RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sent: To: Subject: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov> Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:35 PM H FW: Constitutional Committee

Latest. More twists and turns to come.

From: Patterson, Anne W Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:35 PM To: Dibble, Elizabeth L; Walles, Jacob; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Posner, Michael H Cc: Simon, Steven; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Sievers, Marc J; Blome, Donald A Subject: Constitutional Committee

We have talked to a number of liberals today, who are not inclined to return to the constitutional committee. Right now, Field Marshall Tantawi is meeting with all the parties in an attempt to mediate this issue and address a possible no confidence vote in the Ghanzouri government. We should have a readout of this meeting shortly after it concludes. (We sent in a cable about half way through our outreach today.)

Liberals believe the only card they have to play is embarrassing the MB. They are leaning toward participating in a parallel constitution drafting process, but don't rule out other options. These would include returning to the original committee (which is supposed to start work tomorrow) if there was broad agreement to include the Al Azhar "bill of rights" in the constitution. They are also asking the SCAF to revise the original decree that essentially put the drafting of the constitution under the control of the newly elected parliament. (This is a real long shot.)

And some of the liberals are in direct contact with the MB (at the MB's initiative.)