

From: H [HDR22@clintonemail.com]  
 Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 1:07:51 AM  
 To: Huma Abedin  
 Subject: Fw: [REDACTED]

RELEASE IN  
 PART B5,B6

Attachments: [REDACTED]

Pls print.

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

From: Koh, Harold Hongju <KohHH@state.gov>  
 To: H  
 Sent: Sat Oct 31 09:57:53 2009  
 Subject: FW: [REDACTED]

From: Busby, Scott W. [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
 Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 8:17 PM  
 To: Rowley, Jill C.; Koh, Harold Hongju; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M; Schou, Nina E; Stewart, Karen B (DRL); Cassidy, Joseph P; Brimmer, Esther D; Nossel, Suzanne F; Keshap, Atul; Enav, Cari R; Ostermeier, Amy A; julie.fernandes [REDACTED]; Cuellar, Mariano-Florentino; Prelogar, Brandon; John Monahan [REDACTED]; Posner, Michael H; Laurence Rothenberg [REDACTED]; Allison Danner2 [REDACTED]  
 Raymond Peeter [REDACTED]; Rob Wexler [REDACTED]; Quintana Carlos [REDACTED]; Barrett, Joan [REDACTED]; Pope, Irfan Saeed [REDACTED]; Brian D Kelliher [REDACTED]; John Geraghty [REDACTED]; David F.; Simon, Jennifer J; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Bakshi, Amar; eric.wilson [REDACTED]; mark.abdo [REDACTED]; jenny.presswalla [REDACTED]; irfan.saeed [REDACTED]; Powell, Catherine; Pope, David F.; [REDACTED]; allison.danner2 [REDACTED]; Sullivan, David B; Brancato, Gilda M; west.marybeth [REDACTED]; Camponovo, Christopher N (DRL); Posner, Michael H; Koh, Harold Hongju  
 Cc: DL-NSC-Legal Advisor; DL-NSC-Democracy; DL-NSC-Relief Stabilization and Development; Cleveland, Sarah H; Hata, Marianne J; Brancato, Gilda M; Gorove, Katherine M; Schou, Nina E; Sullivan, David B; west.marybeth [REDACTED]; Staten, Vernell; McAuliffe, Marisa S; Powell, Catherine; Irfan Saeed [REDACTED]; Jenny Presswalla [REDACTED]; Janelle Perez@associates [REDACTED]; julie.fernandes [REDACTED]; Monica Ramirez [REDACTED]; natarsha.wright [REDACTED]  
 Subject: [REDACTED]

All -

Please find attached [REDACTED] this past Monday. Apologies for the delay in getting these out.

I am also attaching several of the hand-outs from the meeting, including [REDACTED] and another revised version with edits by our office.

If you would like to review the original Clinton EO, you can find it here:

[REDACTED]

As reflected in the conclusions, we would very much like your feedback [REDACTED] by Monday,

November 9.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Busby

Director for Human Rights

Office of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

National Security Council

The White House

Washington, DC 20504

(202) 456-9141 (general)

[redacted] (direct)

(202) 456-9140 (fax)

[redacted]

B6

From: Huma Abedin <Huma@clintonemail.com>  
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 8:53 AM  
To: 'humamabedin'  
Subject: Print Fw: Quick on David Crane. Copenhagen.

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

B6

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Fri Nov 13 06:35:39 2009  
Subject: Fw: Quick on David Crane. . Copenhagen...

Pls print

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

From: Burns Strider <bstrider@eleisongroup.com>  
To: H  
Sent: Thu Nov 12 16:51 51 2009  
Subject: Quick on David Crane .. Copenhagen...

Hey boss. . David Crane has something tentatively coming together for Copenhagen around businesses and climate change -- a business to business dialogue... but only wants to proceed based on your (or States) interests/okay... and he also wants to find out if you're going to Copenhagen as he is basing his going there on your level of interests. He wants you to know he's not pushing for this but is interested in making something happen if you find it worthy...

