

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 5:49 AM
To: 'sullivanjj@state.gov'
Subject: Re: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

Ok w GM changes.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J [mailto:SullivanJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 11:29 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

Latest from Mitchell

From: Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 11:19 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; 'Daniel_B._Shapiro' <Daniel_B._Shapiro >; Buzbee, John R;
'Prem_G._Kumar' <Prem_G._Kumar >; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Schwartz, Jonathan B;
Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'Dennis_B._Ross' <Dennis_B._Ross >;
'george' <george >
Cc: Rubinstein, Daniel H; Sutphin, Paul R; Reed, Julia G; Jacobson, Linda
Subject: RE: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

B6

Senator Mitchell has reviewed this and recommends the following changes to the oral message:



B5



From: Walles, Jacob
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:15 PM
To: 'Daniel_B._Shapiro [redacted]'; Buzbee, John R; 'Prem_G._Kumar [redacted]'; Mitchell, George J; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Schwartz, Jonathan B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'Dennis_B._Ross [redacted]';
Cc: Rubinstein, Daniel H; Sutphin, Paul R
Subject: Re: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

B6

I'll ask Margaret to follow up with Hossam [redacted] confirms he's delivered the message to AM.

B5

From: Shapiro, Daniel B. [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 08:28 PM
To: Buzbee, John R; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem_G._Kumar [redacted]>; Mitchell, George J; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Schwartz, Jonathan B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Ross, Dennis B. <Dennis_B._Ross [redacted]>;
Cc: Rubinstein, Daniel H; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R
Subject: RE: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

B6

+ Dennis Ross

[redacted]

B5

From: Buzbee, John R [mailto:BuzbeeJR@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 8:25 PM
To: Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Mitchell, George J; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Schwartz, Jonathan B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Rubinstein, Daniel H; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R
Subject: RE: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

