

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:17 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: A heartening anecdote

From: Morningstar, Richard L
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:01 AM
To: Coleman, Claire L; Abedin, Huma
Subject: A heartening anecdote

Hi Claire and Huma - Please pass on to the Secretary.

Dear Madam Secretary,

Faith and I are now well settled in Baku. Given the terrible events of the past few weeks, I wanted to bring to your attention a heartening anecdote, which shows that most people in this part of the world feel positively about America. Faith and I visited the city of Lankeran this past weekend. Lankeran is located about 20 miles from the Iranian border and is religiously more conservative than the rest of the country. We went there because Azerbaijan is hosting the Under 17 Women's World Cup, and the opening game between the United States and France, was held there in a filled 12000 seat stadium. We are using this tournament to emphasize the importance of young women in sports and the importance of team sports to later life. During the game we walked around the track surrounding the field to a group of Azerbaijani girls, who had been invited by a local Peace Corps volunteer and who were all decked out in American regalia. They were quite excited to meet us. But what was more amazing was that walking back as we passed by each section, the entire crowd cheered loudly. Faith was like "Mother America" waving to the crowd! She is the one who should be Ambassador! We were very heartened. It is easy to get a little bit discouraged when things go badly in a lot of countries, but little things such as this experience reminded us that a lot of people still look to America. The game itself was hard fought and ended in a 0-0 tie. The U.S. still has a good chance to win it all.

All the best,
Dick

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.