

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 6:08 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: BREAKING NEWS -- NYU GRAD STUDENTS FOUND. SAFE, WELL, IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND ON THEIR WAY HOME

Importance: High

Love th cg

From: John Beckman [redacted]
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Thu Jan 14 23:28:24 2010
Subject: BREAKING NEWS -- NYU GRAD STUDENTS FOUND. SAFE, WELL, IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND ON THEIR WAY HOME

B6

Cheryl,
I am once again in your debt. Thank you for all the quick and sustained attention you and the State Department gave this matter.

I owe you.

At least one good ending...

Here's what I am distributing to news organizations:

STATEMENT FROM NYU SPOKESMAN JOHN BECKMAN

"NYU is very pleased to report that we have been in touch with one of the two missing graduate students who were in Haiti. They are together and safe and well in the Dominican Republic en route back home to the US. Details of their experience are still emerging, but our understanding is that they were flown out of the airport near Port-au-Prince by the Coast Guard, whose men and women we thank for their courage and perseverance.

"The University is very grateful for all the assistance we received from the State Department and other government agencies and elected officials.

"We're overjoyed to know they are coming home, safe and sound. This is a very happy ending to this story."

-- jb

On 1/14/10 8:13 AM, "Mills, Cheryl D" <MillsCD@state.gov> wrote:

So do they need to be found or are they fine and they need transporation

From: John Beckman [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010 8:12 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: RE: AmCits from NYU

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I wasn't going to bother you; little surprise that, nonetheless, this matter made its way to you...

Just so you know, Walter and I are old friends; he's married to a really close friend of mine from high school, [redacted] I think the world of them both.

ISOS thinks they can get them out, but we have no communication with the two of them, so no way to arrange a rendezvous. They're history PhD students; they were supposed to be conducting research in the Haitian National Archives. Their accommodations are not entirely clear – they were either at a home in Carrefour district that belonged to the family of the young woman, or they may have been staying in one of the two hotels recommended to them by other grad students who had studied there: the Plaza, or the Oloffson.

We'd be grateful for anything the Dept can do. I know what a mess it is down there, and I know there are a zillion tasks to accomplish. I also know this must be very hard on the State Dept personnel who are posted there; my thoughts are with them.

Thanks, C. Just knowing you know about it is a relief to me .

Yours,
jb

From: Mills, Cheryl D [<mailto:MillsCD@state.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 9:59 PM
To: john.beckmar [redacted]
Subject: FW: AmCits from NYU

FYI

From: CMS TaskForce1I
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 9:53 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; TaskForce-1
Cc: CA Taskforce; TaskForce-1
Subject: RE: AmCits from NYU

CA is following up.

Henry Hand
CA TF-1 Rep

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 9:27 PM
To: TaskForce-1
Subject: FW: AmCits from NYU

Can we follow-up?

cdm

B6

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 6:39 PM
To: Haiti Earthquake Task Force
Cc: Oetgen, Jerome J
Subject: AmCits from NYU

Could you please contact John Beckman [redacted] at New York University with any information you might have on the two AmCits below?

Thank you for any help you can provide. Regards. Walter.

Walter Douglas

Executive Assistant

Office of the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (R)

U.S. Department of State

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From: John Beckman [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 4:46 PM
To: Douglas, Walter T
Subject: Walter -- I could really use your help

Walter – I could really use your help.

There are two NYU PhD history students – [redacted] and [redacted] (both US citizens) – in Port-au-Prince or possibly the nearby area of Carrefour. Neither the University nor their families have had any contact with them with the earthquake.

We are having trouble getting in touch with anyone at the State Dept who might be assembling a list of those who have contacted the embassy. Are you able to help at all? Their passport numbers are:

[redacted]

We are very worried, as are their families, of course. If there is anything that can be done to try to track them down – or if we can even know they have made contact with US authorities – we would be very grateful.

I know this must be a difficult time for the men and women of the foreign service in the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please know that the thoughts of the NYU community are with them in this difficult time.

Thanks for anything you can do, Walter

John Beckman
[redacted]