

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:47 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: 8/26 Senior Staff Meeting

FYI

From: Smith, Daniel B
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:01 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: 8/26 Senior Staff Meeting

Sensitive But UnclassifiedUNASUR Letter on Colombia

- Cheryl and Jim said they both thought that there were things missing from the latest WHA draft of a letter from the Secretary to UNASUR members. The goal is to get the final version to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Mitchell meeting with Netanyahu

- Cheryl noted that the Secretary will receive a readout from Senator Mitchell on his meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu shortly.

Libya

- Bill reported that Jeff Feltman has not heard back definitively on Qaddafi's decision about staying in New Jersey during UNGA. Pat Kennedy said he had talked to USUN about possibly allowing Qaddafi to pitch his tent in Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. Mike Polt noted that he had spoken to Congressman Rothman twice yesterday, and that Rothman expressed hope we would have a definitive answer from the Libyans by Sunday, when the Rabbi in Englewood, N.J. plans a protest at the Libyan Residence.

H1N1

- Pat said he had received a call from John Brennan thanking State for providing data on H1N1 outbreaks in the Southern Hemisphere and asking relevant desks to let their embassies know that the USG would be issuing a report on this.

Honduras

- Harold said he had signed off on an action memo to the Secretary along with WHA and F regarding restrictions on assistance to Honduras. (I subsequently confirmed that the package has not yet come forward to the Line – it is awaiting WHA front office clearance and Jim Steinberg's final approval.)
- Derek Chollet said that S/P has drafted the options memo for the Secretary on the upcoming Presidential election in Honduras.

Public Affairs

- Ian said he anticipated questions on Qaddafi and UNGA, Senator Mitchell's meeting with PM Netanyahu, and the results of the delegation to Honduras. He noted in this regard that the decision to suspend NIV issuances in Honduras attracted relatively little attention, but any decision with respect to a possible cut off in assistance would attract a great deal more.
- Ian noted that CNN is running with a story based apparently on a State IG report faulting the Department for being slow in planning for the safety and effectiveness of U.S. civilians in Iraq in the wake of the U.S. military withdrawal. Pat said he thought this was based on an old IG report. Jim said that our line should be that we are confronting the implications of the military withdrawal, that we have an elaborate planning process in place, and that we are focused heavily on the safety and security of remaining USG employees.
- PJ noted that the Secretary will issue a statement on Senator Kennedy's death, and that Senator Mitchell also would put out a message in his capacity as a former Senate colleague.
- Finally, PJ reported that ABC has not yet given up on the story related to a Soviet-style effort by the Russians to entrap/smear a Department employee in Moscow. (The incident in question stems from the time the employee did not work for the Department, but was studying Russian language in Vladivostok.) We are trying to convince ABC that this is not a story and if there is a story, it is that the Russians continue to use old techniques to try to entrap our employees.