

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2012 6:55 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Thank you to S (and the 7th Floor team)

From: Huebner, David
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 01:28 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Thank you to S (and the 7th Floor team)

Cheryl,

Please convey to S and to the staffers involved my deep thanks for S raising with NZ Foreign Minister McCully yesterday the issue of diplomat same-sex spouse work accommodation.

GNZ's refusal to extend to same-sex spouses (whether married, registered as domestic partners, or otherwise) the benefits granted to married opposite-sex spouses has caused significant hardship for several members of our Mission as well as for a comparable number of Kiwi diplomats serving in the U.S.

[redacted]
[redacted]. FSO's with more limited resources, however, including [redacted]
[redacted] have been severely impacted by the situation.

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Including the issue on the agenda signaled to the Foreign Minister the importance of the issue to USG, and I suspect that it will prod him into reopening the matter in some fashion, despite his prior flat refusal.

Thank you.

- D