+Jake Walles and Paul

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

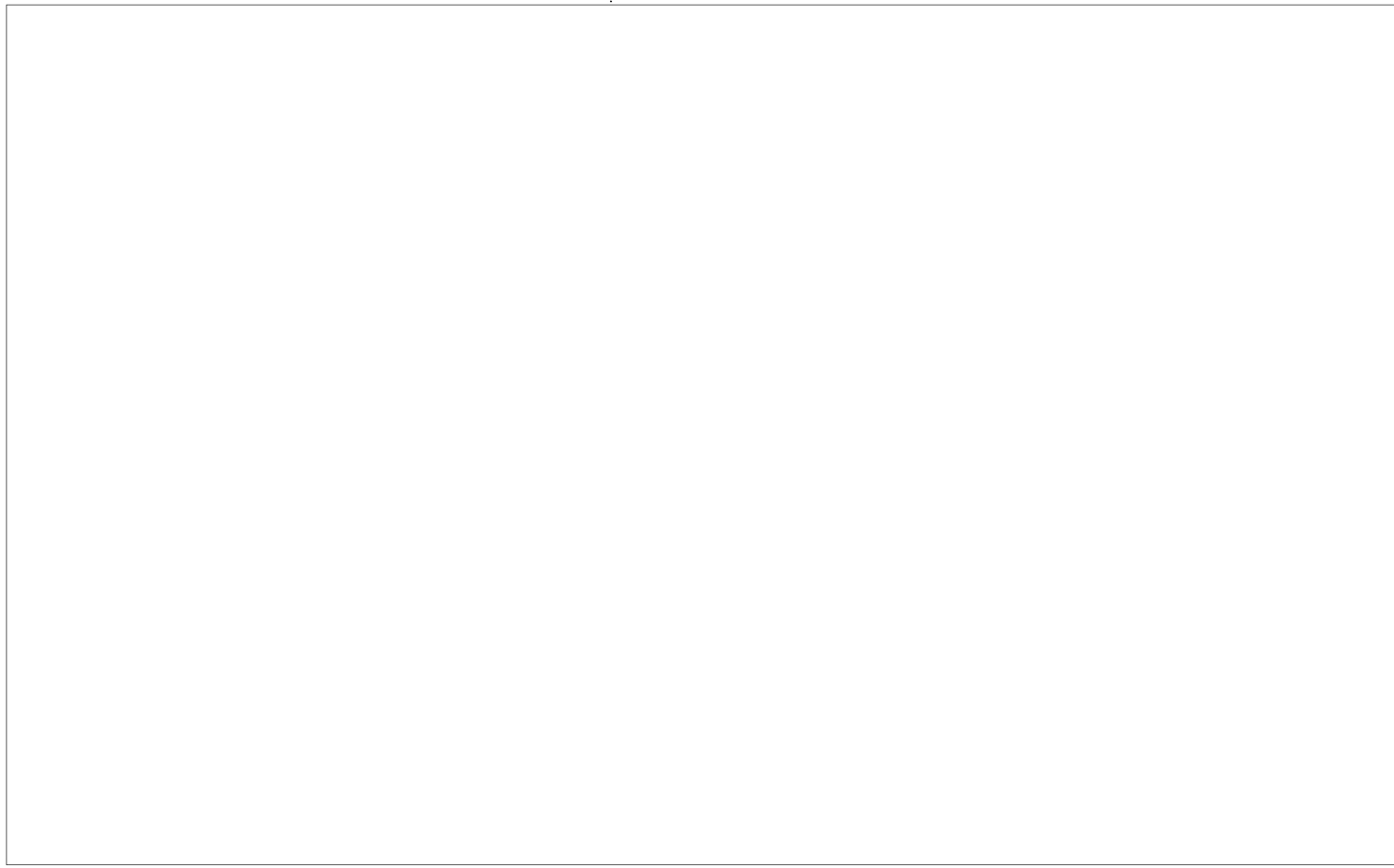
From: Buzbee, John R
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 7:54 PM
To: Shapiro, Daniel B.; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Mitchell, George J; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Schwartz, Jonathan B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Rubinstein, Daniel H
Subject: For immediate clearance: Oral Message to Abbas

Colleagues, per the e-mail chain below, we would appreciate your comments and clearance this evening on the following oral message for CG Rubinstein to deliver to Mahmoud Abbas:

[redacted]

B5

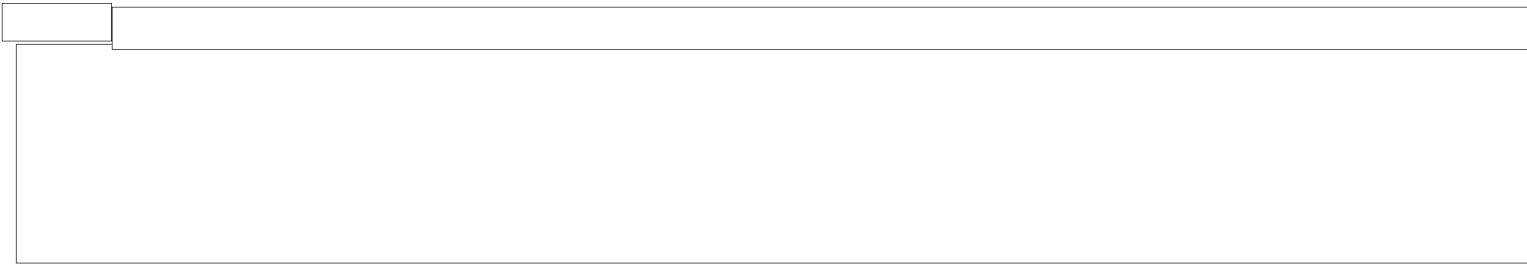
B5



SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Kumar, Prem G. [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 5:46 PM
To: Hale, David M; Walles, Jacob; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Ross, Dennis B.; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Rudman, Mara
Subject: RE: Message to Abbas

B6



B5

From: Hale, David M [mailto:HaleDM2@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 5:39 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Ross, Dennis B.; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Rudman, Mara

James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Vietor, Tommy; Rudman, Mara
Subject: Message to Abbas

B5

Getting back to the suggested message to Abbas, I think

[Redacted]

From: Walles, Jacob
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 5:26 PM
To: Hale, David M; Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'Ross, Dennis B.'; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Rudman, Mara
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Adding Mara.

