

RELEASE IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 11:42 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 8/31 Senior Staff and Expanded Staff Meeting

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Mon Aug 31 11:32:28 2009
Subject: 8/31 Senior Staff and Expanded Staff Meeting

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Senior Staff

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 02/29/2016 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 08/31/2024

Honduras

- Cheryl noted that Jake would be asking a number of follow-up questions on the assistance memo from L and others, and that it would not go forward to S until those had been answered.

Japanese Elections

- Jim noted that we had issued a statement on the victory of the Democratic Party, [redacted] B1
[redacted] He said he planned to visit Japan by the end of the month. 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
- In the expanded staff meeting, Kurt Campbell noted that this had been a sweeping victory for the Democratic Party, which garnered 308 seats in the lower house. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Kurt said he thought that the President would call Democratic Party leader Hatoyama, and said he thought the Secretary should make a call as well.

Libya

- Bill reported that the Libyans are still trying to figure out where Qaddafi will stay in Manhattan. He also noted that al-Megrahi is in the hospital and will thus not be featured during the September 1 celebration.
- In the expanded staff meeting, Jeff Feltman added that the town of Englewood, N.J. has now cancelled building permits for the Libyans at their property there, leading the Libyans to threaten retaliation and prevent our security upgrades in Tripoli.
- In the same meeting, Phil Gordon said that the British Government, which is coming under intense pressure on the al-Megrahi case, would like to release correspondence between the British Government and Scottish officials, including references to U.S. diplomatic interventions. The latter, however, will be redacted.

[redacted]

B1
1.4(D)

- Bill said that the news with respect to [REDACTED] In the expanded staff meeting, Phil Gordon reported that we are trying to get both sides to [REDACTED]

1.4(D)
B1Somalia

- Harold Koh said that there were still issues remaining with respect to Somalia assistance and OFAC. At the subsequent meeting, Eric Schwartz confirmed that we don't yet have an agreement.

Public Affairs

- PJ noted that the New York Times story on the Harpoon Missiles has not attracted that much attention in India so far. SCA confirmed this in the expanded staff meeting.
- He also reported that the story of Ambassador Holbrooke's stormy meeting with Karzai is percolating.

Expanded Staff Meeting

In addition to the topics noted above, here are the highlights:

UNASUR Summit

- WHA reported that Uribe had done about as well as could be expected at the UNASUR Summit to diffuse the controversy over the DCA with the U.S.

Honduras

- WHA noted that mounting U.S. pressure seems to be having an impact on the de facto regime, though it is still early days. Meanwhile, Zelaya will be at the OAS tomorrow.

UNESCO

- Esther Brimmer observed that the UNESCO Secretary General Race is heating up. She said we will send a cable to select posts asking that they weigh-in with their host governments.

Afghan Elections

- S/SRAP said that another set of voting results will be released shortly that may put Karzai over the 50 percent threshold, but only half the vote will have been counted. Added that there are many troubling reports of fraud. Melanne Vermeer said that the report in today's Washington Post on the low turnout by women in the election will not play well on the Hill.

WWII Anniversary

- [REDACTED] will attend the September 1 anniversary event in Poland marking the beginning of WWII. Phil noted that this will help allay Polish concerns, but they remain very anxious over the future of missile defense.

B5

H1N1

- Maria Otero said that [redacted] on H1N1, HHS had backed away from a previous agreement to use domestic vaccine supplies for international assistance. The issue will be presented to [redacted] at a meeting on Thursday, along with a question of how to pay for international supplies. (Apparently, the \$5.8 billion appropriated for this under the Supplemental is already oversubscribed.)

B5

Sri Lanka

- [redacted]

B5

PRM Issues

- Eric Schwartz said PRM would send a cable to select posts asking for help in convincing states to allow Israel to speak at the 60th anniversary event for UNRWA. He also pointed to a story that HAMAS is protesting an UNRWA educational program, which we support, to teach Holocaust lessons to Palestinian children.
- Eric also noted reports that as many as 30,000 ethnic Chinese refugees have fled fighting in northern Burma. The Chinese are receiving the refugees and we may not want to call too much public attention to this fact.