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RELEASE IN PART  
B1,B5,1.4(D)

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2013 10:25 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Situation in Mali Deteriorating -- French Military Action Expected Immiently

FYI

**From:** Carson, Johnnie  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2013 9:16 AM  
**To:** Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rice, Susan E (USUN); Brimmer, Esther D  
**Cc:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Herrup, Andrew R; Mills, Cheryl D; Bass, John R; Sampson, Aaron B; Yamamoto, Donald Y; Allegra, Theodore X; Reddick, Eunice S; Teitelbaum, Donald; Small, Jason A  
**Subject:** Situation in Mali Deteriorating -- French Military Action Expected Immiently

Bill, Wendy, Jake and Susan:

The military and security situation in Mali has deteriorated sharply in the last 24 hours. The French believe that it is important not to allow northern rebel groups to proceed south of Mopti in central Mali. The French have put a small number of troops on the ground in Mopti, mostly special operators and forward air controllers to identify targets. The French intend to launch air operations against rebels within the next 1-2 hours. The French Foreign Ministry is in the process of informing West African states as well as P5 members in New York. The French believe the Malian army in and around Mopti is in total disarray. Soldiers in the garrison in Mopti have been taking off their uniforms, abandoning their weapons, and seeking transport to go south toward Bamako. The Islamist forces arrayed against the Malians consist of all four main terrorist and insurgent groups in the north – AQIM, MUJAO, Ansar Dine, and the Tuareg MNLA. The French believe that if northern rebels are able to break south of Mopti, it will bring down the entire Malian government, and undermine efforts put in place under UNSCR 2085 of December 20. My French counterpart Jean Christophe Belliard [REDACTED] The French had hoped that a strong threat of French intervention might stop the rebels, but now believe that some air strikes are required to indicate French resolve. The French have also announced to their citizens in Bamako that they should keep a close eye on the situation in the central part of the country and may want to leave if the situation gets worse – not an official evacuation order but a clear sign of French nervousness,

B5

[REDACTED]

We have no official Americans in Mopti or the central part of the country. We have issued an emergency message to American citizens to restrict their movements in case there are protests in the capital. The American and international schools remain open in Bamako.

1.4(D)  
B1

I will keep you apprised of developments as this proceeds. I am in close contact with my French counterparts in Paris.

Johnnie

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.