

RELEASE IN FULL

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2010 8:06 AM
To: 'millsd@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Next Week?

I'm up--can you talk? Call me at home.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
To: H
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 10 16:40:27 2010
Subject: FW: Next Week?

From: Crowley, Philip J
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 4:39 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma
Subject: RE: Next Week?

As you wish. You just need to understand that I can explain to the press corps that I work with every day why I am not in Azerbaijan. It is about diplomacy and not headlines. It is very difficult to explain why the State Department spokesman is not present at a direct negotiation between the Palestinians and the Israelis, one of the administration's highest priorities and an event at which there will be a significant number of media. Whether we have a lot to say or a little to say, this will be a global media event and the State Department spokesman will not be there. I do understand our strategy, that we are going to keep our words sparse, given the sensitivity of the negotiations. And to one journalist from the paper of record who said he assumed I would be on the trip. When I hesitated and said I was not sure and then explained that we were making a deliberate calculation regarding our PD strategy, he then remarked that this means the media will have a painful four days in the region because the assumption is there will be nothing provided them. This undermines the trip and ultimately the Secretary. I am a team player and will remain a team player, but this is a decision that comes with a cost, including my credibility as the spokesman.

PJ

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 4:06 PM
To: Crowley, Philip J; Abedin, Huma
Subject: RE: Next Week?

We have – no travel for this trip.

cdm

From: Crowley, Philip J
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 2:52 PM
To: Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Next Week?

Have we arrived at a decision? I believe based on what the President said in his news conference – laying out that we have asked the PM explicitly to extend the moratorium – will yield significant coverage here tomorrow and a reaction in the region. This has PD implications for the meetings. What does the Secretary want me to do – be there to help with messaging or stay here? My vote is to be there, but at this stage I just need to know.

PJ