

RELEASE IN PART
B6

FW: Sec. Clinton's Mexico Trip

From: Mills, Cheryl D MillsCD@state.gov

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: FW: Sec. Clinton's Mexico Trip

FYI - useful - would have been interesting to have had him at dinner too.

B6

From: Jones, James [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:45 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Sec. Clinton's Mexico Trip

Ms. Mills,

Jack Lew's office suggested that I go through you to offer some ideas for Secretary Clinton's trip to Mexico next week. If she wants me to expand, I will be happy to do so.

As introduction, I was US Ambassador to Mexico (1993-97), former Member of Congress (Budget Committee Chairman & Ways & Means), former CEO of American Stock Exchange, the last chief of staff to President Lyndon Johnson, and full-fledged supporter of Hillary's campaign last year.

Our firm does considerable business in Mexico but deliberately we do not represent any government entities. I go to Mexico at least twice monthly on behalf of foreign direct investors and visit regularly with Calderon ministers and Mexican congressional leaders.

Most important words for the Secretary to drive home are collaboration, partnership and stability. Secretary Rice is criticized for identifying Mexico as a "failed state." President Sarkozy was not well received on his recent visit to Mexico because he "sounded much like US political leaders of the past." Given that, I suggest that she address the Mexican Senate or Chamber of Deputies. Sarkozy addressed the Senate. The leader of the Senate with whom I had breakfast in Mexico City last Friday will issue an invitation if there is an interest.

In other words, she can stand in very positive contrast by building on those three words -- collaboration, partnership and stability. I won't suggest texts unless there is interest.

Education is another theme common to both governments. Stressing education reforms, the difficulties but the necessity for our economic future are common threads to build on.

Investment in technology both for security and business development are important. Here I have some ideas about developing bi-national "green innovation zones."

Finally, there is general concern about not having an Ambassador in place or announced. As the Secretary knows well from our peso crisis days etc., the sensitivity of our bilateral relationship is keenly felt in Mexico and the US Ambassador is an important symbol of the respect it wants. It is not necessary to announce a nominee, but just be prepared to answer that the Obama Administration is aware and will choose a qualified person who will be close to the President and Secretary of State. (I have recommended at least two such persons among many who should be considered.)

The Secretary's trip is very important. If I can be helpful in anyway for briefings or working with the speech writers, I'm happy to do so.

JimJones

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