From: Hale, David M
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:20 PM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'Ross, Dennis B.'; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; Walles, Jacob; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

B5

It will be immensely popular. That could argue

[Redacted]

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:46 PM
To: 'Ross, Dennis B.'; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Walles, Jacob; Kumar, Prem G.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

AbZ was in Damascus on Sunday. He saw Bashar one-on-one. Bashar told him that he had "had it" with Hamas, and that Hamas had put ridiculous conditions on reconciliation with Fatah. Bashar acknowledged that he has differences with Abu Mazen, but that Abu Mazen is an honest, decent, and honorable person, in comparison to Mishal. He also told AbZ that he wants to host Abu Mazen in Damascus, in part to show Hamas that Bashar doesn't need them.

So this makes me think that the Syrians told Hamas to sign. And this is what Abu Mazen has said all along: that he signed, and he wouldn't accept reservations or amendments, and that the burden is on Hamas to sign. Basically, Abu Mazen probably thinks he was in the right all along and didn't blink. Abu Mazen, for all we know, may not have even known that reconciliation would happen today.

I suspect that the entire Arab world will welcome this. We obviously can't and won't. But we also need to be very clear-eyed that we are going to be in a tough spot, in trying to be "on the side of the people" in Egypt, Tunisia, etc., but not "on the side of the people" when it comes to Palestinian reconciliation.

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

From: Ross, Dennis B. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:40 PM
To: Shapiro, Daniel B.; Walles, Jacob; Kumar, Prem G.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

B6

[REDACTED]

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From: Shapiro, Daniel B.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:34 PM
To: 'Walles, Jacob'; Kumar, Prem G.; Ross, Dennis B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Vietor, Tommy
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Walles, Jacob [mailto:WallesJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:27 PM

To: Kumar, Prem G.; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Ross, Dennis B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Vietor, Tommy
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Dan Arbel just called me to get our reaction and to note what Bibi has said so far. I went through our press guidance with Dan, and described to him the general outlines of what we understand to be in the deal. I said we will study the details carefully when we get them, but it is clear even now that there will be implications for the MEP and our bilateral relations with the Pals, assuming this deal goes through. I did add, noting that I wasn't speaking on instructions but only offering a preliminary view, that we continue for now to deal with the current PA government headed by Abu Mazen and Salam as we have before. Echoing our talking point on Lebanon, I said that we'll evaluate a new government once it is formed, and there may be consequences in our relationship, but we will cross that bridge when we come to that. And I added, again as a preliminary view, that we would encourage the GOI to do the same. Dan said he appreciated the comments and would convey them. He said the preliminary GOI view is that this is yet another aspect of a disturbing trend among the Palestinians: the conditions on returning to negotiations, the drive for unilateral action in NY in September, and now this.

From: Kumar, Prem G. [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](#)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:44 PM
To: Shapiro, Daniel B.; Ross, Dennis B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Hale, David M; Walles, Jacob; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form Interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

B6

[REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED]

From: Shapiro, Daniel B.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:40 PM
To: Ross, Dennis B.; 'SullivanJJ@state.gov'; 'HaleDM2@state.gov'; 'WallesJ@state.gov'; Kumar, Prem G.; 'RubinsteinDH@state.gov'
Cc: 'GoldbergerTH@state.gov'; 'SutphinPR@state.gov'; 'FeltmanJD@state.gov'; 'SchlicherRL@state.gov'; 'ScobeyMM@state.gov'; 'TuellerMH@state.gov'; 'CunninghamJB@state.gov'; 'SacharAX@state.gov'; 'BuzbeeJR@state.gov'; 'MarcheseGM@state.gov'; 'WatersJR@state.gov'; 'SchwartzJB@state.gov'; Vietor, Tommy
Subject: Re: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

