

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:16 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Greek Coalition Negotiations

Sorry to spam you. Specifics on Greek coalition talks.

From: Smith, Daniel B (Athens)
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 04:28 AM
To: Gordon, Philip H; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hormats, Robert D; Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S; Lael.Brainard [redacted]
 [redacted] >; Christopher.Smart [redacted] Allegrone,
 Kathleen H; Snipes, Christopher K; Bono, Louis [redacted] >; Daniels, Cherrie
 [redacted]
Cc: Bennett, Virginia L (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)
Subject: Greek Coalition Negotiations

I spoke to both Mr. Samaras and Mr. Venizelos this morning. They both underscored the need to form a coalition government as quickly as possible, and believe that this will likely consist of their two parties (New Democracy and PASOK) as well as the Democratic Left. Right now, this would give the new government roughly 179 seats in Parliament (out of a total of 300). The only difference between the two is that Venizelos would prefer to go directly to the second round where all the party leaders are called in for a meeting with the President and where it would be made crystal clear that SYRIZA is unwilling to join a government of national unity. Once that has been established, he would then join the coalition with New Democracy. In contrast, Samaras thinks this is a waste of time since SYRIZA has already made clear that it will not join any coalition. Despite this difference, both men recognize that it is essential to form a government as quickly as possible – if not today, then by tomorrow.

Both Samaras and Venizelos expressed their appreciation for the role that the USG has played throughout this crisis and during the election campaign. Samaras added that the White House statement on the election results was very helpful. They noted that they looked forward to working closely with the U.S. in the days and weeks ahead.

SBU
 This email is UNCLASSIFIED.