

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

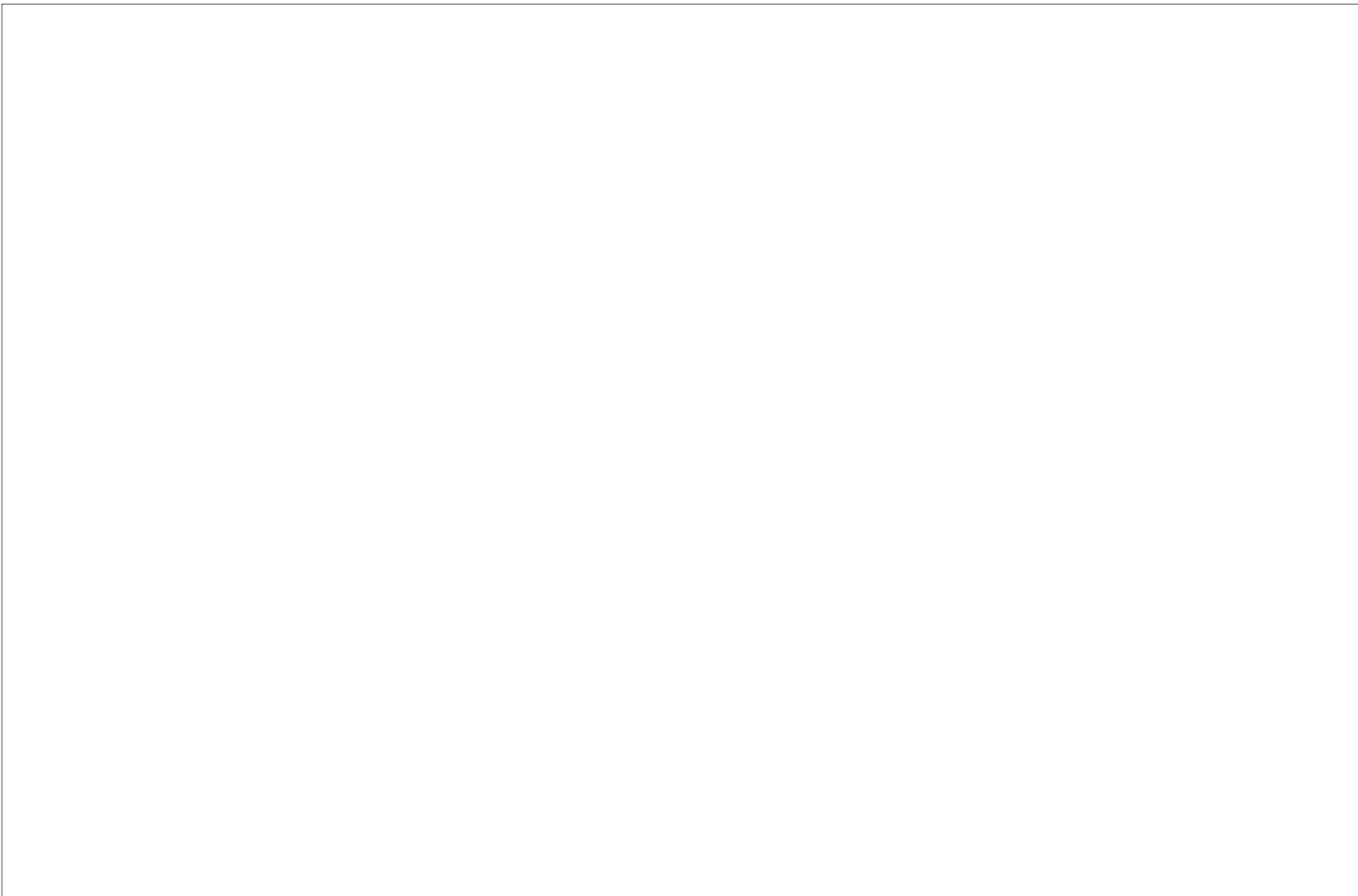
**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2012 11:56 PM  
**To:** H  
**Cc:** Hanley, Monica R  
**Subject:** Ashton

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 02/29/2016  
~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B),  
1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 01/13/2027

