

**FW: From Embassy Prague: Update on Former Czech President Havel**

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**From:** Cheryl Mills CMills@hillaryclinton.com

RELEASE IN PART B5

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

**Subject:** FW: From Embassy Prague: Update on Former Czech President Havel

FYI

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On Wed, Jan 14, 2009 at 6:35 PM, Tarantolo, Sonia S > wrote:

Good evening all:

Our Embassy in Prague and the Office of Central European Affairs have been closely tracking former Czech President Havel's condition, and they asked that we pass this information to the Transition Team. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Best,

Sonia Tarantolo

S/ES-S

Transition Team

(202) 647-6495

From: Pierangelo, Claire A

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 10:21 AM

To: SES-Line\_Transition

Cc: Merten, Kenneth H; Garber, Judith G

Subject: FW: Update on Former Czech President Havel

SES Transition Folks:

Just wanted you to know about Havel hospitalization and complications from surgery. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A/S Fried in particular wanted to make sure that Albright knows about it as they are good friends. I'll pass the message to NSC for their transition team as well.

Thanks

Claire

Claire A. Pierangelo

Director

EUR/CE - Central European Affairs

U.S. Department of State

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(Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lichtenstein, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland)

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From: Strong, Martina A

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 8:34 AM

To: Thompson-Jones, Mary; Garber, Judith G; Lochman, Laura A; Tratensek, Alexander; Pierangelo, Claire A

Cc: Blaha, Charles O

Subject: Update on Former Czech President Havel

The medical council has just concluded its press conference at the Prague Motol Hospital. The council includes the country's top experts, and many of them had treated Havel before. The doctors refused to give a prognosis for Havel, but stated that his state is serious because he is in danger that the non-functioning part of his lung has become infected and the infection could spread. Havel's breathing is shallow and must be assisted by a machine (noninvasive ventilation). He is also on heavy antibiotics. The doctors said that at this time Havel is not in danger of dying (but they stressed "at this time"). They also stressed that Havel's history of lung problems is complicating treatment. The council will be meeting again tomorrow afternoon.

(U) Former Czech President Havel In Hospital After Emergency Operation: Former Czech President Havel (72) is in a serious condition in a Prague hospital, having undergone an emergency throat surgery. While the surgery was successful in removing an abscess obstruction in Havel's throat, a complication involving one of his lungs appeared subsequently. A council of medical experts is meeting early this afternoon and will hold a press conference at 2:00pm Prague time to provide an update on Havel's condition. Havel has had a series of health problems since the 1990s, including lung cancer. Ambassador Graber met with Havel last week. Havel appeared tired, but was very engaged. He reiterated his support for missile defense and close Czech-U.S. ties. Havel remains publicly active, speaking out periodically about key issues facing the Czech Republic, as well as continuing his work in support of human rights and democracy. Over the past couple of years, Havel has also been focused on writing. His latest play "Odchazeni" (Leaving) has been performed around the world.

