

RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6

**From:** H <hrod17@clintonemail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 11:44 AM  
**To:** 'millsd@state.gov'  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today op-ed

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

Also, Bill thought he was going to hear from you today about the coordination/leadership mechanism for Haiti. Is that right?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**To:** H  
**Sent:** Thu Feb 11 11:33:59 2010  
**Subject:** FW: USA Today op-ed

sigh

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Irwin Redlener [mailto:[Redacted]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Laszczych, Joanne  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today op-ed

B6

OK. I'm in Jamaica, but try my cell [Redacted] - sometimes OK, sometimes not. Otherwise call my office in NYC (212) 535-9707.

[Redacted]

Look forward to speaking with you.  
Irwin

Mills, Cheryl D wrote:

> I continue to think this is an are we need help [Redacted] rather than generalized disaster assistance.

>

> I will call you today both to share my thoughts on your proposal, which I feel we have discussed b/f b/c it is similar to what I advised was not quite our need now and what I think our need actually is.

>

> The govt is closed today but I have calls all day and am sked to fly to Rome at 5pm so will likely call en route or at the airport.

>  
> Cdm  
>  
> Best  
> Cdm  
>  
> ----- Original Message -----  
> From: Irwin Redlener <[\[redacted\]](#)>  
> To: Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D  
> Sent: Wed Feb 10 20:53:03 2010  
> Subject: USA Today op-ed  
>  
> This was in today's edition of USA Today. Please share with Hillary if  
> she hasn't seen it.  
> Best,  
> Irwin  
>  
>  
> As Haiti recovers, give children special attention  
>  
> \*By Irwin Redlener\*  
>  
> Given the extraordinary destruction wrought by last month's earthquake  
> in Haiti, few will be surprised if this catastrophe is recorded as one  
> of the deadliest natural disasters in recent history. But what is not  
> well appreciated is that this disaster could disproportionately impact  
> children, not only those who perished in the initial shocks, but also  
> those who will not survive what is likely to be a cruel aftermath.  
>  
> \*Photo gallery:\*  
> <<http://mediagallery.usatoday.com/A-long-journey-out-of-Haiti-/G1436>>  
> As Haiti struggled to pull itself together in the days immediately  
> following the 7.0 earthquake that hit the island nation, one Iowa  
> family was waiting to hear whether the child they had pledged to adopt  
> three years ago was still alive.  
>  
> Before the quake, many of the 380,000 children living in shelters  
> <[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-01-24-haiti-children\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-01-24-haiti-children_N.htm)>  
> were placed there out of economic desperation; families could not  
> afford to care for them. Now, many more children displaced by the  
> earthquake will literally have no surviving family members, further  
> swelling demand on social service agencies throughout the country.  
>  
> \*Kids at risk\*  
>  
> As the U.S. and other countries make plans to help Haiti get back on  
> its feet, emphasis should be on enhancing that nation's resiliency —  
> and that will mean dealing with the needs of its children. The unusual  
> extent of child casualties will be driven by several factors:  
>  
> • About 50% of the Haitian population of 9 million is younger than 18  
> <[http://www.unicef.org/emerg/haiti\\_52590.html](http://www.unicef.org/emerg/haiti_52590.html)>. Even more striking is  
> the fact that children 14 years of age and less make up more than 38%.

B6

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- > • Everything about a natural disaster puts children at greater risk. A
  - > comparatively small chunk of dislodged ceiling would injure an adult,
  - > but it might well kill an infant or small child. Water deprivation
  - > will lead far more rapidly to dehydration and shock in an infant than
  - > it would in an adult.
- >
- > • Some seriously injured children have survived the initial trauma
  - > because they were among the few to get surgical attention provided by
  - > international medical teams. But access to follow-up care could be an
  - > overwhelming challenge. Compounding concerns, the Ministry of Health
  - > at one point asked physicians not to provide medical care
  - > <[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-01-27-1Acomfort27\\_CV\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-01-27-1Acomfort27_CV_N.htm)>
  - > that can't be sustained in Haiti.
- >
- > \*Long-term needs\*
- >
- > Between 1 million to 2 million Haitians will be "displaced" for the
  - > foreseeable future. This means a minimum of 400,000 to 800,000
  - > children will be in temporary shelter for months or years. But the
  - > rainy season is coming in May, followed by hurricane season in June.
  - > Families in tents or other flimsy shelters will be at grave risk.
- >
- > • What about the psychological impact? Grieving over loss and trauma
  - > carries the potential of long-term consequences for every Haitian,
  - > especially the countless children.
- >
- > Then there are Haiti's chronic problems that must be addressed head-on.
  - > For decades, Haitians have experienced a seemingly intractable state
  - > of poverty, accompanied by malnutrition and high rates of acute and
  - > chronic illness. More than 50% of Haitians live on less than a dollar
  - > a day, and more than 60% of its young children have nutritional anemia.
- >
- > Despite the efforts of international agencies and non-governmental
  - > organizations, chronic illness abounds and access to clean water,
  - > medical care and sanitation remains a significant challenge for
  - > Haitians, particularly children.
- >
- > This is why the recovery and rebuilding of this fragile nation must
  - > begin and end with a central focus on the immediate and long-term
  - > needs of children. If there is to be a glimmer of hope for Haiti, it
  - > will be because the international community understands that the
  - > capacity to rise from the ashes of catastrophe is directly related to
  - > the health, well-being and potential of its youngest generation.
- >
- > /Irwin Redlener is the director of the National Center for Disaster
  - > Preparedness, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and
  - > president of the Children's Health Fund./
- >
- > /(Getty Images.)/
  - >
  - > Posted at 12:15 AM/ET, February 10, 2010 in Foreign Affairs - Latin
  - > America - Forum

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> discussions. Comments are unedited, but submissions reported  
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