

RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6

June 26, 2009  
Hamilton, Bermuda

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC, 20500

President Obama,

It has been a great honor to represent the United States of America as the senior US diplomat to Bermuda over the past almost four years. When we arrived in September of 2005, "respect and admiration" for the US was near a 25 year low in Bermuda and the US Mission to Bermuda was in disarray. I am thankful to be able to report that today, with the help of many fine State Department and USG colleagues, "respect and admiration" for the US in Bermuda has increased every year for four straight years – and is now at a 25 year high. Furthermore, the US Mission to Bermuda is held in high regard throughout the Island. And the myriad of diplomatic initiatives that have been started over the past four years should, I believe, keep the US/ Bermuda alliance strong for years to come.

With this in mind, I am deeply thankful that your Administration has agreed to further extend my term here until August 15<sup>th</sup> of 2009. This will allow us to complete a number of important diplomatic Initiatives that I am spearheading, and for us to fully represent the United States for the key portions of Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration this summer. However, all good things must come to an end. Therefore, I hereby tender my resignation as senior United States diplomat to Bermuda effective August 15<sup>h</sup>, 2009.

Mr. President, I know that this is highly unusual, but I hope you will allow me to make a suggestion as to my successor. Given the recent arrival in Bermuda of the four Uighar detainees from Guantanamo and the ongoing (and extreme) sensitivity of that issue, as well as the vital partnerships that now exist between the US and Bermuda in areas such as reinsurance and tourism – I believe it is essential that my successor be a person who is well known and well respected in both Washington and Bermuda.

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Again, I hope that you do not mind my making this suggestion, but with my Deputy (Matthew Johnson) departing July 20<sup>th</sup> and no replacement in sight for him – and with our only other Foreign Service Officer (Margaret Pride) departing in early September – I do believe it is essential for our Nation to be strongly and capably represented by a highly able and deeply respected leader who is

able to hit the ground running – and has the complete trust of both you and Secretary Clinton. Most probably a career foreign service officer would eventually be able to do a good job here – but I believe it would take him or her perhaps 12 months to establish the type of rapport and connections in this very closed community that would allow him/her to be truly effective....and it might never happen at all.

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Mr. President, thank you again for giving myself, my wife Marina and our four young children the opportunity to complete our service to our Nation with honor and dignity. I hope you will enjoy the enclosed book (*Four Centuries of Friendship*), edited by my wife Marina and co-authored by myself in honor of Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. I am proud to be able to tell you that it is now a Bermuda bestseller (and 100% of the proceeds go to local charity). As the book underscores, the US and Bermuda have a rich and positive shared history. It has been a great honor to be part of that history.

Sincerely and with our family's prayers for you and yours – and for a successful Presidency,

I am, your humble servant,

Gregory W. Slayton  
United States Consul General  
Bermuda