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From: Slaughter, Anne-Marie <SlaughterA@state.gov>
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Subject: generals talking about importance of development

Kurt, Jim, Michele Fleurnoy and I had lunch with the Singaporean Defense Minister today, who twice emphasized the importance of “walking on two legs,” which he said he got from a Thai general talking about the Thai strategy toward insurgent groups. One leg is security and the other leg is “economic development and welfare of the people.” Step forward with security, and it becomes possible to take a step with development and human welfare, which allows another step toward greater security, which allows another step toward prosperity for the people – soon you are walking and then running. I don’t think it was exactly the pairing that others around the table expected, but I was delighted to hear it.

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