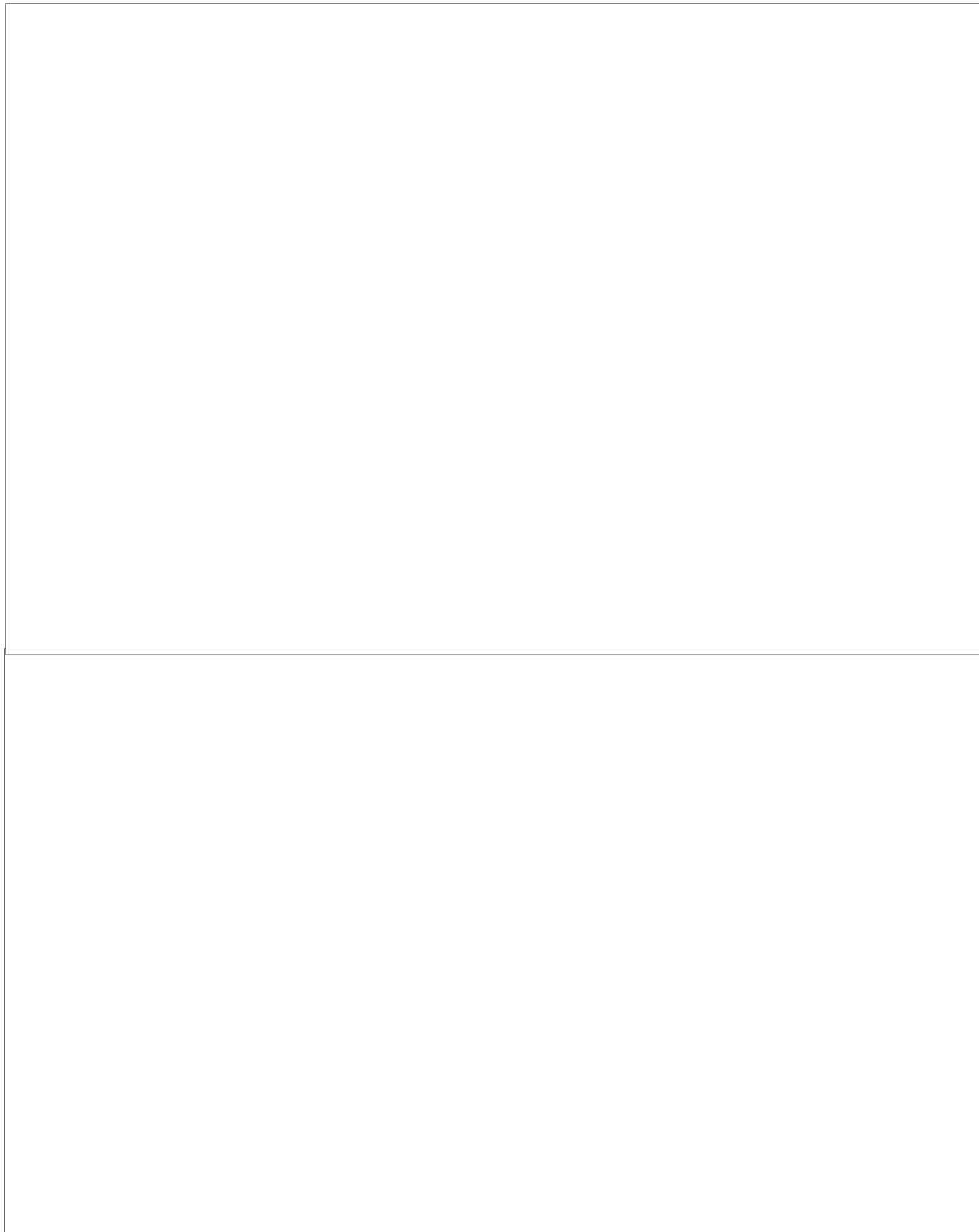
Below is call sheet for Ashton. Believe u and Bill discussed call already. Nothing has been set up for her.

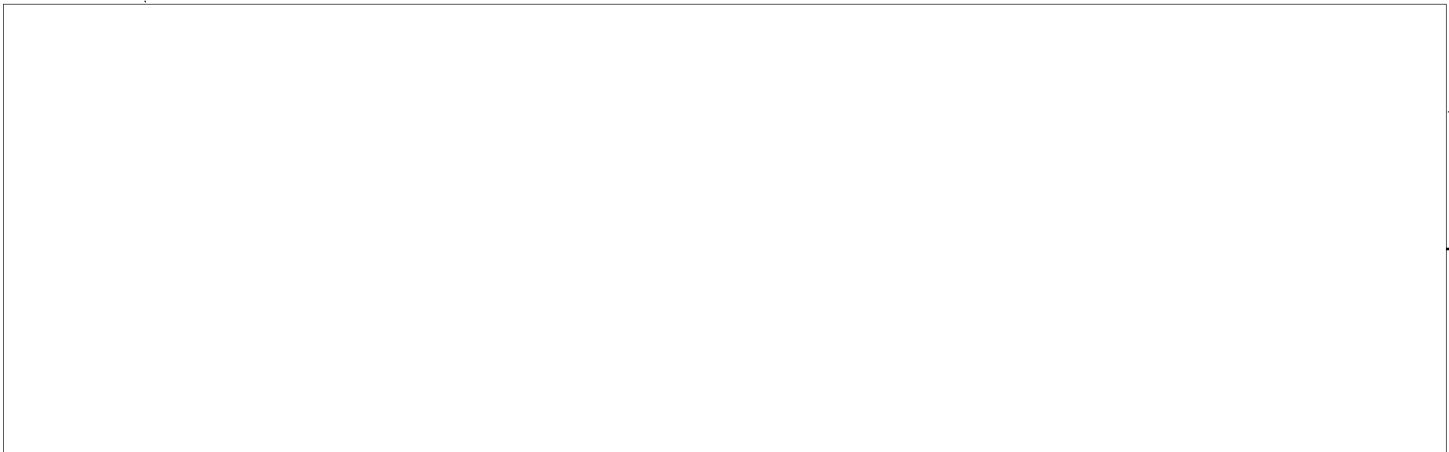
The Secretary's Call Sheet for  
EU High Representative  
Catherine Ashton

