RELEASE IN PART

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From:

Mills, Cheryl D < Mills CD@state.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, August 12, 2009 10:45 AM

To:

Subject:

Fw: 8/12 Senior Staff Meeting

Fyi

From: Smith, Daniel B

To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J

Sent: Wed Aug 12 10:33:22 2009 **Subject**: 8/12 Senior Staff Meeting

Sensitive But Unclassified

Afghanistan

Jack raised today's Washington Post article on Ambassador Eikenberry's request for a major increase in spending on development and civilian reconstruction in Afghanistan next year. PJ indicated he thought that the story had come out about as well as possible - Jack had been careful not to reject it out of hand, but make it clear we needed to evaluate the request carefully, a line that a Senate staffer quoted in the article echoed. The Post article, however, will prompt additional stories. The related article that DeYoung has been working on with reference to alleged State/DOD rivalry over civilian staffing is not dead, but PJ says he has arranged for Petraeus to speak to her.

Merida Initiative

WHA is working on a revision of the 15 percent report, which Jim and Jack have not yet seen. Rich Verma said that Tim Rieser has indicated that Senator Leahy will not block the money in the end, but clearly this issue will have an impact on future appropriations. Jim asked Rich to tell Rieser that he is prepared to meet with him, along with Carlos Pascual and Valenzuela, to discuss the matter further and as a signal of our continued involvement and good faith. The message will be that we have heard their concerns, that we share them, and that we will stay on it. Jim noted that the tone of the report should be that this is a work in progress, and that both presidents at the recent summit meeting agreed to take steps to increase transparency.

Leahy Vetting

•	Rich reported that Tim Rieser has asked for a status report on Leahy	ıy vettir	g with re	espect to Israel.	The problem
	is that we have nothing to report beyond what has been in the press	ess.			

Colombia

•	WHA is working on revised guidance with respect to the proposed U.SColombia Defense Cooperation
	Agreement.

President Carter

Pat reported President Carter is planning another trip into Gaza later this month and the Secret Service is requesting substantial DS support for this or hoping State will dissuade the former President from going. Pat said he is going to raise this issue with Cheryl.

Appropriations

Pat noted that given the legislative calendar in September, it is likely we will not have an appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year and will face the prospect of a Continuing Resolution. Jack said, in that case, we will have to appeal to OMB for "anomaly treatment" in order to give us what we need for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghanistan/Pakistan Benchmarks

•	Rich asked where we stood on the benchmarks.	
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<u>Somalia</u>

Jack said that the meeting yesterday with regard to the OFAC letter and humanitarian assistance to Somalia had failed to resolve USAID's concerns. In essence, the OFAC letter referred both to permitted and non-permitted actions, but also used the term "illegal" in describing any material assistance, even inadvertent, that goes to terrorist groups. AID will not move forward if that term is used. There will be another meeting today, and Jack said he is prepared to speak to Stuart Levey if necessary.

UBS

Jim Thessin reported a deal in the UBS case that will likely be announced tomorrow. Both sides seem satisfied.

Kazakhstan

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