

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 1:49 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 1/27/10 Senior Staff Meeting

Fyi - headed into a DC

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Wed Jan 27 12:13:00 2010
Subject: 1/27/10 Senior Staff Meeting

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

IRAN

- Jim noted that a group called the "Tondar Commandos" were claiming responsibility for the assassination of the Iranian physicist – something Iran had blamed on the U.S. and Israel. He said we need to find out more.

SAUDI ARABIA

- Bill Burns noted the report that the Saudi's have accepted the Houthi rebels offer of a ceasefire, noting that we needed to examine the consequences.

HAITI

- Pat reported that food distribution in Haiti remains a problem. AID needs to push much harder on WFP to get the food distribution sites up and running.
- AID will reduce its request for MREs in favor of dry rations.
- The deconstruction continues at the Hotel Montana, but DoD believes its authority to continue this operation (being done by a contractor) will end once they recover the remains of the military person believed in the rubble. Pat noted that we need to press DoD to continue until all bodies are recovered. DoD believes it may not have legal authority to do this, but Harold opined that they could use State legal authorities for this purpose.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- PJ said there was press interest in the Secretary's Town Hall remark on some negative foreign press coverage of our operations in Haiti, with the press wanting to know specifics. He had cited the Al Jazeera English reports. They are defending their reporting.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

- Senator Dodd is eager to travel to Haiti as are many others on the Hill. SOUTHCOM is insisting it cannot support a CODEL at this time. Cheryl recommended H work with SOUTHCOM and post to see what size CODEL might be possible and then present to Congressional leadership to let them make the choice who goes.
- Janice Jacobs, Michele Bond and Lloyd Feinberg from AID had met with Senator Landrieu on the Haitian adoption/orphan issue. The Senator had an NGO present. H thought the briefing had gone well and we had explained the reasons why we need safeguards in place and should not be simply transporting children to the U.S. (Pat noted that on today's conference call, in fact, Embassy Port-au-Prince reported that ICE agents had detected at least a couple pedophiles who were attempting to adopt Haitian children.)
- Raj Shah briefs the SFRC on Haiti in a closed door session tomorrow.
- Pat Kennedy testifies before the House Homeland Security Committee today on the Yemen Christmas terror plot.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

- Justice has filed the brief in the *Samantar v. Yousuf* case involving the former Somali official alleged involved in war crimes.

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PERU

- I briefed on the latest situation in the effort to get trapped Americans and others out of the area near Machu Picchu. Weather conditions remain a challenge, but Embassy Lima has sent four Narcotics Affairs Section helicopters already and is deploying another two. No firm estimate of the number of Americans, but anywhere from 200-400, as well as hundreds of other foreign tourists.