Many of the corporate members of USCAP, including Alcoa, Dow, DuPont, Siemens Westinghouse, ConocoPhillips and, of course, General Electric, have extensive international operations including in India and particularly in China. While USCAP to date has been focused exclusively on securing passage of U.S. legislation, if it were the view of you and your climate change team that a business-to-business dialogue between major American corporations and their Chinese and Indian equivalents would be helpful, particularly one carried out with the blessing of the State Department and your foreign counterparts, I am sure that USCAP members would be willing to lend a hand.

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

Congratulations on a very successful beginning to your tenure at the State Department. For most Americans, particularly for your ardent supporters like Isabella and me, it is very comforting to know that as difficult a place as the world is at this point in time, you are in charge at State. As I write, I sit here in New York attending the CGI noting that both President Clinton and President Obama mentioned how you were hard at work cross town at the United Nations.

I write you today on global warming, the most important and one of the most intractable of those issues. As you may know, on behalf of NRG Energy, which is primarily a coal-burning power generation company, I have been speaking out for several years about the urgent necessity of federal climate change legislation. Moreover, NRG is moving aggressively to do something about it with our industry leadership in new nuclear power and our plans, announced since you and I last spoke, to build a series of large solar plants across California and New Mexico.

HA 09/01/2015



In recent months, aligned with many other progressive-thinking major American corporations and environmental groups in the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), we have worked to pass the Waxman-Markey bill out of the U.S. House of Representatives in a form that would garner support from public policy makers from both parties and all regions of the Country. Now that the bill has taken the major step of being passed by the House, it moves on to the Senate where its fate remains uncertain among your former colleagues obviously, in part, due to the focus on healthcare, but **also because of the difference of opinions on the merits of federal climate change legislation.**

While you would know better than I, it is my strong impression that international considerations are going to weigh much more heavily on the Senate than they seem to have done in the House. As such, it will become critical what the Senate believes can be accomplished on the climate change front through your good offices with China and India. I know that you are well aware of this and that you have a high level and very capable team at State working this issue. I wanted to offer you our humble assistance in this regard.

Many of the corporate members of USCAP, including Alcoa, Dow, DuPont, Siemens Westinghouse, ConocoPhillips and, of course, General Electric, have extensive international operations including in India and particularly in China. While USCAP to date has been focused exclusively on securing passage of U.S. legislation, if it were the view of you and your climate change team that a business-to-business dialogue between major American corporations and their Chinese and Indian equivalents would be helpful, particularly one carried out with the blessing of the State Department and your foreign counterparts, I am sure that USCAP members would be willing to lend a hand.

Please let me know if we can help.

B6

Sincerely,

David Crane

President & Chief Executive Officer

From: Valmoro, Lona J [ValmoroLJ@state.gov]  
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2009 6:54:57 AM  
To: Huma Abedin; H  
Subject: Re: Schedule

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

I found out late last night that the meeting tomorrow at the WH with POTUS is at 8:00pm, which does affect your dinner plans. Should we still move forward with the dinner (currently starting at 7:00pm), with you needing to depart around 7:50pm? Move up the start time by 15-30 minutes? Or consider postponing?

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

From: Huma Abedin <Huma@clintonemail.com>  
To: H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>; Valmoro, Lona J  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:06:52 2009  
Subject: Re: Schedule

- didn't know about turkey. Will find out more
- we will know about mon mtg this morning and will let you know as soon as we do
- holding early december dates so we can leave any day
- we are on 8am shuttle wednesday but can easily move

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

From: H  
To: 'ValmoroLJ@state.gov' <ValmoroLJ@state.gov>; Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:02:15 2009  
Subject: Schedule

I think the PM of Turkey is coming Dec 7. Have we been asked to do anything for him? I want to be sure we treat him and his party well. If WH doesn't do lunch, should we?

B5

Have you been told what time yet?

Pls keep Dec 1, 2 and 3 free and plan for me to go to Brussels either night of 12/2 or 3.

