

RELEASE IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2012 12:19 PM
To: H; Burns, William J
Subject: FW: Dinner with Kofi Annan

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FYI.

From: Patterson, Anne W
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sievers, Marc J; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Blome, Donald A; Hallett, Stephanie L
Subject: Dinner with Kofi Annan

Last night's dinner was broad ranging, with (I admit) interesting observations by the Russian ambassador who just completed four and a half years in Syria and knew all the Syrian players personally.

The five permanent ambassadors were there, along with Annan's personnel from his Foundation and some of Nabil's senior staff. Al Kidwa wasn't there, and I gather than Annan is still thinking about asking Jean Marie Guehenno to be his second deputy. The main message from the former Secretary General was that the permanent members should reach out to the various opposition groups and encourage them to engage with him. He feared that the drumbeat of military intervention – which he opposed – will make some of them refuse to sit down and talk, if they can just wait for military action. (He was careful not to call it negotiate.)

There was some back and forth about the SNC and whether they could play this unifying role. Annan said he didn't quite know what to expect until he got to Syria and became engaged with the players. To

Like Jeff Feltman, Annan thought the business community could exercise influence on Bashar, but they had failed to do so to date. I thought Kofi was clearly going in the direction of a unity government, but it was clear he would seek a ceasefire.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Re humanitarian access, there is a meeting of major humanitarian NGOs this week in Brussels and the Arab league is mobilizing Arab humanitarian groups to be ready when access is granted. (Steph, check this point with the AL on Saturday.) This was a follow up meeting to the London conference. Both Annan and Nabil agreed that humanitarian access must be the priority.

Regarding the political settlement, there was some discussion of driving a wedge between Bashar and members of his family.

Nabil said he needed a UN resolution quickly to allow for peacekeepers (he calls it something like "an appropriate mechanism for monitoring"). He and Annan had some back and forth about where the peacekeepers could come from and what existing PKO missions they might be taken from. Nabil said they could be taken from an existing UN PKO mission, probably in AF, which would be quicker, and they could get several hundred "peacekeepers" into Homs quickly.

Lavrov is here today. He knew the Secretary was going to call.