

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Davis, Jennifer L (S) <DavisJL4@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 3:11 PM
To: H
Cc: Sherman, Wendy R; Carson, Johnnie; Sullivan, Jacob J; S_SpecialAssistants; Coleman, Claire L; Hanley, Monica R; Abedin, Huma
Subject: S-Fabius call sheet

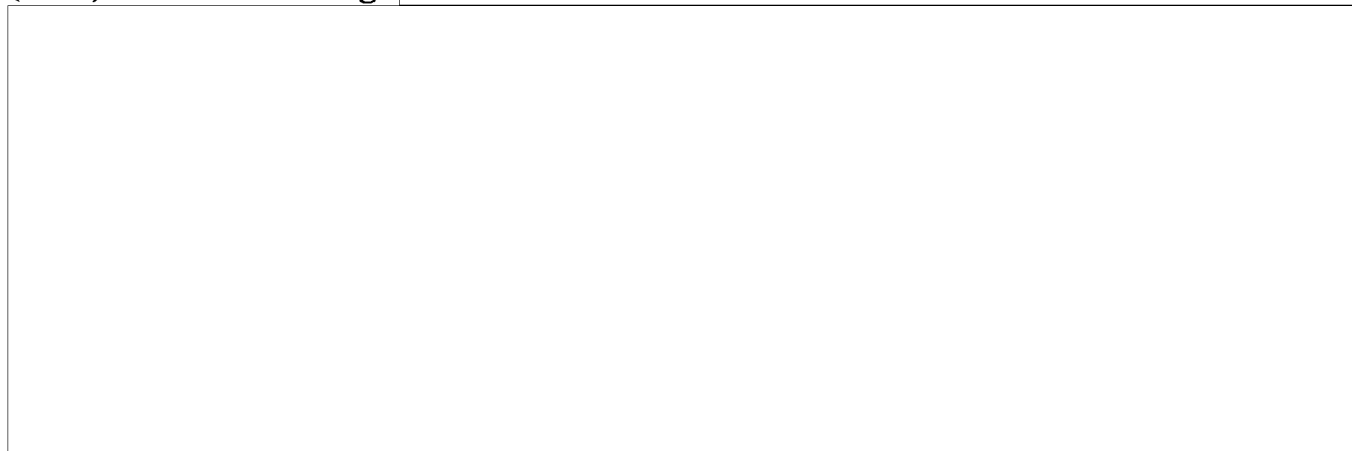
The Secretary's Call Sheet for
French FM Laurent Fabius [fah-byoos]
Friday, January 11, 2013

(SBU) Purpose of Call: Foreign Minister Fabius has requested to speak with you to discuss the situation in Mali.

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- **(SBU) Abdallah Ruling:**



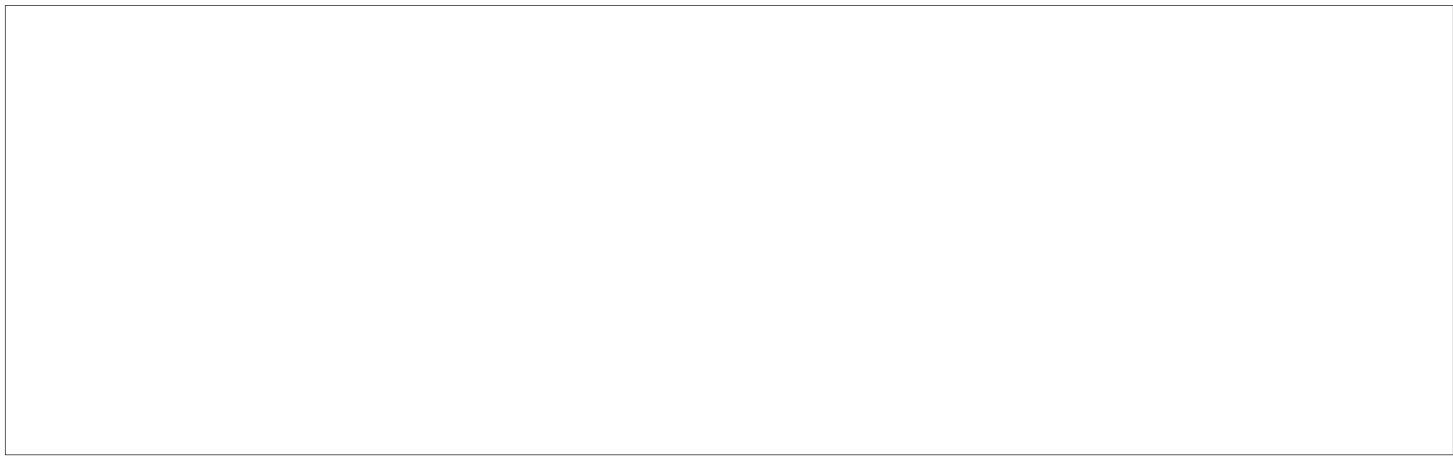
- **(SBU) Farewell:** Laurent, I also wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support during my tenure. Thank you for your personal friendship as well as the steadfast support of France on Syria, Iran, Libya, Mali and a multitude of other challenges. Working together as friends and as partners, we have accomplished a great deal, and I am certain my successor will value greatly our relationship with France. It has been a great pleasure working with you.

(SBU) Background: The military and security situation in Mali has deteriorated sharply in the last 24 hours. The French believe it is crucial not to allow northern rebel groups to proceed south of Mopti in central Mali. Today, the French air force carried out an air strike in Mali in support of Malian government forces trying to push back the rebels. On December 20, the UNSC adopted Resolution 2085 to authorize AFISMA to support Malian authorities to recover areas in northern Mali that are under the control of terrorists, extremists, and armed groups. Resolution 2085 also urged Malian transitional authorities to finalize a roadmap to fully restore constitutional order and national unity, and establish a credible framework for negotiations with all parties in northern Mali who have cut off ties to terrorist organizations.

(SBU) The EU authorized a mission on December 10 to provide 250-400 EU trainers to train the MDSF; training likely will begin in March, followed by military action in northern Mali around September. The EU has already pledged funding, but more resources are needed. The EU has said that it will not provide equipment for the MDSF. France is demarching many capitals around the world to ask for equipment, supplies, and/or infrastructure support (and possibly logistics and salaries) for the MDSF.

(SBU) Georges Ibrahim Abdallah was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 for his involvement in the 1982 murders of U.S. military attaché Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Yakov Barsimentov in Paris, as well as for the 1984 attempted murder of the U.S. Consul General in Strasbourg, Robert Homme. A former leader of the Marxist-Leninist guerilla group Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions, Abdallah is reputedly one of the longest-serving prisoners in Western Europe. He became eligible for release in 1999, but seven successive appeals were consistently denied on the grounds he has shown no remorse for his crime and likely will resume his revolutionary struggle if released and deported to Lebanon.

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Call Notes:
