

RELEASE IN PART  
B1,B5,1.4(D)

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 02/19/2016 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 08/21/2027

**From:** Samuelson, Heather F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Kennedy, Patrick F  
**Subject:** RE: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

[redacted] and let them know there will be a state funeral (based on my convo with Reuben) and the importance of this. [redacted]

B5

[redacted] Assume S is not going, so will pass along Johnnie's recommendations, unless you have other thoughts.

Thx

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Samuelson, Heather F  
**Cc:** Kennedy, Patrick F  
**Subject:** RE: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Tell them not to make that diplomatic mistake – Johnnie had ideas which you now have

**From:** Samuelson, Heather F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Kennedy, Patrick F  
**Subject:** Re: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

I spoke with Protocol [redacted] about this yesterday. As he is the PM, [redacted]

B5

I will circle back with AF and Protocol on this today to see if there is an exception here.

Thx

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 06:24 AM  
**To:** Samuelson, Heather F  
**Cc:** Kennedy, Patrick F  
**Subject:** Fw: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Can you make sure  knows we should seek to send high level delegation.

B5

Cdm

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**From:** Carson, Johnnie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 09:26 AM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Brigety, Reuben  
**Cc:** Sullivan, Jacob J; Sampson, Aaron B; Malac, Deborah R; Walker, Steven C; Walsh, Matthew P; Gilmour, David R; Yamamoto, Donald Y; Booth, Donald E  
**Subject:** Re: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Cheryl; This a very BIG loss -- for Ethiopia, for Africa and for the United States. Although we did not always agree with his domestic politics, there is no doubt in my mind that Meles has probably been the most articulate, intellectually able and politically skillful politician in African over the past decade. At the AU, the G-8, and G-20, when he spoke everyone listened, and everyone knew he spoke not only for the Ethiopia but the aspirations for millions of Africans.  B1,

1.4(D)

This is a great loss and we should send out a high level delegation to the funeral and the Department's statement should go out under the Secretary's name. Johnnie

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 04:34 AM  
**To:** Carson, Johnnie  
**Subject:** Fw: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Whoa

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**From:** [OpsNewsTicker@state.gov](mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov) [<mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 12:52 AM  
**To:** NEWS-AF; NEWS-EUR; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Subject:** Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles has died (Reuters)

Aug 21 (Reuters) - Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has died, Ethiopian state television said August 21.

Meles had not been seen in several weeks. The government said in July that he was taking a break to recover from an unspecified condition.

State television said Deputy Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn will be acting prime minister.

Rumours that Meles is seriously ill have been rife since the former guerrilla leader, in power since ousting Mengistu Haile Mariam's military junta in 1991, failed to attend an African Union summit in Addis Ababa last month.

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