[REDACTED]

From: Ross, Dennis B.
To: 'Sullivan, Jacob J' <SullivanJJ@state.gov>; Hale, David M <HaleDM2@state.gov>; Walles, Jacob <WallesJ@state.gov>; Kumar, Prem G.; Rubinstein, Daniel H <RubinsteinDH@state.gov>
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>; Sutphin, Paul R <SutphinPR@state.gov>; Feltman, Jeffrey D

<FeltmanJD@state.gov>; Schlicher, Ronald L <SchlicherRL@state.gov>; Scobey, Margaret <ScobeyMM@state.gov>; Tueller, Matthew H <TuellerMH@state.gov>; Cunningham, James B <CunninghamJB@state.gov>; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA) <SacharAX@state.gov>; Buzbee, John R <BuzbeeJR@state.gov>; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Marchese, Gregory M <MarcheseGM@state.gov>; Waters, John R <WatersJR@state.gov>; Schwartz, Jonathan B <SchwartzJB@state.gov>; Vietor, Tommy

Sent: Wed Apr 27 13:26:45 2011

Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

[Redacted]

B5

From: Sullivan, Jacob J [mailto:SullivanJJ@state.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:15 PM

To: Hale, David M; Walles, Jacob; Kumar, Prem G.; Rubinstein, Daniel H

Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B.; Vietor, Tommy

Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Don't we need [Redacted]

From: Hale, David M

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:02 PM

To: Walles, Jacob; 'Prem_G._Kumar' [Redacted]; Rubinstein, Daniel H

Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; 'Daniel_B._Shapiro' [Redacted]; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; 'Dennis_B._Ross' [Redacted]; NSC Deputy Press Secretary

Subject: Re: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

[Redacted]

B6

B5

From: Walles, Jacob

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:58 PM

To: 'Kumar, Prem G.' [Redacted]; Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H

Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.

[Redacted]; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B. [Redacted]; NSC Deputy Press Secretary

Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Can we [Redacted]

From: Kumar, Prem G. [mailto:[Redacted]]

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:58 PM

To: Hale, David M; Walles, Jacob; Rubinstein, Daniel H

Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B.; NSC Deputy Press Secretary

Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B5

From: Hale, David M [mailto:HaleDM2@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:47 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; Kumar, Prem G.; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B.; Vietor, Tommy
Subject: Re: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

I think [Redacted]

B5

From: Walles, Jacob
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:44 PM
To: 'Kumar, Prem G.' [Redacted]; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B. [Redacted]; Hale, David M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B. [Redacted]; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

A slight change [Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

From: Kumar, Prem G. [mailto:[Redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:40 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Hale, David M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Ross, Dennis B.; NSC Deputy Press Secretary
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

B6

+ Dennis Ross and Tommy Vietor

WH press is already getting pinged for comment. [Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

From: Walles, Jacob [mailto:WallesJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Rubinstein, Daniel H
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Hale, David M;

Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schwartz, Jonathan B
Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

+ Jon Schwartz

A very quick reaction:

Two elements of this have a direct bearing on U.S.-Pal relations: 1) the security forces, and 2) the composition on the government. On the first, the deal described below sounds ok, i.e. there will be separate security forces in Gaza and the West Bank. On the second, it's not so good. A government of independents, will still have to meet Quartet principles for us to provide direct assistance. A government without a political program is a problem if there is no affirmative affirmation of Q principles. And I assume a government like this does not include Salam. The bottom line is that our direct budget support to the PA will probably come to an end, and many of our other activities with the PA including the training program for the PASF are in jeopardy.

This will also have a bearing on the MEP, and that will also probably not be positive.

