

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 16, 2011 12:09 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw:  Public Diplomacy Commission

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Fyi

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**From:** Samuelson, Heather F  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Toiv, Nora F; Gelber, Ethan M  
**Sent:** Sun Jan 16 09:59:24 2011  
**Subject:** /Public Diplomacy Commission

Cheryl,

Wanted to give you a heads up on this in case  calls S. The WH announced their intent to nominate Sim Farar and Ryan Crocker to the Public Diplomacy Advisory Commission in November. However, the WH has NOT yet nominated them, citing concerns that the Committee has not been reauthorized.

My understanding from speaking with R and H (though waiting on final confirmation from Pat Kennedy) is that although the authorization for the Committee expired on October 1, 2010, because the Committee was re-funded by Congress under the CR, it was "by de-facto" re-authorized until March 4th. If no funding is authorized in a 2nd CR or omnibus budget or the Committee itself is not re-authorized by Congress by March 4<sup>th</sup>, then the Committee's activities must cease on that date.

H called Sen. Kerry and Sen. Lugar's offices, both who said they are fine with the nominations going forward even though the authorization has not been sorted out, understanding the importance of public diplomacy initiatives to this administration. I relayed this to PPO, but they still are holding.

While the general consensus appears to be that it will likely be re-funded, Sen. Boxer's office (who was supportive of  in this role) is saying chances are only 50/50 and others have mentioned that Sen. Coburn may block it.

I will keep you posted on this, but wanted to get it on your radar in case he calls S about it as well.

Many thanks.

Heather