

RELEASE IN PART B6

## Welcome Back

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**From:** Jack Keane

B6

**To:** Hillary Clinton hr15@att.blackberry.net

**CC:** Jack Keane

**Subject:** Welcome Back

Hillary

Am certain you had a productive trip. Your public comments were right on the mark!

I was initially disappointed you could not get to Iraq, Af/Pak, the ME., on your first trip, given their priority and POTUS near term decisions on Iraq/Afg. But I do understand, the special envoys were in the region and I assume you did not want to undermine the significance of their visit by following in on their heels.

I respect your choice, the far east, our second most challenging neighborhood and avoiding, at least initially, the normal tendency to visit our friends in Europe. Am convinced in the 21st C the center of gravity for international security and strife has moved east, out of Europe, where it was centered for most of the 20thC.

I visited Sheikh Muhammad(Def MIn) for a few hours on last Saturday, in a private discussion, at his residence in Abu Dhabi. I found him to be quite impressive, a young dynamic leader who is surprisingly modest, yet a visionary leader who is well grounded in reality. The most powerful influence in UAE, despite his older brother, the President; he is destined to succeed him. Believe when you and the POTUS are formulating plans for the region, you should rely on the wisdom of certain key regional leaders whose judgment you trust(know you are doing this but POTUS, has few, if any, relationships in the region). SM is one of the new forward looking leaders, in addition to the Emir and CP of Bahrain and the Sultan of Oman. I was struck by how similar SM is in temperament and personality to the POTUS. We discussed many of his concerns, and of course, he wanted advice on all of it(would prefer to discuss this on the phone).

One issues is that he desires an early and influential relationship with the Obama Team and is planning to officially seek a visit during last 2 weeks of March. Anything you can do to assist is appreciated. BTW, I have no financial relationship with SM although he did host my stay at the Emirates Palace Hotel. He desires me to return to discuss the same issues with his brothers and some other UAE influential leaders in the next few months.

All the best, Jack

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T