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From:

Abedin, Huma < AbedinH@state.gov> Wednesday, October 6, 2010 11:02 AM

Sent: To:

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Subject:

Imp from Bill Burns

---- Original Message -----From: Burns, William J

To: Abedin, Huma; Wells, Alice G Sent: Wed Oct 06 11:00:27 2010

Subject: Baghdad

Madam Secretary,

Glad to talk if you have time enroute to WH. Bottom line pts from Baghdad meetings today:

- -- Allawi focused for moment on SOL-Kurds-Iraqiya coalition. Hasn't dismissed ISCI option, but concerned that Adel "too small" and about Kurdish reaction. Ready to engage when Jim J presents paper on Maliki power-sharing offers to Kurds ... has talked to Barzani and will see him Oct 11 ... willing to join in 4x2 talks afterward.
- -- Maliki firm on limiting Sadrists and openness to inclusive coalition with Iraqiya.
- -- Abd Al-Mahdi still pursuing Iraqiya coalition, believes he could broaden Shia support, but acknowledges that Iraqiya has drawn back from finalizing agreement.
- -- Zebari sees key as energizing Allawi to engage, and test Maliki's seriousness.
- -- Talibani worried about keeping his job, not reassured when I repeated that we had no specific candidates for specific positions.

All best,

Bill

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