

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:00 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Cuba

From: Shannon, Thomas A (Brazil)
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 08:37 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Sherman, Wendy R; Jacobson, Roberta S
Subject: Cuba

I spoke with Marco Aurelio Garcia this morning about Alan Gross and Dilma's upcoming trip to Cuba. Following up on a conversation I had with him several days earlier, I underscored our interest in securing Gross' release. I walked him through our efforts up to this point, and noted that mixed messages from the Cubans in New York, and their disastrous handling of the Richardson visit, had raised real doubts about their willingness or ability to resolve this problem. I said we needed direct communication with Raul Castro, and I asked for Dilma to raise this issue with the Cuban president when they meet this coming week.

Marco Aurelio agreed to raise this request with Dilma. While he could not anticipate her response, he said that she is aware of the Gross case, understands its importance, and would like to find a successful resolution to it. (Earlier in the week he had told me that the GOB would remain seized with this issue and was prepared to be helpful to both sides.)

Marco Aurelio is currently in Porto Alegre, but is returning to Brasilia later today. He is then traveling on Sunday to Salvador da Bahia with Dilma to participate in a Holocaust Remembrance ceremony. Both will depart for Cuba directly from Salvador. I will speak with him before he leaves for Cuba.

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