

Fw: Chris Hill Confirmation Prep

From: Mills, Cheryl D MillsCD@state.gov

RELEASE IN FULL

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: Fw: Chris Hill Confirmation Prep

Fyi

From: Polt, Michael C
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Burns, William J; Hill, Christopher R; Verma, Richard R; Shapiro, Andrew J
Sent: Mon Mar 16 14:10:22 2009
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Cheryl:

First meeting with SFRC majority staff this morning went, as expected, very well. The staff emphasis was on Chris demonstrating solid Iraq knowledge at the hearing, which he already did most impressively this morning. Frank Lowenstein, Kerry's Chief Counsel, chaired the meeting and promised a hearing next week Wednesday or Thursday. He expects a business meeting of the Committee Tuesday, 3/31 and a floor vote before the recess COB Friday, April 3. Frank said Kerry is on full speed ahead for confirmation and assured Chris that he can count on Senator Lugar's support. Frank somewhat optimistically estimated 80-90 floor votes in favor, but in any case voiced no doubt about confirmation. I don't want to jinx this with a definitive prediction, but I also believe that Chris will win over a solid majority in the end.

Meanwhile, John Negroponte and Ryan Crocker have agreed to a joint letter supporting Chris. I am still trying to reach Zal Khalilzad, who is traveling in Dubai. Hagel agreed to issue a supportive statement and give a strongly positive answer to any question in the course of his National Press Club press conference today on U.S.-Russia relations. No answer yet from Armitage and a prefer not to get involved from Powell.

Mike

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