.
- Human rights situation in Iran continues to deteriorate – the Bar Association is now moving against members who supported the green movement, including some who have defended U.S. detainees.

E

- Bob Hormats and Maria Otero will co-host an internet freedom meeting with private sector representatives, following up on the Secretary's speech.
- The model Bilateral Investment Treaty is under pressure from some Democrats on the Hill (Sander Levin and Baucus) who want to include stronger environmental and labor provisions. The concern is that most countries will refuse to accept such legally binding commitments in these areas.

IO

- All UN members will be invited to the Haiti Donors conference. Only those pledging new money, however, will be allowed to speak.