

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2011 7:20 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Honduras Update -- Final Transmission

You might send Hugo a message - he did yeoman's work.

From: Llorens, Hugo
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 06:32 PM
To: Burns, William J; Valenzuela, Arturo A; Shannon, Thomas A; 'daniel_a._restrepo@state.gov'; Jacobson, Roberta S; Reynoso, Julissa; Webster, Christopher W; McKinley, P Michael; Radetsky, Amy S; Sullivan, Jacob J; Otero, Maria; Gedan, Benjamin N; Schnier, David M; Otero, Maria
Cc: Henshaw, Simon; Eiriz, Silvia; McGeehan, Mary Grace; Stevens, Michael G; Ellingwood, Claudia R
Subject: Honduras Update -- Final Transmission

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Today is my last work day at the Embassy. Lisett and I depart Tegucigalpa on July 3 having just finished hosting this morning our last event -- a large and very successful July 4 reception with President Lobo, the First Lady and nearly 1,000 guests. Having been overseas 11 of the last 12 years, we are very much looking forward to going back to our home in McLean, and beginning my coming assignment at the National War College.

Suffice it to say that the past three years have been tremendously interesting. We were blessed with a truly exceptional team here in Tegucigalpa. The ability of the entire Embassy staff to work in an intense and complex crisis and sustain a clear-eyed and highly focused performance in the service of the President and Secretary is something we are all very proud of here. We were also fortunate to work with a top notch corps of professionals in WHA, the NSC and across the inter-agency. The smooth coordination between our Embassy in Tegucigalpa and Washington ensured U.S. policy was effectively implemented in support of Honduran democracy through two U.S. Administrations.

The Honduran coup crisis certainly brings with it a wealth of lessons. The President's and Secretary's earliest condemnation of the coup was the strong principled foundation of our policy; while our adoption of a prudent approach in support of the Arias mediation and the Guaymuras dialogue was crucial to finding a peaceful and balanced path out of the crisis. Likewise, the U.S. technical assistance in support of the elections gave the Honduran people the opportunity to have the final word in bringing the country back in a democratic direction. Honduras certainly faces major challenges, but our cultivation of a strong bilateral relationship with President Lobo's Government of National Unity and our diplomatic success in helping Honduras return to the OAS fold positions this traditional ally to work positively on the core security, economic, social issues facing the country. I believe a Honduras closely aligned with the U.S. and working in tandem with its democratic neighbors has a good opportunity of implementing a reformist agenda to help the Honduran people build a better life, and contribute to achieving democratic stability in the isthmus.

Again, it has been honor working with all of you and I hope to see many of you in Washington.

Hugo Llorens

Ambassador

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