
From: H

RELEASE IN PART B6

Sent: 2/1/2010 2:03:55 AM +00:00

To: Oscar Flores [REDACTED]

B6

Subject: Fw: Haiti

Pls print 2 copies.

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

From: Zachary Iscol [REDACTED]

To: H

Sent: Sun Jan 31 20:25:40 2010

Subject: Re: Haiti

Madam Secretary,

[REDACTED]

I know how busy you are and hope some of the below helps or at least provides some fresh ideas and perspective.

Haiti was awful. In many areas it was impossible to tell the difference between the earthquake and abject poverty.

I went down to support the Marines, document various efforts and needs, and begin work identifying ways for American's to help Haiti beyond texting \$10 to the red cross.

I also started helping Bill White with a number of projects he is doing with Catholic Medical Mission Board. Initially, we are constructing operating rooms throughout PAP and surrounding areas and later, we will be building a hospital to rehabilitate and treat amputees. The ORs will be built with SG (safe/green) containers- shipping containers filled with supplies that will

be transformed into earthquake proof ORs. SOUTHCOM was ready to ship them a week ago, but USAID is holding them up despite the critical need for the SG containers. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

There is a veneer of stability and calm in PAP. Driving around, the city is rubble, but at first glance it appears people are returning to their daily lives. That mirage quickly fades. Prices of food, coal, gas, and other vital goods have tripled. Businesses are destroyed and most people are completely out of work. The port was still only at 10% capacity (I'm sure you know those numbers better than I.) And most medical personnel I spoke with expect another wave of casualties from infections to begin soon because of a shortage of antibiotics. With the rainy season approaching and all the aforementioned problems, I saw despair on everyone's face I spoke to when I asked about the future. The stench in many areas was far worse than Fallujah.

Unfortunately, I cannot speak too highly of the US or international efforts. Red tape and bureaucracy hinder efforts more than anything else I saw. In some instances, I'd use the word criminal.

I spent four days with the Marines. 2500 Marines aboard ship and only a handful made it ashore. They saved two lives in the first two days.

That's great, but I expect more from an entire MEU. They could have done more, but were being held back by various competing agencies and commands.

I know there are tremendous complications with chain of command, no host nation government in place, etc...but it seemed various higher headquarters and agencies were delving way too deep into planning and employment of forces. The military is a terrible tool for relief efforts, but they also bring tremendous capability to support and supply other organizations that are in terrible need down there. AOs should have been established and US/UN forces should have been given responsibility for working in different AOs and sectors. This still hasn't been done and it makes decision making and helping people incredibly painful and bureaucratic. If a Marine unit wants to help an orphanage the request has to go through an NGO to the JTF and back down the chain of command. People die in the time it takes for them to get permission to act. It would be much easier if units were given more authority to help the people of Haiti and NGOs operating on the ground. If they were given broad authorities to work with and support NGOs, OGA, and HN in specific AOs a lot of this could be alleviated.

Another major bureaucratic challenge is what to do with orphans? US Military units are being told they must hand them over to the GOH, but those children are now in our charge and we have a responsibility to ensure they are given the best chance possible. There are tremendous organizations out there, some even Haitian, that can do a much better job trying to reunite them with their families and or find places for them than the GOH, which is currently in shambles.

At thanksgiving, we spoke briefly about the potential for subsidizing Pakistani goods. I think we should start subsidizing Haitian coffee, mangos, oranges, and other fruit ASAP. And for every dollar spent on reconstruction in PAP, twenty should be spent on investing in the rest of the country. The earthquake provided a tragic opportunity to take advantage of the migration out of the city and to provide people with opportunity outside of that city.

I hope this helps and I'll be going back to Haiti soon. As I finish the film, I think I may want to do something down there. Parts of the country were breathtakingly beautiful, the people were amazing, and there is tremendous need.

Lots of love and thanks for the open ear...

XX00Z

On Jan 29, 2010, at 3:58 AM, H wrote:

> Zach--

>

> [REDACTED] but we're both proud and grateful for
> your efforts in Haiti w the Marines. Pls let me know what you're
> doing, seeing and learning. All best, H

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Zachary Iscol [REDACTED]

> To: H

> Sent: Sun Jan 24 00:33:09 2010

> Subject: Haiti

>

> Madam Secretary-

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> I'm out with the 24 MEU and headed ashore tomorrow.

>

> Major issue- military does NOT have the capability or expertise to
> meet the medical/aid/relief needs in Haiti. We need to figure out
> how to streamline and facilitate civilian and military partnerships
> to get medical teams down here, to get supplies down here, to
> relocate healed patients and orphans, etc....There is so much
> goodwill in the states that isn't being capitalized on, but that
> could bring out the best in America.

B6

>
> Love you and thanks,
>
> Z

Zachary J. Iscol
The Editorial Project
www.editorialproject.com

Message Headers:

[Redacted]

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From: H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>
To: Oscar Flores [Redacted]
Date: Sun, 31 Jan 2010 21:03:55 -0500
Subject: Fw: Haiti

[Redacted]

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