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From: Sent: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov> Wednesday, May 20, 2009 9:19 AM

To:

VVC

Subject:

Fw: (AP) Italian foreign minister cancels trip to Iran

From: Desai, Nisha

To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-Iran

Cc: SES-O_Shift-II

Sent: Wed May 20 09:16:57 2009

Subject: (AP) Italian foreign minister cancels trip to Iran

Italian foreign minister cancels trip to Iran

ROME (AP) — Italy's foreign minister has canceled a planned trip to Iran for talks on regional security issues.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement Wednesday cited a problem over the meeting place with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. It said it regretted the "lost opportunity" to discuss involving Iran in the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini had been scheduled to depart later Wednesday.

The communiqué made no mention of reported criticism over the planned trip, nor did it mention a missile test conducted Wednesday by Iran with a range capable of reaching Israel and U.S. Mideast bases.

Nisha Desai

State Department Operations Center 202-647-1512