

**RELEASE IN PART
B5**

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2009 8:42 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 2011

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

From: Reines, Philippe I
To: Verma, Richard R; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Abedin, Huma
Sent: Thu Dec 03 08:19:30 2009
Subject: 2011

I think we should make sure she sees and echo it if need be.

"July 2011 is fixed: That is going to be the inflection point. That is going to be the date on which we begin to transfer authority and responsibility to Afghan security forces. But the pace, size of the drawdown, and areas to be handed over will be predicated on the situation on the ground. If things are going very well, a larger number of forces could come out of more areas. If not, the size and speed of the drawdown will be adjusted accordingly. This could be a long, gradual drawdown. So it's not contradictory to set a date-certain, yet be conditions-based. We have a high degree of confidence that the addition of 30,000 troops will change the dynamics in some parts of the country by mid-2011. And roughly 60 percent of the country is uncontested now. This policy is about balancing competing interests: On the one hand, we need to signal resolve, and tell the Afghan people and government we'll be their partner and friend -- and let our enemies now we are going to stand with Afghanistan for the long term. At the time, we want to send a signal that the heavy military presence is not permanent, and light a fire under the Afghans to do for themselves what we know they're capable of doing."

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