

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 7, 2012 11:59 PM
To: H
Subject: Fwd: Romney FP preview speech

B6

FYI

From: Verma, Richard [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Joshua R; Mills, Cheryl D; Adams, David S
Subject: FW: Romney FP preview speech

For the press and H groups.

Just listened to romney preview call for press. Basically Romney = bipartisan, mainstream Truman-JFK-Reagan a Obama = carter and leading from behind. Obama is Adversaries first, Romney friends first. War against extremism not over, drones not enough. Benghazi Benghazi Israel Israel Israel Benghazi

From Evernote:

Romney FP preview speech

alex wong

rich williamson

eliot cohen

- WONG
- struggle for greater liberty and dignity -- AQ-linked attacks on rise
- delay and indecision, undermining traditional bases of our power. in every region in world, American security weakened.
- restore our relationships with friends and allies
- VMI alma mater of George Marshall. romney wants to renew that bipartisan american century vision

- WILLIAMSON: specifics re Iran, Iraq, Syria, Benghazi. put it in bipartisan prism of foreign policy. Truman and beyond. in great contrast to obama who thinks America in decline, other forces in control and we're going to lead from behind. will talk about broad struggle with forces in Mid E and how we need to confront them. Drones good for killing bad guys, but not an answer, just a tool. Romney will outline a broader strategy.

ELIOT COHEN

- obama admin tried to define dealing with radicalism in the Mid East as narrowly as possible. part of what recent events show is it's a much broader, more difficult matter to deal with. dealing with people not just directly opposed to our interests, but also the Islamist factors in places like Egypt.

- JULIE DAVIS, BLOOMBERG: bipartisan vision for FP? til now, pretty top line. are we going to see more of a turn to the middle?
- RICH: speech at Global Policy Initiative (CGI), dealt with assistance but bringing conditionality. not left or right. seen efforts in this regard like Bush's MCC. so characterization no. 2nd, if you look at Truman, JFK and Clinton in 2nd term, very different than Carter, Obama. View that strength is not provocative, weakness is provocative.
- COHEN: can't imagine clinton, truman, JFK using phrase leadership from behind. Romney's is assertion of the mainstream.
- WONG: gov has been talking for years about need to restore military strength, economy and be true to our values. it's HOW we secure our interests abroad. this is really a tradition hatched after WW2: build military no one would challenge, develop allies abroad not just with govts but also with people. hard power and soft power. Romney been talking about this for years, in his first bid, too.
- WILLIAMSON: some of harshest criticism on posture not policy in Middle East esp in Syria has come from left, from human rights community. Rejection of what libs and conservatives stand for.

- LEANN CALDWELL, CBS: why the speech now? how does the speech fit into recent statements on FP, e.g. CGI speech and WSJ oped? going to veer heavily from those?
- WILLIAMSON: in days after Benghazi, we told people to look at Citadel and VFW speech. but now in final days, 2 different visions: a strength and capacity to lead. also Mid East peace process. Larger mosaic of failed policy of Obama in both FP and domestic with 23million still unemployed. discussion of important particulars so can make decision of decisions over passivity.
- COHEN: dramatic events in Mid E. not just benghazi. also black flags over tunis and syria. haven't gotten anything about the way forward from Obama. romney will step forward and say what he would do as president.
- JOHN ROBERTS, FOX NEWS. how will this fit into the next presidential debate?
 - COHEN: will be fit between domestic and foreign issues. Gov will frame as big, consequential choices.

- JENNIFER RUBIN, WASHPOST. Romney has not directly said Obama not being forthright with American people on Libya.
 - : he's been clear that part of the role of leaders is to have transparency and obama's failed that test. stall technique, details trickling out. more broadly, benghazi shows that while drone attacks helpful and world better off without OBL, struggle between extremism and moderates is not over. not only a problem in Mid East, but directly to American interests and fatal for 4 Americans in Libya.

- MAEVE RESTON, LA TIMES. does romney believe the president should organize troops in libya to prevent these attacks? how romney different than bush doctrine?

- WILLIAMSON: after stevens' death, moderate libyans demonstrated. impulse of moderation there, demonstrated in elections. there are ways working with others that can help those forces. DOCTRINE - peace thru strength, working with friends and allies (rejected by this admin in working with Israel), working with countries with different interests (see that with Syria and Russia's obstructionism and moving redlines in Iran). range of differences with earlier doctrines but Romney more in Reagan-Clinton tradition than obama tradition.
 - COHEN: romney believes you start with your friends, see this esp w/r/t Israel. Obama presidency is the departure. he believes you start with your enemies: failed reset with Russia, failed outreach to Iran and silence during demos there, sending ambassador to Syria with no gain. Romney understands conditionality: friends, enemies and people in between.
 - COHEN: libya and embassy attacks -- obama began apologizing right away for crackpot film. Romney understands not about the video.
- EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT.