

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 6:15 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Afghanistan

FYI. WSJ is pursuing a story that Amb Eikenberry has obstructed CIA station chief from direct contact with Karzai.

From: Gorman, Siobhan [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 12:56 PM
To: Crowley, Philip J
Subject: Afghanistan

B6

P.J.

I checked in with Caitlin Hayden a couple weeks ago on this story, and she said Amb. Eikenberry didn't want to comment. But my editor wanted to make sure that State had every opportunity to weigh in on what we are reporting, so I wanted to check with you as well because the story could run as soon as tomorrow.

The story looks at the CIA station chief in Kabul and his relationship with President Karzai. As part of that story, a few things have come up that I wanted to run past State/Amb. Eikenberry because these are details we are reporting in the story.

1) I was told that the Ambassador had opposed the initial candidate for CIA station chief for this latest tour and also opposed the selection of the person who became station chief. I'm very interested in the reasons for that position, if you could shed some light on that.

2) I was told that Amb. Eikenberry had barred CIA station chiefs from direct outreach to President Karzai and that position was later overruled by President Obama after Karzai's anti-Western comments in April about joining the Taliban, etc. and he asked that the station chief smooth things out with Karzai. So, I'd appreciate any perspective Amb. Eikenberry or State can provide on the reasoning behind his position and what his take is on the effect of having the station chief talk with Karzai.

Sorry for the last-minuteness of the request. We just wanted to check in with headquarters State since Amb. Eikenberry's spokesperson said he didn't want to comment.

I'll follow up with a phone call shortly, but I wanted to make sure you had these details all in one place, so you could reference them.

Thank you,
Siobhan

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