Also, which shuttles have you held for Wed?

From: Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2009 6:33:31 AM  
To: H  
Subject: Re: India Dinner

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B6

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:30:47 2009  
Subject: Re: India Dinner

B6

B6

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:28:22 2009  
Subject: Re: India Dinner

Ok agree tough call.

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:25:49 2009  
Subject: Re: India Dinner

If he did come, we could fly back w him either that night or next day.

B5

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:09:33 2009  
Subject: Re: India Dinner

B5

I can check with Cheryl, didn't ask her what she thinks.

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:03:47 2009  
Subject: India Dinner

Bill asked me if I was sure he didn't need to go. What do you really think--and who else should we consult?

From: Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2009 6:27:33 AM  
To: H  
Subject: Re: Schedule

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

No problem to leave earlier.  
And will change shuttle

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:24:51 2009  
Subject: Re: Schedule

We may need a later shuttle, maybe 10 or 11? Also, I'd like to leave around 9 tonight if possible.

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H; 'ValmoroLJ@state.gov' <ValmoroLJ@state.gov>  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:06:52 2009  
Subject: Re: Schedule

- didn't know about turkey. Will find out more
- we will know about mon mtg this morning and will let you know as soon as we do
- holding early december dates so we can leave any day
- we are on 8am shuttle wednesday but can easily move

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

From: H  
To: 'ValmoroLJ@state.gov' <ValmoroLJ@state.gov>; Huma Abedin  
Sent: Sun Nov 22 06:02:15 2009  
Subject: Schedule

I think the PM of Turkey is coming Dec 7. Have we been asked to do anything for him? I want to be sure we treat him and his party well. If WH doesn't do lunch, should we?

Have you been told what time yet?

Pls keep Dec 1, 2 and 3 free and plan for me to go to Brussels either night of 12/2 or 3.

Also, which shuttles have you held for Wed?

B5



UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05972491 Date: 11/22/2016

From: H [HDR22@clintonemail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 8:00:23 AM  
To: Huma Abedin  
Subject: Re: Fyi

RELEASE IN FULL

I'm on the way.

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H  
Sent: Wed Nov 25 08:00:01 2009  
Subject: Re: Fyi

He will. Or I will.

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Wed Nov 25 07:52:30 2009  
Subject: Re: Fyi

Ok. Can you ask Rob to meet me in garage?

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H  
Sent: Wed Nov 25 07:51:10 2009  
Subject: Fyi

Claire, lauren, lona and monica are all out for thanksgiving today.

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05972491 Date: 11/22/2016

HA 09/01/2015



**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2009 4:34:29 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Re: MEMO: Good idea on Afghanistan. Sid

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

We have become vampires

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

**From:** H  
**To:** Huma Abedin  
**Sent:** Wed Nov 25 04:33:20 2009  
**Subject:** Re: MEMO: Good idea on Afghanistan. Sid

Why are you up???? We need to go for a long sleep cure.

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

**From:** Huma Abedin  
**To:** H  
**Sent:** Wed Nov 25 04:32:10 2009  
**Subject:** Re: MEMO: Good idea on Afghanistan. Sid

Ok.

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

**From:** H  
**To:** Huma Abedin  
**Sent:** Wed Nov 25 04:31:38 2009  
**Subject:** Fw: MEMO: Good idea on Afghanistan. Sid

Pls print.

B6

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

**From:** sbwhoop  
**To:** H  
**Sent:** Tue Nov 24 17:58:21 2009  
**Subject:** MEMO: Good idea on Afghanistan. Sid

CONFIDENTIAL

November 24, 2009

**For:** Hillary  
**From:** Sid  
**Re:** Afghanistan

Bill Murray, former CIA station chief in Pakistan, one member of the small group that ran the war against the Soviets, has sent me a new memo based on a recent conversation we had. He reiterates some of the ideas I've already told you, but also has one big new idea of how to explain the US policy to the Afghans—holding a series of loya jirgas in Pashtun areas. I also like the "ask" in the last paragraph.

