

Re: Aspirational Diplomacy

From: H hdr22@clintonemail.com

RELEASE IN PART
B6

To: Doug Hattaway

CC: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: Re: Aspirational Diplomacy

B6

Doug--pls keep your ideas coming! I also hope we will be able to visit soon. I'll ask Lona to call and set up a time. Hope all is well w you and your family. Pls give them my best wished. H

From: Doug Hattaway
Date: Thu, 12 Mar 2009 15:02:24 -0400
To:
Subject: RE: Aspirational Diplomacy

Madame Secretary:

Your comments yesterday on human rights were excellent. I wanted to follow up on your interest in a discussion about the Administration's work on democracy.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies just released a report very much in line with the message I suggested previously, about framing our work as "building democratic institutions" rather than "promoting democracy."

The CSIS report is entitled, "Democracy in U.S. Security Strategy: From Promotion to Support."

The report says, "Support, do not promote, democracy. Promoting has become synonymous with imposing democracy. U.S. strategy should be patient, humble, cooperative, and pragmatic, and not always active and public." It outlines 5 action items for U.S. policy.

To help with your thinking on the topic, I'd like to suggest a meeting with the leadership of NDI, including Sec. Albright, who chairs NDI's board. You may know Ken Wollack, the president.

This could be a private, informal discussion, or a more formal presentation, depending on your interest. We could brief you on the major issues and trends in democracy assistance, and discuss ideas for US policy.

I'll admit to having an agenda: I hope that democracy can regain its rightful place in US policy and become a 4th D in the mantra of "development, defense and diplomacy."

I also hope the Administration can undo the damage done by Bush, and take back democracy support as a defining issue for Democrats.

Would you like me to arrange a discussion?

Best, Doug

From: H [mailto:hdr22@clintonemail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:57 PM
To: Doug Hattaway
Subject: Re: Aspirational Diplomacy

Doug,

This is very helpful and along the lines of what I've been thinking. I hope we can get together when I'm back to talk about this whole area. All the best.

From: Doug Hattaway
Date: Thu, 12 Feb 2009 09:43:57 -0500
To:
Subject: RE: Aspirational Diplomacy
Hi! Hope you're doing well. Things look to be going very well at State.

I wanted to pass along another thought, this time about our message and approach to supporting democracy around the world. This is based on my work with NDI in the Middle East and North Africa.

As you may recall, I worked with the government of Lebanon, political parties and NGOs in a number of countries. We kept running into problems with the way democracy assistance was viewed in the U.S. and abroad.

Because of Bush's belligerence and the way the Republicans talk about advancing democracy as "promoting American values" and "winning the ideological war," the word "democracy" itself was tainted.

People who should support democracy and democratic governance were suspicious or hostile. Democratic reformers in many countries were put on the defensive, and even put in danger.

The Republican approach was more about selling democracy. Karen Hughes went around delivering lectures. They ran advertising campaigns, which were not well received overseas. (That's not surprising, since polls show commercial marketing and Hollywood exports contribute to negative perceptions of America.)

This is not to belittle good work done in public diplomacy, but the general orientation toward selling democracy as a concept (particularly in the context of invading Iraq) was ineffective at best and counter-productive at worst.

In response, we developed a new way to talk about this work that would distinguish our (Democratic) approach from the Republicans.

We talked about it as "helping people build democratic institutions." This frames the U.S. as helping people on the ground, rather than lecturing them about abstract principles. "