From: Rubinstein, Daniel H

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:09 PM

To: Walles, Jacob

Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; 'Daniel_B._Shapiro' [redacted]; 'Prem_G._Kumar' [redacted]; Hale, David M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R

Subject: RE: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Several Palestinian sources (including the lead Fatah negotiator) confirmed that significant progress toward a Hamas-Fatah reconciliation deal will be announced at 8pm local time (1pm edt) in Cairo today, where lead Fatah negotiator Azzam al-Ahmad and Hamas Politburo Deputy Musa Abu Marzouq were meeting under GOE auspices. Unconfirmed press reports suggest the actual signing ceremony will take place in Cairo within a week, with both Abu Mazen and Khaled Mish'al in attendance.

As we've reported previously in other channels, Abbas's initiative and subsequent mediation efforts (particularly the Turkish channel) had reduced the differences between the two sides to essentially one issue each: Fatah's demand for presidential elections (which Hamas had refused), and Hamas's insistence on some role in the interim PLO leadership (which Fatah had so far resisted).

The major development today is that, according to Fatah's lead negotiator, Hamas ceded the point on presidential elections, and finally agreed to sign the 2009 GOE paper on the basis of side understandings between the factions.

The basic elements of the deal, according to the lead Fatah negotiator, are as follows:

- To prepare for elections including presidential, legislative and PLO National Council elections within one year from the signing;

- To create a government of independents that will lead the PA during the interim period before elections occur, with no political program or mandate, selected with the mutual agreement ("tawafuq") of both factions. Names were not discussed during today's session;

- To maintain separate Gaza and West Bank security apparatuses during the interim period before elections occur; and

-Resolution of longstanding disagreements over the interim PLO leadership and the formation of an electoral court via formulas borrowed from the November 2009 Egyptian paper and subsequent Fatah-Hamas consultations in Damascus (we do not yet have the full details but we suspect the basic formula is mutual agreement on names for these bodies).

Earlier today, before this news broke, I saw Abu Mazen, who had not yet received an update from his negotiators in Cairo. He said his instructions to the delegation had not changed from previous rounds, namely that Hamas had to accept his March 16 initiative without modification. He expressed some confidence that the regional environment had turned against Hamas because of Syria, but added that "I doubt that Hamas will bring anything new" to the meetings in Cairo today." He also attributed the Egyptian invitation not to substantive developments but rather to Egypt's desire to preserve its mediation role in the face of increased Turkish activism.

I spoke to Sa'eb Erekat later in the day, and he downplayed the story somewhat, based on what he had overheard when the Fatah negotiator updated Abu Mazen late today. According to Erekat's version, what was agreed to were minutes of the Cairo session which reportedly stated that the election commission would be formed by Abbas, but that the interim government wasn't discussed. At this point, it is possible that Erekat was either not fully informed on the details or deliberately downplaying this, or actually believes that this is something short of a fully-baked deal.

I was sitting with PM Fayyad privately when the news broke. He was unaware (as he is not involved in the on-again, off-again Fatah-Hamas talks), and his initial reaction was relief, given the funding and political difficulties he was facing.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Walles, Jacob
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 6:22 PM
To: Rubinstein, Daniel H; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Buzbee, John R; 'Daniel_B._Shapiro [redacted]
 'Prem_G._Kumar [redacted]; Hale, David M; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: FW: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

Jerusalem: Is this true?

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 11:02 AM
To: NEWS-NEA
Cc: SES-O_Shift-II; SES-O_OS
Subject: Fatah, Hamas agree to form interim government-Egypt (Reuters)

CAIRO (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement hammered an agreement with the rival Hamas group on Wednesday on forming an interim government and fixing a date for general election, Egyptian intelligence said.

"The consultations resulted in full understandings over all points of discussions, including setting up an interim agreement with specific tasks and to set a date for election," Egyptian intelligence said in a statement.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.