

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:49 PM
To: H
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: Receding Waters Eliminate Requirement for Helicopters

FYI

From: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:23 PM
To: Lew, Jacob J; Steinberg, James B; Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D; Valenzuela, Arturo A; Jacobson, Roberta S; 'Restrepo, Daniel A.'; 'Kevin M. O'Reilly'; 'Stockton, Paul HON OSD POLICY'; James Winnefeld; Reichle, Susan (DCHA/AA); Garner, Rodger (USAID/MEXICO/DIR)
Subject: Receding Waters Eliminate Requirement for Helicopters

B6

PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

We have had good news on the emergency flooding situation in Mexico on two fronts.

First, it finally stopped raining, water has receded, and there is land access to areas that previously could only be reached by air. USAID and GOM specialists flew over the affected areas today and confirmed that the change in conditions obviates the need for U.S. helicopter support. Road access will be more efficient and cheaper. The receding waters will allow people to start the process of reconstruction more quickly. SEMAR and the Federal Police can provide air support as needed under the changed circumstances.

Second, President Calderon confirmed to his cabinet, and Secretary Espinosa confirmed it, that he was committed first and foremost to doing what is best for the population, and if that entailed the use of U.S. military helicopters, then he was ready to work with the United States to provide access to Mexican airspace. I reviewed the change in field circumstances with Secretary Espinosa. She called me back later to affirm that she had spoken with President Calderon, and the President was appreciative of the lengths to which the United States had gone to work with Mexican counterparts to plan for a helicopter deployment. This kind of open engagement with the Mexican cabinet in support of using U.S. military helicopters as part of a humanitarian relief effort is unprecedented.

The GOM will be conveying its thanks more formally – both from the Administration and the Governor of Nuevo Leon. Mission Mexico will also do an after action review to capture lessons for the future.

Carlos Pascual