

Re: USAID

From: janpiercy [redacted]

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RELEASE IN PART
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To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: Re: USAID

Here's some of my reasoning re sounding out [redacted]

-- The S of Defense has acknowledged that DoD is not best equipped to provide reconstruction assistance, which is development, not defense. This creates the opportunity for a new look at how post-conflict reconstruction assistance can best be integrated into effective development assistance. [redacted]

[redacted] so the development perspective would weigh in on how to proceed. Globally, there are a staggering number of places requiring post-conflict thinking in planning development support -- it's been gotten "wrong" for a long time; now we have the chance to take a fresh look, and engage strategically.

I believe this might intrigue him.

-- I think lending his stature to this challenge for even 18 months would set the right course, so he would not have to commit long-term to have major impact. He would be involved in the foreign assistance act rethinking, a critically important undertaking that is likely to set the framework for our engagement for the next decade or more. However, if there's not strong leadership from State/AID and the Administration on this Act, it risks ending up worse than the present "Christmas tree" of separate earmarked directives preventing flexible bilateral engagement that takes account of what other bilateral and multilateral donors may be doing in a given country.

-- as part of the SofState's senior team, [redacted]

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-- in the end, even if he won't agree to head USAID, there's a lot to be said for asking him. I don't know your relationship with him which is of course quite an important consideration. But I was very struck in two interviews by how he said that he would do whatever the President asked -- he did not say it in a way that sounded coy or evasive but simply literally true.

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

From: H
To: Jan Piercy ; hdr22@clintonemail.com
Cc: Nancy Bekavac ; Cheryl Mills
Sent: Sat, 31 Jan 2009 8:29 am
Subject: Re: USAID

Interesting idea but very unlikely. I will explore w him and report back.

From: Jan Piercy
Date: Fri, 30 Jan 2009 15:32:43 -0600
To: hdr22@clintonemail.com >
Subject: USAID

Don't laugh me out of the room for this question: is it at all conceivable that you'd entertain idea of [redacted] and is it known whether something else has already been proposed to him? The development assistance advocacy community is unusually unified at present around reform and he has been talked about extensively as possibly the one person who could put development assistance on a par with DoD and State. Sense is that he might do it if framed as a turn-around that could be accomplished in a year or two, as he might well not want this long-run. We hear over and over (and we concur) that USAID must be someone 1) of enormous stature; 2) capable of immediate traction/effectiveness on the hill, 3) high energy, capable leader-manager, 4) someone who cld function broadly as member of senior State team, with your confidence and trust right away.

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I do not know your relationship with him, for starters. He has said that he would do whatever the President asked, while not seeking to join an Administration. I do believe that he is loyal (some might say "to a fault") to lines of command as a military person, and he believes in development assistance. If you have or could have a rapport, this is not a crazy idea.

The other counter-intuitive possibility is former Republican Congressman [redacted]
[redacted] Nancy and I were impressed with his substantive range and depth, and his ability to navigate Congress, a critical skill with the early prospect of Berman moving out on revamping the Foreign Assistance Act. We'd like you to meet him.

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