

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2012 2:24 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: HRC re SER

FYI

-----Original Message-----
From: Rice, Susan E (USUN)
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 2:19 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: RE: HRC re SER

Very, very generous and helpful. I am most appreciative. Thanks much for forwarding.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 2:07 PM
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN)
Subject: Fw: HRC re SER

----- Original Message -----
From: Reines, Philippe I
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 01:41 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Nides, Thomas R; Verma, Richard R
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: HRC re SER

----- Original Message -----
From: Merrill, Nicholas S
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 01:38 PM
To: 'Benjamin_J._Rhodes'; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Pelton, Erin
Cc: Reines, Philippe I; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Secretary Clinton Tonight in Dublin

B6

Hi all,

Philippe asked me to send you the below excerpt from the Secretary's press conference following her meeting with the Taoiseach tonight in Dublin (about an hour ago).

Nick

QUESTION: ... coming from some Republicans in Congress who accuse her of not having the necessary qualities that a Secretary, a prospective Secretary of State, should have. Do you feel that this criticism - or how deeply do you feel that this criticism has wounded her? And should she be nominated and it turns into a protracted battle in the Senate, how long would you be willing to stay on?

SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, first, Jill, let me repeat what I have said many times publicly and privately. Susan Rice has done a great job as our UN Ambassador. She has been a stalwart colleague in a lot of the tough decisions that we've had to make, and certainly with respect to defending our national interests and national security at the United Nations. And she's played an important role in what we've been able to accomplish in the last four years. I worked very closely with her in shaping the sanctions on North Korea and Iran, and she has been on the go for us in every way that was required.

And it's important to remember what Susan said was based on the information that had been given to every senior official in our Administration. And she made very clear in her appearances that the information was subject to change as more facts were gathered and analyzed by the intelligence community. And look, as is often the case, our understanding evolved over time, and we've done our best to keep the American people and the Congress informed. That was her goal, that was her mission, and she should not be criticized for doing exactly that.

And this decision about who succeeds me is totally up to the President, and of course, I will support whatever he decides. And I've told him that I will certainly do what I can to help to expedite a transition, but I'm not going to make any comment beyond that.

Thank you all.