

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 5:31 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Bill Richardson

FYI

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

From: Sherman, Wendy R
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 3:44 PM
To: 'Denis_R._McDonough' [redacted] Burns, William J; Sullivan, Jacob J; Davies, Glyn T; Campbell, Kurt M; 'sydney_A_Seiler' [redacted] 'daniel_r._russe' [redacted] Nides, Thomas R
Cc: Cintron, Dan; Lakhdir, Kamala S
Subject: Bill Richardson

B6

(SBU) I spoke by phone with Bill Richardson for nearly 25 minutes.

Bottom line is that he insisted he has made up his mind and will travel to NK, leaving he thought Jan 7, going through China and staying in NK 2 days. He said he would reflect on the conversation but he was going to go. I used the points as well as our history on NK; the likelihood that he will be badly used; that this will be perceived as giving them credibility with folks believing they come as reps of administration no matter what they say; that this will complicate UNSC action, etc. to no avail. He said he didn't work for the administration though I reminded him as an American citizen and former official he had to be cognizant of US national security and this was not in the national security interest of the US. He also repeated that there would never be a good time. He said that Eric Schmidt was going with him and taking his daughter (teenager) as well as Jared (neither of us could remember last name), who use to work for the administration and is now at Google. Bill doesn't think Eric has thought through the trip but will be making a donation to an international food entity and announce such while they are in NK. Eric, of course, hopes someday to have the NK market but not point of this visit. Bill has been told highest level they will see will be Kim Gae Gwan. He said he needs to do this because basis of funding for his foundation that 'supports my work with bad guys.' At any rate, I think we should consider a call to Eric Schmidt and to Jared. I also think if we can't turn this off (not even sure a WH call would do it), we should consider preemptive press statement. Bill had already gotten a call from ROK (don't know who) and that had not persuaded him either. At end of call he also mentioned he would be tough with them, and he would do what he could for the American detained. No surprise but sorry not more persuasive (in spite of his saying compelling call, etc.....).