

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 6:13 AM
To: H
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: USAID

I am meeting with denis after PC today.

See b/l re USAID that brian atwood sent to jack and melanne.

Cdm

- Original Message -----

From: J. Brian Atwood [redacted]
To: Lew, Jacob J
Cc: Verveer, Melanne [redacted]
Sent: Sat Mar 28 12:22:18 2009
Subject: Offer to Help

B6

Dear Jack,

I am absolutely delighted that someone with your great talent and experience is in such a key position at State. As you may recall, after leading the State transition in '92, I was initially appointed Under Sec for Management. Your position is a step above that but you are probably already confronting an institution whose management watchword is maximum "flexibility." The diplomacy mission needs flexibility, but programmatic activities require a good deal more discipline.

I was speaking to Melanne Verveer yesterday and our conversation drifted into the area of aid reform. Despite my location in Minnesota, I cannot avoid hearing the angst of the development community-- I seem to be on everyone's list. I mentioned to Melanne that there are at least two letters going around-- one from Interaction protesting the failure to name an AID Administrator and another a draft of a letter that would come from Steve Radelett, Stu Eizenstat and me asking for a private meeting with the Secretary (I have not approved of this yet).

You have made a very positive impression on the groups with whom you have met. People see you as understanding and supportive, but they still worry about the F process and feel that the AID Administrator should have his/her own budget authority and report to the Secretary directly.

I'm sure have heard it all and have carefully considered the alternatives.

My position on all these things was stated in the Foreign Affairs piece I wrote with the two former Republican Administrators. However, I can also envision other models, especially when you have a Secretary of State who embraces and understands the aid agenda as does Hillary. I don't want to sound presumptuous, but I suggested to Melanne that you might be able to head off the public criticism that could be coming if you were to let the community know that you have asked me to come in to consult with you on the alternatives. I want to be helpful both politically and substantively.

The development business is tricky and one can easily have one's words misinterpreted. It took me about a year to understand the nuances. I am also close to both Berman and Kerry and can be helpful there as they consider new legislation.

It is just an offer Jack. I have a full-time job, but I think I can help you and the Secretary during this transition. Let me know.

Brian