
From: Cheryl Mills

B6

Sent: 3/19/2009 10:19:19 AM +00:00

RELEASE IN PART B6

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

CC: millscd@state.gov

Subject: Fw: Adoption

Second try
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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

From: "Cheryl Mills" <

Date: Thu, 19 Mar 2009 10:06:37
To: Hr15<hr15@mycingular.blackberry.net>
Subject: Fw: Adoption

See below. We need to set up a swat team to figure out how to address - I am going to seek to do nless you have any reservations.

Cdm
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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

From:

Date: Sat, 21 Feb 2009 09:59:23

To: 'cheryl.mills [redacted]
Subject: Adoption

Hi,

I hope you and your family are well. I called you yesterday regarding an important issue regarding the workings of the State Department. You may have received the arrival announcement for our daughter, [redacted] whom I picked up from India in December after over two years of waiting to adopt her.

Cheryl, the eyes of all the children I saw in the orphanage, most of whom have parents identified and waiting back here, haunt me. Our personal ordeal is over, but I've pledged to myself to push as hard as I can for adoption reform.

I know Secretary Clinton has much on her plate, but surely there's room for this as an increasing number of Americans get married later and seek families in less traditional ways.

The State Department is at the center of the storm. New Hague regulations have set up absurd requirements that are internally contradictory. Ironically, [redacted] and I were delayed in India not by the Indian government - notorious for its red tape - but by the US Embassy. The protocols followed by the Embassy are arcane and outdated. Nothing can be done electronically. Paperwork gets sent, and misplaced, from USCIS in the midwest, to DHS in Nebraska, to the National Visa Center in Portsmouth, then to the Embassy. At one point, after [redacted] had been told by the Visa Center that [redacted] and I may be stuck in India for six weeks, and after I then called every lobbyist I knew, a senior Consular officer in New Delhi told me that "Indians need to learn how to stand in line.". This while I am alone in India with an eleven-month old strapped to my chest.

Studies show conclusively that adopted kids need to be with their parents as soon as possible. With [redacted] the impaired growth of her head circumference was directly linked to the lack of stimuli provided by parents. We were paired with her when she was three months old, yet I couldn't get her for another eight months due to bureaucrats. I understand that child protection requires screening of parents. But this simply shouldn't take this long.

Furthermore, the wait for anyone seeking a visa is clearly preventing the best and the brightest from entering the country. This is so evident when you visit the Embassy in Delhi, where bright college kids are choosing to do advanced studies in Europe because they're just giving up on the US.

This is all Bush-Cheney, and I can only hope Secretary Clinton can fix it.

A final note. In [redacted] orphanage sits a baby with a severe heart condition. I saw him - he's adorable. He has parents who are willing to adopt him in Minnesota. The child needs surgery asap. And to my knowledge, they still can't get her out only because the child doesn't have a visa to enter the US.

It's madness.

Thanks for reading.

Best,

[Redacted]

B6

[Redacted]

**Message
Headers:**

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Cc: millscd@state.gov

Subject: Fw: Adoption

From: "Cheryl Mills"

[Redacted]

Date: Thu, 19 Mar 2009 10:19:19 +0000

B6