

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 05, 2009 7:37 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Possible Rieser Call on Foreign Ops Bill

Fyi

From: Polt, Michael C
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Verma, Richard R; Rademacher, Paul R; Rodriguez, Miguel E; Hyde, Dana; Kennedy, Patrick F; Greene, Richard L
Sent: Fri Sep 04 18:07:27 2009
Subject: Possible Rieser Call on Foreign Ops Bill

Cheryl:

We have just learned that Tim Rieser may call you soon to request that the Secretary call Senator Reid to urge him take up the FY10 State/Foreign Ops Appropriations Bill at the earliest opportunity in September – to avoid the negative impact of a continuing resolution on State operations and programs.

As you know, if Senator Reid was able/willing to schedule time on the Senate floor there still remains a significant obstacle. While the FY10 Bill had broad bipartisan support prior to markup, it now includes a controversial Lautenberg amendment that would reverse the Mexico City policy statutorily. With Lautenberg's amendment in the Bill, procedural hurdles are almost certain to lengthen and slow down floor action.

It is possible that an agreement could be reached to bring up the Bill and structure votes so that the Republicans could offer amendments including one to strike Lautenberg's language.

Should you agree to ask the Secretary to make such a call I would imagine she would want to get views from Jack Lew, Pat Kennedy, Rich Greene, and Rich Verma, first.

Here are some points to consider for such a possible call:

- **Timely enactment of the FY 10 State/Foreign Ops appropriation is critical to national security.**
- **Operating under a Continuing Resolution for any extended period of time will negatively impact both State operations and foreign assistance programs.**
- **For example, the funds available to support State operations in Iraq are estimated to last only through the first quarter of FY 2010. In addition our urgent hiring plans will be stifled, pay equity authorities will lapse, and we will be without the necessary resources to implement our agenda on food security, climate change, and global health.**
- **I urge you to take up the FY 10 State/Foreign Ops bill as early as possible in September.**

Background

Mexico City Policy: The inclusion during markup of the Lautenberg amendment in the Senate bill codifies a ban on future adoption of the Mexico City Policy. This controversial issue will slow down consideration of the Bill, as the Minority will use parliamentary maneuvers to block timely debate and final passage.

Mike

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