

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mikulski, BAM (Mikulski) <BAM@Mikulski.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 4:06 PM
To: H
Subject: Greetings from Barb

Dear Hillary,

As I follow your travels around the globe, I wanted to let you know about my recent CODEL to the Middle East. Tomorrow I will email you about two legislative issues that are so important to me – compensation for the families of Nairobi bombing victims, and visa waiver.

I just got back from a CODEL to Israel and Egypt. Your ambassadors, Ann Patterson and Dan Shapiro and their staffs are terrific. They provided world-class support and expertise throughout our trip. Our country is truly lucky to have these people working on our behalf. The Israelis had very positive things to say about the inclusion and consultation on Iran and were particularly complimentary about the Under Secretary for Political Affairs...

Broadly speaking, our meetings with the Israelis still had a strong sense of urgency about Iran, but with somewhat less tension than when I was there in January. This time they put the onus more on the United States, however, especially in the midst of the P5+1 talks. The Sinai was also front and center this time, and I share the Israelis' deep concern that we work together, with Egypt, to help stabilize what is essentially a lawless zone of human smuggling, criminal gangs and extremist elements. I hope to work with you and your Department more on the Sinai issue in the future. Egypt's future remains up for grabs. The elections leave Egyptians to make a Solomonian decision – a choice between a figure of the old regime and an untested Islamist candidate. The United States will have to prepare to manage a new phase of what promises to be an ambivalent, complex relationship at best. The economy will be the vital issue regardless of who is in power – and the economy will make or break them. I hope we can find ways to leverage economic issues with Egypt and work to creatively reshape our security relationship amidst our own fiscal problems. Again, as a SSCI and Foreign Ops Appropriations member, I look forward to helping you achieve those goals.

I wish you safe travels. It definitely makes me sleep better at night knowing that you are leading America's foreign policy. I look forward to seeing you at your party for Sue next week.

Barb