

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 1:52 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: thank you!

From: Labowitz, Sarah
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 1:47 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Rooney, Megan; Mills, Cheryl D; Ross, Alec J; Scott, Ben; Baer, Daniel B; Parker, Emily; Klevorick, Caitlin B; 'jkennedy'; Daniel, Joshua J; Spector, Phillip M; Koh, Harold Hongju
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Agree with Jake.

And who would have thought the speech would generate praise from Evgeny Morozov, the professional critic? Quite a feat, Megan. I've copied the first part of his HuffPo piece below. He goes on to make a more general critique of why this issue is complicated (tensions!), but on the speech itself, he's surprisingly upbeat. We achieved at least one of the Secretary's objectives in that we responded to our critics.

Strong work, team.

-Sarah

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/evgeny-morozov/americas-internet-freedom_b_824434.html

PALO ALTO -- When Hillary Clinton delivered her first major speech on Internet freedom in January 2010 little did she know about WikiLeaks and the yet-to-come revolts in Tunisia and Egypt. Proclaiming Internet freedom to be a new priority for American foreign policy, Clinton provided scant details on how this new idealistic initiative would fit with its existing realpolitik foundations -- the ones that have often prized stability over liberty.

Clinton's follow-up speech, delivered on February 15th at George Washington University, was an effort to capitalize on the universal excitement about the role of social media in the recent events in the Middle East, correct some of the rhetorical excesses of the 2010 address, and try to reconcile the inherent contradictions of aspiring to export Internet freedom abroad while limiting it at home, with National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security seeking more oversight over cyberspace.

First, the good news. Gone is the Cold War-era view of the Internet as a faster and leaner network of fax machines on steroids. While Clinton's 2010 address was full of references to the "information curtain [that] is descending upon much of the world", to the Berlin Wall that is being replaced by "virtual walls", and to "viral videos and blog posts [that] are becoming the samizdat of our day", her most recent speech has avoided such banal cliches and historically inappropriate metaphors altogether.

Equally sobering was Clinton's acknowledgment that "there is no app" for solving the problem of Internet control. While it's important to continue investing in tools to circumvent censorship schemes of authoritarian governments, Internet filtering is just one of the many tools in their arsenal. Finding a way to protect independent publishers from cyber-attacks and other forms of online intimidation is equally important.

Another piece of good news is the State Department's reluctance to take a stand in the brewing debate of whether the Internet is a tool for liberation or oppression (Clinton characterized this debate as "largely beside the point"). Clearly, it's a tool for both; the degree to which it's liberating or oppressing often depends on the political and social context -- and not on the individual characteristics of a given Internet technology. It's reassuring to see Hillary Clinton strike a reasonable balance between cyber-utopianism and cyber-pessimism; adopting a cyber-realist posture and treating the Internet as it is (and not how we would like it to be) is the right way forward.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J

Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 1:18 PM

To: Rooney, Megan; Mills, Cheryl D; Ross, Alec J; Scott, Ben; Baer, Daniel B; Labowitz, Sarah; Parker, Emily; Klevorick, Caitlin B; 'jkennedy [redacted] Daniel, Joshua J; Spector, Phillip M; Koh, Harold Hongju

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Nice work all – this speech will stand the test of time.

From: Rooney, Megan

Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 12:32 PM

To: Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Ross, Alec J; Scott, Ben; Baer, Daniel B; Labowitz, Sarah; Parker, Emily; Klevorick, Caitlin B; 'jkennedy [redacted]; Daniel, Joshua J; Spector, Phillip M; Koh, Harold Hongju

Subject: thank you!

Dear Team Internet Freedom,

Now that the speech is behind us, I just wanted to thank you all for being such phenomenal colleagues. This was one the most complex speeches I've ever worked on and the process was **so smooth,** it was really remarkable. You all had so many good ideas, strong examples, great language... Dan, Ben, and Jake took the lead on significant changes in the final 18 hours, which was clutch... Cheryl sent final edits from Haiti, Harold sent edits from Europe... and all of you turned around comments quickly and cheerfully again and again during the previous two weeks. What a team. I'm so grateful. Please convey my thanks to all your staffers as well

Looking forward to the next time!

--Megan

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