

FW: FYI -- Dennis Ross memo making the rounds

From: Cheryl Mills

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To: Hillary Clinton hr15@att.blackberry.net

Subject: FW: FYI -- Dennis Ross memo making the rounds

fyi

From: will edgar [mailto:
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:12 PM
To: Cheryl Mills; Cheryl Mills1
Subject: FYI -- Dennis Ross memo making the rounds

i guess it's old, but it's in circulation as people try and figure out why he wasn't announced with Holbrooke and Mitchell.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0109/The_Ross_job.html?showall

The Ross job

One oddity of today's State Department news: It contradicts previous reports on Dennis Ross's role in the administration, as a kind of "super-envoy" who would be over regional envoys.

But Ross wasn't on the stage today, the marquee announcement of Clinton's upper echelon. With Mitchell in the picture, there's not all that much space for yet another key Middle East advisor, though the Iran task -- expected to be Ross's portfolio -- remains open.

In any case, contrast the absence today with this recent memo from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy to its board and other stakeholders, which kicked off the Ross reporting with the claim that he would be Clinton's "top advisor" on issues including the peace process:

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Chairman Fred Lafer, President Howard Berkowitz, and Executive Director Robert Satloff
Re: Ambassador Dennis Ross to Join Obama Administration

We are delighted to share the news that Ambassador Dennis Ross, counselor and Ziegler Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute, has accepted an invitation to join the Obama administration as ambassador-at-large and senior advisor to Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton.

In that seventh-floor job, designed especially for him, Ambassador Ross will be the secretary's top advisor on a wide range of Middle East issues, from the Arab-Israeli peace process to Iran. Ambassador Ross will not reprise his previous role as special Arab-Israeli peace envoy, a post that will be held by someone else; rather he will be working closely with both the special envoy and the secretary. Ambassador Ross is expected to take his post immediately after inauguration.

We know you share our pride in Ambassador Ross's achievements, which reflect not only his outstanding contribution to U.S. foreign policy, but also the Institute's unique role in supporting those who can advance peace and security in the Middle East.