

RELEASE IN PART B6

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From: Cheryl Mills [redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2010 8:35 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: AG readout from Otto Gonzales

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

From: Pauli, Rosemarie [mailto:PauliR@state.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2010 10:27 AM

To: jake.sullivan [redacted] cheryl.mills [redacted]

Subject: AG readout from Otto Gonzales

We thought u might want to see and share with HRC

Here is a quick update on Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's trip to Afghanistan:

1. Press coverage began on plane with print interview (already out via Reuters) and radio - Secretary affirms importance of rebuilding agriculture for improving stability and confidence in the government. Highlights our commitment to working with Afghan Ag. Ministry (MAIL).
2. Excellent meetings at post - Secretary met with Ambassadors Eikenberry and Wayne with Interagency Civ.-Mil interagency team plus others. Credit, infrastructure, and how can farmers who have successfully switched from poppy share their experience with others were among topics of interest discussed. This was followed by Secretary Vilsack meeting with a group of USDA PRT advisors, most are returnees or extended tours, discussing their motivations for being there, and the most important problem to address while there (capacity building).
3. Meetings with GIRoA - Secretary met with President Karzai affirming our support of agriculture and gaining recognition from the President of the importance of agriculture. Meetings with Min. Rahimi included one with his technical team outlining priorities. Secretary Vilsack complimented the Minister on the National Ag. Dev. Framework. Good discussion on technical priorities