RELEASE IN FULL

From:

Abedin, Huma < Abedin H@state.gov>

Sent:

Saturday, January 29, 2011 7:41 AM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: Egypt Update

From: Mull, Stephen D

To: Burns, William J; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; Catalano, Elisa; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Kennedy, Patrick F; Schlicher, Ronald L; Nides, Thomas R; Campbell, Piper; Crocker, Bathsheba N; Steinberg, James B; Walles, Jacob; Mills, Cheryl D

Sent: Sat Jan 29 07:35:49 2011

Subject: Egypt Update

We just had a quick call with Ambassador Scobey:

- It was a violent night last night with lots of looting and little police presence throughout most Cairo neighborhoods (although a small army presence began posting at key points around the city).
- About 20 Embassy vehicles were destroyed/stolen from the Embassy, though there was no attack on the Embassy itself. 100% of Embassy staff has been accounted for. DS Mobile Security Detachment expected to arrive tomorrow.
- Up to 50,000 were already gathering in Tahrir Square today; Amb. Scobey expects tonight to be just as bad, if not worse than last night. There continues to be no police presence.
- New government has not yet been named.
- Airport is open; traffic is moving throughout the city.
- While situation throughout Cairo neighborhoods is worrisome, the rest of country and key tourist sites seems to be calm.
- Internet and cell phones are back up.
- Consular Affairs reported 486 calls from Americans expressing concerns about welfare/whereabouts.
- Cairo EAC is meeting now, and will consider whether to request ordered/authorized departure.

Our response:

- U/S Kennedy and M staff are beginning to explore options for charter aircraft to Cairo and then onward to Frankfurt.
- We are standing up a task force starting today in the operations center to monitor security situation and handle growing volume of American citizen calls.

We will await Cairo recommendation on authorized/ordered departure in next couple hours.