

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2011 11:23 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: thanks and goodbye!

Thought you'd want to see

From: Bommer, Ashley F
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2011 07:50 PM
To: Ashley Bommer [REDACTED]
Subject: thanks and goodbye!

B6

I will never forget January 16, 2009. It was cold, snowy, and I was homeless. Having left New York in the night, I reported to the State Department at 8AM, to join Ambassador Holbrooke and the creation of SRAP.

Before I knew it, trips with General Allen, Admiral Mullen, Secretary Clinton, Ambassador Holbrooke, and Raj Shah led to unexpected discovery, headache and heartbreak, creative policy proposals, carrots and sticks, progress and setbacks. New initiatives galvanized the omnivorous SRAP coalition across the USG and pushed policy beyond paper. The Strategic Dialogue, Trilateral Summits, Transit Trade, a real Civilian Surge, new efforts at Reconciliation, the International Contact Group, endless "shuras," and nonstop Shuttle Diplomacy were alive and in motion.

To the team Ambassador Holbrooke assembled whose energy and creativity inspired me daily; to Vikram, Barney, Vali, Mary Beth, Dereck, Rina, JD, Sean, Jarrett, Greta, Ronan, Rosemarie, Burt, Frank, Alex, Shamilla, Phil, Clemens, Jane, Joanne, Maureen, Ariella, Andrew, Frank A, Matt, Paul, Rami, Dan, Quintin, Beth, Clare, Sepideh, Otto and my interagency and comms colleagues Sajit, Jessica, Nayyera, Joe, Larry, Caitlin, and Brian and so many others; to our tireless staff assistants, especially Morgan, John, Kim, and Chris; to Donna, Esther and Pat for their unstinting support; to Jake and Derek for wise advice and loyal friendship; to Matt and Ben our pillars at the White House; to Secretary Clinton and the Obama Administration, who gave me the chance to serve my country and the two countries I cared about most: every day was an honor.

More than two and a half years have flown by, and I've decided to move on to a new adventure with Virgin Unite, the non-profit arm of Richard Branson's Virgin Group. I'll be back in New York. I'm excited.

A thousand thanks to you all for these years and to all of you carrying on in government for Afghanistan and Pakistan and for our own national good. I look forward to meeting and collaborating with many of you in my new capacity.

Love, Ashley

new email: [REDACTED]
 personal email: [REDACTED]
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