

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2009 11:03 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Michelletti update

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----- Original Message -----

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Valenzuela, Arturo A; [REDACTED] Llorens, Hugo;
Williams, Bisa; Webster, Christopher W; Amselem, W Lewis; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; Amselem,
W Lewis
Sent: Sat Nov 21 07:01:03 2009
Subject: Michelletti update

To All:

Friday evening Hugo and I began picking up from de facto sources that M was about to enter a meeting with supporters and that some of the hardliners were making yet another attempt to dissuade M from taking a leave of absence. We immediately phoned contacts close to M and warned that if M reneged, we would launch a massive round of visa revocations, to include families. A couple hours later, sources began to report that M had decided definitively to step aside as announced. Former President Maduro played a key role in persuading M to keep his promise.

Later, Panamanian VP/FM Varela called me to say he had heard from his private sector contacts in Honduras that M had "ratified" the decision to take a leave of absence.

We will stay on top of this until M actually leaves.

ck