

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 12:17 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: 8/24 Senior Staff and Expanded Staff Meeting

FYI

From: Smith, Daniel B
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 10:36 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: 8/24 Senior Staff and Expanded Staff Meeting

Sensitive But UnclassifiedSenior Staff MeetingLiberia: Death of American Citizen/UN employee

- Cheryl noted the apparent suicide yesterday of the American Citizen employed by the UN in Liberia who had been under investigation for sexual crimes and had been placed under house arrest. PA is working on guidance, though Ian Kelly reported that there have been no inquiries thus far. L noted that they had previously determined the citizen did not have immunity. Among the questions to be answered is what happens to [redacted] (AF noted in the expanded staff meeting that investigations of the American Citizen's alleged crimes as well as the circumstances of his death are ongoing.)

B6

Interrogations/transfers

- Joan noted that she will participate in Hill briefings at 11:00 this morning on the release of documents related to Bush Administration policy on interrogations and prisoner transfers, as well as the release of the Obama Administration's task force report on future interrogations and transfers. Joan said that the transfer portion of the task force report will focus on the State Department role, but she observed [redacted]

B5

Public Affairs

- Ian said that the focus will be on Afghanistan, where the press has zeroed in on Admiral Mullen's observation over the weekend that the situation is "serious and deteriorating," and where Abdullah Abdullah is alleging widespread election fraud. He also expects more questions on reaction to the "hero's welcome" for the Lockerbie bomber in Libya.

Honduras

- Dan noted that the C-17 Air Force plane carrying OAS Secretary General Insulza as well as the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina and the Dominican Republic has left Miami for Honduras. We sent someone from the Secretariat along just to manage the logistics.

Expanded Staff MeetingBurundi

- Phil Carter said that there are reports that FDRL (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) rebels have infiltrated Burundi, and that the military forces of Burundi and Rwanda may conduct joint operations against the rebels.

Thailand

- Scot Marciel said that tomorrow is the deadline for the Government of Thailand to file an appeal in the extradition request for Viktor Bout. Scot noted that there may be a request for the Secretary to call the Thai FM in this regard.

Somalia – Humanitarian Assistance

- Eric Schwartz said that we appear to be closer to a resolution of the USAID/OFAC dispute related to humanitarian assistance to Somalia, adding that we should have a copy of a new letter in a day or two. Eric also noted that the drought in Kenya is making the humanitarian situation all the more critical.

Afghanistan

- Paul Jones reported that while there may be preliminary results of the election announced tomorrow, the significant allegations of fraud will complicate the vote counting. (He noted that the Independent Election Commission has the authority, among other things, to nullify the votes from particular polling stations if the allegations are verified.) The final results may not be known until mid-September, and Richard Holbrooke has said we should wait for the final pronouncement of the Independent Election Commission before we make a comment.

UNGA

- IO said that this week is the deadline for papers [REDACTED]

B5

Strategy Papers

- Cheryl noted that there would be a series of taskers this week for papers for the Secretary to provide the basis for strategic planning for the Fall.