

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2010 3:40 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: FROM MIKE POSNER - trip report

FYI

From: Graze, Deborah E
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2010 1:07 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FROM MIKE POSNER - trip report

Jake, Cheryl,
Mike sent this note from Israel, and we will send to S as a note for the Secretary – wanted to give you an advance copy. Will share with Jeff Feltman and Mara Rudman too.
Regards, Deborah G

NOTE from Mike Posner for the Secretary

Tomorrow, Nov. 11, we are completing a four day visit to Israel. I am accompanied by Colonel (Ret.) David Graham, the Director of the Army Jag School in Charlottesville. This trip builds on our January visit in which we met with various Israeli officials, including the Chief of Staff of the IDF, to discuss follow-up to the Goldstone Report.

Our approach has been to offer our support and willingness to work with the Government of Israel to reframe the public debate from defensive (responding to Goldstone or Flotilla reports and resolutions at the UN, etc.) to a more pro-active narrative focused on the challenges of fighting an urban or asymmetrical war. We are having productive, and generally positive preliminary conversations about a possible GOI white paper that would: 1) set the context, outlining the challenges in fighting an asymmetrical conflict; 2) spell out the steps the IDF and other agencies have taken to address these challenges; and 3) identify ongoing challenges that Israel and other professional armies will need to address in the future.

We have been clear that this must be an Israeli initiative, not ours, but that we can help promote and use the report once it has been completed. Thus far we have met with Deputy Foreign Minister Dan Ayalon, Minister without Portfolio Benny Begin, Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman, and Deputy PM, Dan Meridor. Meridor, in particular is very interested and supportive of what we are exploring. Tomorrow we will meet with Gabi Ashkenazi, the IDF Chief of Staff, and with several other senior IDF officials, including General Avichai Mandelblit, the IDF's Judge Advocate, who has led the the government's investigation of the Goldstone/Cast Lead cases.

At this juncture we do not expect or need you to raise any of this with the PM or other Israeli officials. I simply wanted you to know what we are doing, and the status of these efforts, in case anyone in the Israeli delegation raises this with you.

End note

Deborah Graze

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