Purpose of Call: The purpose of your call is to set the context for the meeting between European Union Deputy Secretary General for the External Action Service Helga Schmid and Iranian Supreme Council for National Security Deputy Secretary Bagheri.



B5



**Background:**1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Middle East Peace:** The Israelis are developing a three-part package on prisoners, CBMs to expand Palestinian management/security functions, and a political horizon (the last would be a private deposit of Israeli readiness to accept the President's 1967 formula). The parties were expected to meet secretly under Jordanian auspices on January 14. Quartet Envoys are scheduled to speak on January 16. FM Judeh has asked Quartet Envoys to be available to meet on January 23 to take stock. Abbas will be in the UK on January 15, Berlin on January 17, and Moscow on January 20-22.

**Cyprus/Syria Sanctions:** On January 11, the Russian cargo ship M/V Chariot made an unscheduled stop in Limassol, Cyprus to refuel due to bad weather. Although the ship was carrying "tens of tons of ammunition," Cyprus refueled the ship and allowed it to leave after the ship claimed it would go directly to Turkey and not Syria. The Cypriots then asserted that, as the vessel was going to Turkey, it no longer was in violation of the EU arms embargo against Syria. However, the ship instead sailed directly to Syria, and as of January 12, was at anchorage off the Syrian coast. While Cyprus may have technically implemented the letter of the EU arms embargo against Syria, it clearly has not implemented the arms embargo in a responsible manner. We have raised our concerns with Cyprus and Russia.

**Cyprus/CSDP:** As Denmark has "opted out" of the EU's CSDP, EU protocol is for the preceding presidency (Poland) or subsequent presidency (Cyprus), to take over such relevant responsibilities. In the case of CSDP, the presidency hosts one informal defense ministerial and would chair CSDP-related meetings if the appropriate External Action Service official were not to preside. We understand Ashton has told Cyprus it will not host an informal defense ministerial this semester; the Ministerial will take place in Brussels instead. Ashton chairs EU defense ministerials, but has skipped several in the past. Therefore, we would want to ensure her participation in the ministerials this year. Cyprus brings very little experience on security matters and, in the past, has played a leading role in preventing the EU from engaging in greater cooperation with NATO due to the state of Turkey-Cyprus relations.

**Hungary/EU:** Since PM Viktor Orban and his Fidesz party were elected to power with 53% of the vote (giving them a two-thirds super-majority in parliament) in 2010, the GOH has passed a new constitution that altered the balance of the constitutional court, changed media laws, and restructured independent agencies so that oversight bodies now have purely partisan nominees selected for radically lengthened terms of office. You publicly expressed concerns during your trip to Budapest in June, and again in a letter to PM Orban (which was quickly leaked to the press) on December 23. Ambassador Kounalakis has issued a couple of op-eds and participated in a recent round of media interviews criticizing the speed, scope and lack of transparency and public debate in making the constitutional changes, and the U.S. Mission to the OSCE will deliver a statement on Hungary's new laws on January 19. The European Commission is assessing Hungary's new laws concerning the central bank, the judiciary, and the national data protection authority to determine whether they are in violation of the EU treaty. The Commission will issue its findings on January 17. Pressure is mounting in some EU circles, especially in some groups of the European Parliament, for the EU to act more swiftly. Commission President Barroso, Information Society Commissioner Kroes, and Finance Commissioner Rehn have

expressed concerns. Senior member-state officials, including French FM Juppe and Finnish FM Erkki Tuomioja, have recently made public comments expressing concern about Hungary's path.