

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 3:05 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 2/16/10 Senior Staff and Deputies Meetings

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Tue Feb 16 11:54:22 2010
Subject: 2/16/10 Senior Staff and Deputies Meetings

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

HAITI

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

B5

CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

- Still trying to reschedule the two budget hearings for the Secretary cancelled because of the snowstorm. One possibility is to hold them on the afternoon with the two hearings already scheduled – February 24 for SACFO, and February 25 for HFAC.
- Two nominees were confirmed last week – Phil Goldberg and Betty King.

LEGAL ISSUES

- [Redacted]
- Turkish Under Secretary Sinirlioglu is in town. Harold wondered if the issue of the Armenian court case had come up in the Secretary's meeting with President Erdogan.
- [Redacted]

B5

B5

- Bill Burns is in Damascus today and tomorrow. The WH will announce Robert Ford as our nominee to be ambassador to Syria.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Todd Stern will give a briefing on climate change today.
- The press will be interested in follow-up on the Secretary's remarks on Iran in Doha.

S/P

- Anne-Marie said that she is providing comments to the WH on the development portions of the draft National Security Strategy. She is also revamping the QDDR interim report.

DEPUTIES MEETING – HIGHLIGHTS

EUR

- Since the Secretary is not available to attend the Ukrainian inauguration on February 25, General Jones will likely represent the U.S.

SCA

- The Indians are not speculating on who is behind the bombing of a German bakery in Pune over the weekend.

AF

- Chadian President Deby is adamant that he does not want to renew the mandate of the UN force in Chad, but Johnnie believes he will agree to a gradual drawdown over the next year.
- In Nigeria, Johnnie noted that the Secretary's efforts, along with those of Britain and France, appear to have averted a political crisis for now, with agreement to devolve some Presidential powers to the Vice President. Meanwhile, Yar'Adua still appears to be near death.
- On Sudan, Johnnie said that he had spoken to the Secretary and would follow up with Gration on implementing a diplomatic surge in Southern Sudan.

NEA

- Ceasefire in Yemen appears to be "vaguely holding."
- Libyans have now announced that they will stop issuing visas to nationals from Schengen countries as part of their ongoing dispute with Switzerland.

EAP

- Kurt reported that two of the five possible deliverables for the President's upcoming trip to Indonesia are in trouble, including the joint health initiative. He will send the Secretary a memo on where things stand.

PRM

- While acknowledging that we have not seen signs of significant boat building in Haiti, Eric expressed concern about capacity to handle the return of large numbers of returnees to Haiti.

- There has been an uptick in refugees fleeing fighting in Mogadishu. The refugee camps in Kenya, moreover, are already well over capacity with as many as 6-7,000 refugees from Somalia entering the country each month.
- The Chinese will likely put on trial the 20 Uighurs returned from Cambodia.

WHA

- In Honduras, President Lobo has set up a truth commission and will likely replace several controversial military figures.
- WHA is hoping the Secretary will travel to the region in connection with the March 4/5 Pathways to Prosperity meeting in Costa Rica.
- Insulza appears to have enough votes to win reelection as OAS General Secretary.

INL

- INL and ONDCP are hosting a binational demand reduction meeting with the Mexicans next week in Washington.
- U.S. and Mexican authorities will hold a joint planning conference in El Paso to plan how to take back the streets of Ciudad Juarez. In an encouraging sign, the meeting will include Mexican state and local officials.

GTMO

- One detainee should be sent to Spain next week and 3 to Albania.

AFGHANISTAN

- Karl Eikenberry met with President Karzai to try to encourage him to keep at least two international members of the Electoral Commission.