

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: FW: from playbook

Ummmmm ...

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From: Toiv, Nora F
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:49 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: from playbook

THE TOP 3 CONTENDERS to succeed Secretary of State Clinton, who has said she would step down if President Obama were reelected: **Sen. John Kerry** ... national security adviser **Tom Donilon** ... **Susan Rice**, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

--**Both Clinton and Panetta have their eyes on a little R&R.** But given their portfolios, they're not going to split on Jan. 20. There are too many variables, including the confirmation process, and military and diplomatic markers and timelines. So we could imagine the President asking each of them to stay on through, say, spring for succession/transition.

--**Foreign Policy's "Turtle Bay" blog, "Has Susan Rice found her cojones moment?" by Colum Lynch :** " On Monday, Susan Rice, speaking to hundreds of rabbis at a luncheon hosted by the America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), ... demonstrated a shared understanding with America's pro-Israel community, which often feels isolated at the United Nations. ... Rice's speech had the feeling an election rally and an audition, an opportunity to demonstrate to Israel's backers that the Obama administration -- and she personally -- share their emotional bond to the Jewish homeland. ... The remarks were broadcast and re-tweeted around the globe, and caught the attention of an important constituency in Washington -- political conservatives who have never formed part of her base." <http://bit.ly/wLy1pk>

--**Sen. John Kerry op-ed in WashPost, "Romney's interference on Iran":** "Romney's goal remains winning the acquiescence of his party's base ... It is deja vu. While wise Republicans stress the perils of loose war talk and the value of engagement to isolate Iran, Romney seeks to create political division with an attack on the Obama administration's Iran policy that is as inaccurate as it is aggressive. ... Romney should take on the man in the White House instead of inventing straw men on op-ed pages." <http://wapo.st/AyebJj>

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