

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:10 PM
To: H
Cc: Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Fw: Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

Fyi

From: Crowley, Phillip J
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 03:33 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Re: Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

I assume you will let the Secretary know if you haven't already. If you think it appropriate to send her a note, I will do so. I have told Mike and Mark so they know I will disengage this weekend and defer all action to them. Other than my spouse, I have not told anyone else and will withhold all comment until Monday. On Monday I will inform the rest of my staff as we are ready to press send on the announcement. Talk again later tonight.

PJ

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:29 PM
To: Crowley, Phillip J
Subject: Fw: Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

Let's discuss this weekend

Cdm

From: Laszzych, Joanne
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:25 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

From: Thompson, Nicole A
To: Crowley, Phillip J
Cc: PA PO Group
Sent: Fri Mar 11 12:02:04 2011
Subject: Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

Reporter: State Department official raps Pentagon treatment of Manning: "counterproductive and stupid"

By Laura Rozen laura Rozen

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley harshly criticized the Pentagon's treatment of WikiLeaks suspect Private First Class Bradley Manning as "ridiculous, counterproductive and stupid" at a Boston-area university forum yesterday, according to a BBC journalist who attended the event.

"I just heard an extraordinary remark from State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley," veteran BBC reporter Philippa Thomas, currently a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, wrote at her blog.

Crowley was speaking on the topic of new media and foreign policy at an event organized by MIT's Center for Future Civic Media, when a person in the small audience asked him about WikiLeaks and the U.S. treatment of PFC Bradley Manning.

"Crowley didn't stop to think," Thomas wrote. "What's being done to Bradley Manning by my colleagues at the Department of Defense 'is ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid.' "

"Nonetheless, Bradley Manning is the right place," Thomas cited Crowley, adding: "And he went on lengthening his answer, explaining why in Washington's view, 'there is sometimes a need for secrets....for diplomatic progress to be made.' But still, he'd said it. And the fact that he felt strongly enough to say it seems to me an extraordinary insight into the tensions within the administration over WikiLeaks."

Crowley, a former Pentagon spokesman during the Clinton administration, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Nor did Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell, who has vigorously defended Quantico's treatment of Manning including ordering him stripped naked for several nights.

Separately, Manning's father Brian Manning, a former U.S. serviceman, criticized the Pentagon's treatment of his son as "shocking" in an interview this week with PBS's Frontline, Wired's Kim Zetter reports:

Brian Manning broke his silence to a PBS Frontline correspondent this week after the U.S. Marine Corps brig at Quantico, Virginia, where his 23-year-old son is being held, stripped the soldier of his clothing and forced him to stand at attention in the nude and sleep naked. Manning's defense attorney has called the brig's move "inexcusable" and "degrading treatment."

"This is someone who has not gone to trial or been convicted of anything," Brian Manning told Frontline. "They worry about people down in a base in Cuba, but here they are, have someone on our own soil, under their own control, and they're treating him this way.... It's shocking enough that I would come out of our silence as a family and say ... you've crossed a line. This is wrong."

Manning himself for the first time publicly protested his treatment in an 11-page letter released by his lawyer, David Coombs this week, the Guardian reports:

In an 11-page legal letter released by his lawyer, David Coombs, Manning sets out in his own words how he has been "left to languish under the unduly harsh conditions of max [security] custody" ever since he was brought from Kuwait to the military brig of Quantico marine base in Virginia in July last year. He describes how he was put on suicide watch in January, how he is currently being stripped naked every night, and how he is in general terms being subjected to what he calls "unlawful pre-trial punishment."