

RE: Thanks

From: Jim Steinberg [redacted]

RELEASE IN PART
B6

To: Hillary Clinton hr15@att.blackberry.net

Subject: RE: Thanks

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As you might guess, I'm ok with it

From: hr15@att.blackberry.net [hr15@att.blackberry.net]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 4:17 PM
To: Jim Steinberg
Subject: Fw: Thanks

Oops, sorry. I meant to add you too. If Podesta says ok, I think we should do [redacted] given Burns, Crocker, Kennedy and Odierno as reported below.

From: hr15@att.blackberry.net
Date: Fri, 16 Jan 2009 21:15:41 +0000
To: John Podesta; Cheryl Mills
Subject: Fw: Thanks

As you can see from below, the top career people, Burns and Crocker, feel strongly about [redacted] New info per Crocker is that Odierno also favors [redacted] Under the circumstances, I want to do this if possible. Pls let me know if [redacted] will vet for Baghdad.

From: wburns [redacted]
Date: Fri, 16 Jan 2009 15:25:26 -0500
To:
Subject: Re: Thanks

Dear Senator Clinton,

It was great to talk to you today, and I look forward very much to next week.

I talked to Ryan again at length. He and Pat Kennedy (who served for a year in Baghdad) and I continue to believe [redacted] would be best. Ryan added that Ray Odierno is a supporter of [redacted] Ryan will encourage Ray to talk to Secretary Gates.

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After [redacted] in descending order, we'd offer the following:

[redacted]

[redacted] have excellent Arabic and wide experience in the region, including as chiefs of mission. [redacted] [redacted] is very capable, and is well-regarded by the U.S. military.

Two other more complicated possibilities would be [redacted] [redacted] It would be very hard to shift [redacted], where he has been for only two months. [redacted] [redacted] and may have a sense of whether that has changed. [redacted] is also pretty burned out on Iraq, after four years of near-constant engagement.

I'll keep thinking, as will Ryan.

Bill

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

From: hr15@att.blackberry.net

To: Bill Burns

Sent: Fri, 16 Jan 2009 2:18 pm

Subject: Thanks

Dear Bill, Thanks so much for your advice and support during this transition. I have asked again whether [redacted] lobbying disqualifies [redacted] from just Iraq or if [redacted] could be considered for the Near East bureau, and I will let you know what I'm told.

Please also let me know whom you and Ryan recommend if she is not available to us for either job. I'm looking forward to next week. Hillary

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