

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 3:28 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; H
Subject: FW: Goma

FYI

From: Moy, Kin W
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 2:56 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Laszczych, Joanne; Toiv, Nora F; Lukens, Lewis A; Carson, Johnnie
Subject: Goma

Cheryl,

In response to your query about the possibility of going to Goma, I reached out to our colleagues in Embassy Kinshasa to see what has been done in the past. The only reasonably safe way to get to Goma is flying on a MONUC aircraft originating from Kinshasa. That would mean a two hour flight each way, leaving a very small window (probably no more than one hour) to work in events. Moreover, advancing Goma would pose a significant challenge for us for security reasons.

I also asked the Embassy to look into other ways of traveling to Goma – perhaps over land via Kigali (Lew and I had discussed this possibility earlier) – and the Embassy did not like the optics of approaching by land from another country.

We're still looking at ways to lengthen our time in Monrovia, including possibly staying overnight in another country, such as Cape Verde. Still no luck, but we're working on it...km