

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 10:11 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Mullen/corruption

I shared some thoughts with [redacted] who is Admiral Mullen's policy lead, about the [redacted] brief.

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- You found the work of [redacted] unit impressive and convincing
- You found the brief extraordinarily sobering – you were struck by the scope and nature of the corruption, including the connections to drug trafficking and the links to senior officials
- It illuminated the comprehensiveness of corruption at the most senior levels
- Clearly, the cost of doing business in Afghanistan is very high; perpetrators are some of our most trusted and most enlightened counterparts

But this may actually reinforce, rather than call into question, the need for a targeted strategy on high-level corruption. We need to ask ourselves if we have the level of insight, interlocutors, cultural understanding, and political leverage to implement a more expansive strategy – and in what timeframe. It is because of these questions that you and Secretary Gates proposed the corruption strategy outlined in your memo from last fall.

That said, I told him, you remain open to input, especially from ADM Mullen. [redacted] just sent me Mullen's most recent paper on this.