

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2010 9:36 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: XMAS Update from Baghdad

Fyi

From: Lucas, Laura D
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Macmanus, Joseph E; Abedin, Huma
Cc: S_SpecialAssistants
Sent: Sat Dec 25 08:47:39 2010
Subject: Fw: XMAS Update from Baghdad

Please see below note from Amb Jeffrey re: Christmas celebrations in Iraq.

From: Sidereas, Evyenia M
To: SES_DutyDeputies; S_SpecialAssistants
Cc: SES-O_SWO
Sent: Sat Dec 25 07:25:33 2010
Subject: FW: XMAS Update from Baghdad

Colleagues,

Forwarding Ambassador Jeffrey's note below regarding Christmas Day security at Christian sites in Baghdad.

Best wishes,
 Evyenia

From: Jeffrey, James F (Baghdad)
Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2010 7:13 AM
To: Jeffrey, James F (Baghdad); [redacted]; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Corbin, Michael H; Desrocher, John P; Sasahara, Karen H; Davis, Jason L; [redacted] Baghdad-FO-DL; Sievers, Marc J; LoGerfo, Gregory D (Baghdad); Knapper, Marc E (Baghdad); Operations Center; [redacted] Austin, Lloyd J GEN USA USF-I USF-I/Commanding General'; 'Butler, Lawrence E Civ USCENTCOM USF-I Command Group POLA/Alfaw'
Subject: XMAS

All is quiet here. Iraqis have done a great job at least so far covering the masses and churches. I went to a mass in Eastern Baghdad, Nuncio and Catholic Archbishop of Baghdad 'presiding.' Church was about 2/3 full. Homily directly targeted the terrorist threats, pleaded for understanding, and hope for a change.

The Iraqi security at the site itself was extraordinary. (Security at a Christian hospital I visited yesterday less so, but there certainly was security provided by police.) More generally, streets were about as deserted as on Christmas day in the Irish-Italian neighborhoods north of Boston. Some of this is traditional Iraqis also 'celebrating' Christmas, but some of it was the extraordinary 'lockdown' which the security forces had in those parts of the city I saw. Jim J