

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 3:59 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Conversation with Congresswoman Maxine Waters

FYI

We reached out to her staff who we briefed on fact that we were leaning into guidance and saying return b/f Sunday was problematic. Maxine returned the call within 10 minutes.

cdm

From: Adams, Thomas C
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Adams, David S; Mcdonald, Kara C; Merten, Kenneth H; Lindwall, David E; Blumenfeld, Joshua R
Subject: Conversation with Congresswoman Maxine Waters

I took a call from Congresswoman Maxine Waters about two minutes before one. Josh had apparently briefed her foreign affairs staffer, Kathleen Sietenstock about 20 minutes earlier on our press statement.

The Congresswoman's main point was that Former President Aristide needed to return before the election because Martelly, who in her opinion was bound to win, would not allow him back after the election, because he was "in the ton tons." How we could allow Baby Doc back and try to prevent Aristide was not understandable.

I told her that if that was her fear, then it was unfounded, because Preval would remain in power until May. She said results would come out Sunday and that would be the end of his chances to come back. I said the contestation period meant that there would be no official results until April 16, so there was plenty of time for him to return after the election.

She gave her own history of our relationship with Aristide (the kidnapping, not allowing FL to register for this election, our unwillingness to provide him security upon his return, etc.) all of which I gently pushed back on. I suggested she allow us to give her a classified briefing on all of this at some point in order to correct factual untruths related to this. She said she would follow up.

She was not as hysterical as she has been on prior conversations, but did at one point say "what are you going to do when he returns in the company of Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte and maybe me, mow us all down?"

I thanked her for calling and sharing her views and said that we believed that the interests of the people of Haiti would best be served if they could vote in peace and calm.

Tom