

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 6:52 AM
To: H
Cc: Abedin, Huma
Subject: Northern Ireland

Gordon Brown called Lou Susman a short while ago. Brown believes you should make a call to McGuinness this morning around 830 am (Declan and I agree that if you call McG you also must call Robinson). Brown proposes to speak with you at 820 or so to bring you up to speed before those calls.

The current situation is that Brown and Cowen are in Belfast, and met with Robinson, McGuinness, and other parties until 330 in the morning Belfast time. They have now resumed today. The sticking point is parades. Robinson wants the current parades commission abolished because it gives Republicans too much say. McGuinness refuses to allow the parades issue to be tied to the devolution issue.

The key message to McGuinness is to keep working this thing through -- not to take any drastic action that would bring down the assembly or collapse the process.

Declan agrees that this is the moment to make calls.

If you agree we can have the ops center set up the Brown call as well as the other two.

We'll get you some more background before the calls, but talking points will be fluid and shaped in large measure by Brown's report.