

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2009 6:11 PM
To: H
Subject: Honduras statement

The team proposes to release the following statement under your name tomorrow.

I think it works. Please let me know what you think:

Statement by the Secretary

On the Restoration of Democratic and Constitutional Order In Honduras November 27, 2009

The United States remains committed to help restore the democratic and constitutional order in Honduras in the wake of the June 28 coup d'etat that removed President Zelaya and led to the suspension of Honduras from the Organization of American States. As part of that effort, it is essential for both parties in Honduras to implement the measures they agreed to in the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord, including the formation of a government of unity and national reconciliation and the December 2 congressional vote on President Zelaya's restitution. These are vital elements of the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord, and the Honduran people and the international community expect an expeditious determination. We look forward to the Congressional deliberations getting underway as announced.

The November 29 national elections are another critical step in the restoration of the democratic and constitutional order in Honduras. The electoral process -- launched well before June 28 and involving legitimate candidates representing parties with longstanding democratic traditions from a broad ideological spectrum -- is conducted under the stewardship of the non-partisan Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which was also selected before the coup. The electoral renewal of presidential, congressional and mayoral mandates, enshrined in the Honduran constitution, is an inalienable expression of the sovereign will of the citizens of Honduras. We wish the Honduran people well as they choose their new leaders on Sunday, and we urge all sides to exercise their rights peacefully.

The holding of a free, fair and transparent election is necessary but not sufficient for Honduras to reestablish the democratic and constitutional order. In order to help achieve that objective, we will continue, along with others in the region, to support the step-by-step implementation of the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord as a democratic way forward for the Honduran people. The president-elect who emerges from an election deemed free and fair will have a unique opportunity to promote that vital mission.

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