

RELEASE
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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2009 8:47 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Notes from the Peanut Gallery

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

From: Shannon, Thomas A
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin,
Huma
Sent: Sun Nov 29 20:43:20 2009
Subject: Notes from the Peanut Gallery

If our early assessment of today's election in Honduras holds, we will have just been witness to a remarkable thing: Honduran voters have taken back their democracy from two failed leaders -- Zelaya and Micheletti -- who had driven Honduras to isolation and despair.

The turnout (probably a record) and the clear rejection of the Liberal Party shows our approach was the right one, and puts Brazil and others who would not recognize the election in an impossible position. As we think about what to say, I would strongly recommend that we not be shy. We should congratulate the Honduran people, we should connect today's vote to the deep democratic vocation of the Honduran people, and we should call on the community of democratic nations (and especially those of the Americas) to recognize, respect, and respond to this accomplishment of the Honduran people.

Finally, this Administration, which worked so hard to manage and resolve this crisis, should be the one who defines the results and perceptions of today's vote, and not our critics on the Hill (who had no clear pathway to elections) or our adversaries in the region (who never wanted this day to happen).