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RELEASE IN FULL

The Secretary's Call Sheet for
Uruguayan Foreign Minister Pedro Vaz
TBD

Purpose of Call: To obtain the Government of Uruguay's recognition of the November 29 elections in Honduras.

- **Iran/IAEA:** We appreciate your principled position on the IAEA Board of Governors vote. A strong, unified signal to Iran is vital as we try to move forward.
- **Honduras:** I know that you recently discussed Honduras with Assistant Secretary Valenzuela and as you may know, he is planning to travel to Uruguay in mid-December. Uruguay has been a very constructive partner over the last few months on Honduras.
- We strongly believe in the need to send a clear signal for the return of democratic and constitutional order in the wake of the June 28 coup d'état. We all agree coups must remain a part of our past and have no place in our present or future.
- We have remained firm on that principle and have acted upon our convictions by cutting off aid and revoking visas.
- We also believe we must work to help Honduras move forward to restore democratic and constitutional order. That is why we helped broker the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Agreement. We are working hard to help the parties implement that agreement, including the December 2 Congressional deliberations on the matter of President Zelaya's restitution.
- Elections are a vital part of the overall solution. The Honduran elections follow the normal calendar established by the Constitution. They were underway long before the coup and involve candidates from a wide array of parties and ideologies. The elections are being run not by the de facto regime but by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which was itself chosen before the coup.
- We see the elections and the implementation of the Accord as part of a package. Elections are necessary, though in themselves insufficient for a return to

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democratic and constitutional order. However, we must stress they are necessary.

- I encourage you to view the elections as a vital part of the democratic way forward.
- The Honduran people and their institutions are trying to resolve this issue according to the October 30 agreement. It is likely that the elections will change the dynamic surrounding congressional discussions.
- If you have a chance, you might encourage President Zelaya to participate positively in this process, which he agreed to on October 30. This is his opportunity to return to office.
- **[If Raised: Zelaya must be returned to office for elections to be legitimate:]** The Accord called for the Congress to vote on his restitution expeditiously, and we will urge them to do that. It is critical that Honduras forge a government of national unity before transferring power to the next president.
- **[If Raised: the November 26 Supreme Court opinion on President Zelaya's restitution:]** The Supreme Court's opinion on President Zelaya's restitution is a separate matter and has no bearing on whether to hold elections or not. Elections are a vital part of the solution and completely separate from President Zelaya's restitution, as laid out in the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accords, which President Zelaya signed.

Background: Iran/IAEA -- Though Uruguay has abstained from similar votes in the past Uruguay recently voted with the United States on a resolution demanding that Tehran immediately freeze construction of its newly-revealed nuclear facility and heed Security Council resolutions to stop uranium enrichment. Significantly, Uruguay broke with Brazil, which abstained on the vote.

Honduras -- The current Uruguayan government's position on the Honduras elections is that Uruguay will not recognize the results of the November 29 elections if they are carried out under the de facto regime. However, earlier in the crisis, the Government of Uruguay was constructive about the importance of the Hondurans working out their own problems, and at one point offered to play a mediating role with Chile. Our hope is that Uruguay will understand that

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international rejection of the Honduran elections will mean continuation of the situation for months, if not years, to come. Uruguay tends to ally with Chile on this and similar regional issues.

The Honduran Supreme Court issued an opinion November 26 on President Zelaya's restoration to office, as requested by the Honduran Congress in accordance with the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord. The opinion recommends that the Congress vote against President Zelaya's restoration to office because he has criminal charges pending against him.

Call Notes:

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