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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 8:27 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: (AP) Chavez in Iran for talks on boosting oil, gas ties

From: Simmons, Krista M
To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA; NEWS-WHA
Cc: SES-O_OS; SES-O_Shift-I
Sent: Tue Oct 19 02:55:18 2010
Subject: (AP) Chavez in Iran for talks on boosting oil, gas ties

TEHRAN (AP) - Venezuelan President Chavez has arrived in Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders expected to focus on efforts to boost cooperation between the allies' oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

Iranian state television says Chavez was greeted by Industry Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian at Tehran's Mehrabad airport upon arrival early October 19.

State TV says Chavez will hold talks with President Ahmadinejad, during his two-day visit.

The Venezuelan leader backed Iran in its confrontation with the West over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. The U.S. accuses Iran of seeking to develop an atomic bomb. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

