RELEASE IN PART

From:

Mills, Cheryl D < MillsCD@state.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, August 12, 2009 9:23 AM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: 8/11 Senior Staff Meeting

From: Smith, Daniel B

To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J

Sent: Tue Aug 11 11:25:08 2009 Subject: 8/11 Senior Staff Meeting

Sensitive but Unclassified

New York City

 Jack raised the issue of a proposal from Senator Schumer to reimburse New York for the loss of property tax revenue on diplomatic residences.

Jack said he would be glad to

call Schumer about this, and would like to intervene before this becomes a public dispute.

Merida Initiative

• Both Jack and Jim voiced misgivings over the current state of the Merida Initiative report needed for the release of the last 15 percent of the allocated resources. Jim noted that, in effect, this is a certification. He said that there is still insufficient transparency on the part of the Mexicans and that it is unclear that their proposal to try alleged military human rights violations in military courts covers the full range of potential transgressions. Jim said he would have a meeting later this morning to review with WHA, INL, H and others what needed to be added, but the goal is to turn it around as quickly as possible and ensure that we do not lose out on the 15 percent.

Somalia

Jack said that he had looked at the draft OFAC letter on humanitarian assistance to Somalia and thought it went about as far as possible in addressing the concerns of USAID, short of granting a license in advance for any actions that might inadvertently provide material support to terrorist groups. In essence, the OFAC letter tells AID that they do not need authorization to proceed as they plan. The concern is that USAID may not be fully satisfied and may try to re-litigate the issue. L was going to join AID in a meeting later today to discuss and would seek to persuade them to accept the answer they had received from OFAC.

Colombia

Jim voiced his displeasure over a cable from WHA on the proposed U.S.-Colombia Defense Cooperation
Agreement. I can provide you more details on the high side if you want, but in essence he noted that the policy
has not been fully thought out and that there needs to be a full policy review before we provide such guidance
to the field.

Honduras

B5

Jim asked me where we stood on the milair request for the OAS delegation to Honduras. I said everyone is on board, but that the paper work has still not been blessed. Jim stressed that, contrary to SOUTHCOM plans, the plane should not be a "blue and white" with United States of America boldly marked all over it, but rather a regular white plane or other military aircraft. I undertook to convey this to all concerned.

Aung San Suu Kyi

 Jim noted that the Secretary had made a good statement on the decision to sentence ASSK to house arrest for another 18 months, but stressed to PA the need for them to coordinate closely with the White House today on what more we say.