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INFORMATION MEMO FOR THE COUNSELOR

FROM: E – Under Secretary Bob Hormats
S/GPI – Special Representative Kris Balderston

SUBJECT: Congressional Co-Chairs for Partners for a New Beginning
(PNB)

Background

As you know, the Partners for New Beginning program is beginning to make progress in spurring private sector investment in targeted countries in the MENA region and the broader Muslim world. After a successful dinner with the Secretary earlier this week, we believe that the PNB Secretariat— chaired by the Aspen Institute and including leading figures from the private sector— is well positioned to foster significant investments that will make a tangible impact in these critical regions.

As the PNB Secretariat has developed, there has been interest from the Hill in contributing to the program. To capitalize on this interest, the Aspen Institute has proposed to offer Honorary Co-Chairmanships to Senators Kerry and McCain. Both Senators are interested in working with the private sector to gain additional support for PNB. They are also willing to help secure support from the Gulf Sovereign wealth funds.



CC:
Legislative Affairs (H)
Office of the Legal Advisor (L)

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