

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2011 11:55 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: The Secretary's Busan speech

Well well well . . .

From: David Beckmann [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2011 09:46 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: The Secretary's Busan speech

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Cheryl,

Secretary Clinton gave a very strong speech in Busan. Revamping foreign assistance is an important feature of her remarkable few years at Secretary of State.

When the administration came to office, Secretary Clinton immediately stressed the importance of leadership from the Secretary and ambassadors on development issues. I was wary that this was just a new way of talking about the chronic dominance of State over USAID, which has often made U.S. assistance suboptimal from a development point of view. But events have changed my mind. For example, the leadership of the President and Secretary of State in promoting agricultural development and best-practice nutrition assistance in poor countries has achieved much, much more for hungry people than what USAID and the MCA have been able to do. Top-level political emphasis on hunger and food have swayed the investment priorities of many other governments, multilateral institutions, corporations, and NGOs.

I don't think the administration has received the credit it deserves for President's world hunger initiative (most people think Feed the Future is just an agriculture initiative in USAID) or for your reform of how the U.S. carries out its diplomacy and development activities. In the first months after coming to power, the administration supported an expansion of World Bank and IMF lending to help developing countries cope with the financial crisis. There was no publicity about it, but I think the Bank and IMF really helped the developing countries sustain rapid economic growth. Even the low-income countries, as a group, are growing at 6% a year.

I don't think the administration has received enough credit for what you've done, partly because your achievements have usually been presented and promoted one-by-one. Most people who know about Feed the Future, for example, think it is just a program in USAID. Perhaps you should consider a speech by the Secretary that would summarize all that the Obama administration has achieved in the area of international development and how it has benefited the American people as well as struggling people around the world.

David Beckmann

P.S. Bread for the World has pulled out all the stops to mobilize people of faith across the country, national faith leaders, and a broad coalition of secular and religious organizations to protect international aid and the 150 account.