

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United Arab Emirates donated \$42 million to the Palestinian Authority, boosting support for President Mahmoud Abbas' cash-strapped government as it embarks on direct peace talks with Israel, Arab officials said on September 10. An Arab source in Washington said the donation, which was confirmed by a Palestinian government spokesman, was made after repeated calls by senior U.S. officials for more Arab support to help build Palestinian government capacity. "It is a timely gesture of support both for the talks and the institution-building project of the PA, as well as a response to the public urging from President Obama and Secretary Clinton," the source said. Palestinian government spokesman Ghassan al-Khatib confirmed the UAE donation but declined to give further details.