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WASHINGTON, D.C.

RELEASE IN PART  
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October 11, 2010

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

I hope this letter finds you well, with fall fully underway. You continue to lead the State Department with extraordinary skill and effectiveness, and to represent our nation to the world in the best possible way. You've been getting universally high marks, even from some who are inclined to be critical, and that's a testament to the confidence you've restored in U.S. diplomacy. Donna and I are proud of and for you. We know how hard you work every day.

Madam Secretary, I'm writing to revisit an issue you and I had discussed when you first took up your new job: specifically, the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Americas.

As you recall, during his campaign, President Obama promised he would reinstate the position. And while you and I both know that envoy positions are not guaranteed to be successful, I do believe they have merit. Senator Mitchell is doing an excellent job as you continue to work to move the Middle East Peace Process forward. During my time as Special Envoy, I felt I was able to assist President Clinton in advancing his agenda—not only in terms of hemispheric relations, but regarding broader thematic issues like trade (ie jobs), security, energy and the environment, and integration and cooperation. Of course your efforts during your time as First Lady were very affirming and important to the President's agenda and my efforts and I will always be mindful and grateful for your support and engagement.

Obviously, a great deal depends on the talent and temperament of the individual him- or herself. But part of what prompts me to reach out today is the likelihood that [redacted] may soon be available for new opportunities. [redacted] would bring a tremendous range of expertise and assets to the job of Special Envoy for the Americas. As a former [redacted] he understands core issues like trade, jobs, education, and immigration, as well as the importance of the growing Hispanic constituency in the United States. Foreign leaders

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would respect and value the close and trusting friendship he shares with President Obama. He speaks fluent Spanish, thanks to his service as a [REDACTED] And his political skills would prove valuable in navigating the varied interests, agendas, concerns, and personalities that make up the Latin American and Caribbean landscape.

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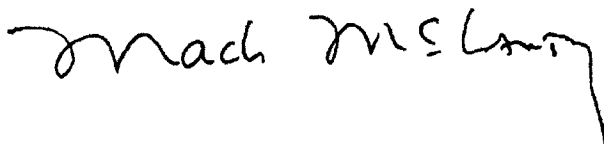
To that last point, I do believe this is an important moment in our dealings with the hemisphere. As you well know, the region is not a monolithic, homogeneous bloc—but, rather, a group of diverse and distinct countries with disparate concerns. Last month, Moises Naim wrote a pointed column in *El Pais* called “While Washington Sleeps,” in which he criticized the United States for what he described as a lethargic and unimaginative policy toward a region made up of fast-growing economies, where China’s influence is deepening, and where a new group of leaders is taking their countries through democratic elections. At a time when our nation is still grappling with wars on the other side of the globe, a Special Envoy for the Americas could help keep relations in our own neighborhood on track. I know first-hand how much the leaders in the hemisphere appreciate the kind of personal engagement and attention that a dedicated Envoy can provide.

I’m aware that you’ve been reaching out to experts like Strobe and Jose Villarreal, and I commend you for your efforts. You have a full plate—indeed, full to overflowing—and you are doing an excellent job. This is simply a case where I believe an opportunity exists, for [REDACTED] to serve the country, the president, and you; and for our nation to revitalize its engagement with our closest neighbors.

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Please know that I stand ready to be supportive however I can.

Personally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McLain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.