

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2012 11:33 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: Syrian Opposition Meeting in Cairo: Agreement on composition

I can't tell whether to be heartened or depressed by the below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jones, Beth E
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 6:52 AM
To: Burns, William J; Sullivan, Jacob J; Sherman, Wendy R
Cc: Blair, Oni K; Grantham, Chris W; Miller, James N
Subject: Syrian Opposition Meeting in Cairo: Agreement on composition

From our team in Cairo at the Opposition meeting, final session:

After about five hours the group agreed on a composition of the "follow up and communications committee." They will propose to their political bodies that it be a 21-person committee with three seats for the SNC; 2 seats for the KNC; and one seat for the other 16 groups.

This odd formulation was a result of the SNC's need to be perceived as the heavy weight and the Kurdish demand that it have more seats than the Turkmen. Despite getting their wish, the Kurds attempted (right before the vote) to add another seat in their umbrella which angered every participant in the room. Finally, after an Amb Ford scolding, they conceded.

Three people were selected to collect the names from each of the 18 groups.
They are scheduled to submit the names of each group's participants to the Arab League in seven days.