Memo for Sidney  
Thoughts on Afghanistan  
**From:** Bill Murray  
**Date:** 24 November 2009

I did not want to send this to you over the international open circuits so I waited to write it after I got back last night.

HA 09/01/2015

Unexpectedly, the day after I spoke with you I spoke to the British Prime Minister's adviser on Afghanistan. The introduction was made by a retired British Vice Admiral at a speech we were both attending. The Vice Admiral told the other officer, whose name I never properly heard, about my background and involvement in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Coincidentally, former President Musharraf of Pakistan was at the same event and spent some time with us both. The British are going through the same process our government is going through and the officer said they have been paying the Taliban for some time and know they are going to have to pay more. He asked me what I thought and I said paying them is just rent and there is going to have to be some kind of political agreement. I suggested a series of loya jirga in each of the areas the British are working in, just as I am suggesting it to you below.

You already know my thoughts on much of this:

A very simple and clearly enunciated policy such as we came here to stop further attacks on the US. We will leave when we have located and retrieved those who attacked us, Usama Bin Ladin and Ayman al-Zawahiri, and received assurances that Afghanistan will not again be a safe haven for those who want to attack us. I believe that the message needs to be short, clear and perfectly understandable to the Pathan/Pushtun ethnic group that makes up 40% of the population and that is currently fighting us. I also believe that the best way to get the point across is to have a series of tribally based loya jirga in the Pathan/Pushtun areas. Forget about a big national level meeting in Kabul. That will just be seen as an attempt by the US to consolidate the power of Hamid Karzai or to create some kind of national strong central structure these people will never accept. They have and can live with a weak central government and powerful regional governments. They have never had or accepted any attempt to establish a strong central government. The Pathans are divided between a northern and southern group (hence the 2 different ways the word is written and pronounced) and further divided along tribal lines. They will not agree as a unified group because there is no unity among them, but they can be dealt with tribe by tribe and region by region. We will inevitably have to pardon leaders who are currently shooting at us, and we just need to get used to the idea.

Not long ago I listened to a US military briefer describing political groups such as the Hizbi Islami, as terrorist organizations. I am sure he had no idea that there is more than one Hizbi Islami (literally Party of Islam) or that the US aided both of them during the struggle against the Soviet Union. We cannot win, or extricate ourselves from, this kind of war with this level of ignorance. We need to get down to where the Afghans are and deal with them in terms they understand. We also cannot get anywhere by sending out as our representatives people who cannot even attempt to pronounce their names. I heard the same briefer try to pronounce Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's name then give up and say "we just call him Gubdin." We need to create a small group of diplomats, intelligence officers and military – teams led by the diplomats not the military – who really have some area and cultural knowledge and then use them to deal with the Afghans. The loya jirga is not pretty nor is it efficient but it is, in its own way, democratic and it is the Afghan way to make arrive at group consensus.

I also believe that we should demand that Bin Ladin and al-Zawahiri be turned over to us. If we try to leave without getting these guys we will be seen as weak and irresolute and our word on other issues will not be trusted. Despite what they say about not believing that these guys were behind 9-11 the Afghan leaders know the truth. They will also say they cannot violate their own code of honor under which the Arabs were offered sanctuary. Anything and everything is for sale in Afghanistan if we can just fix the price. The al-Qaida leaders violated the sanctuary given to them by bringing their war to Afghanistan. Any obligations the Afghans felt toward them have run out.

HA 09/01/2015

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:54:05 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Calls

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

When u r done with arturo, ops will connect in following order:

1. lebanese president sulayman
2. saad hariri
3. catherine ashton
- 4 prime minister papandreou
- 5.
- 6.

B5

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:30:58 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Calls

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

When you land, you can do following:

- conf call with arturo, craig and jake
- about gheit
- lebanese president sulayman
- saad harii
- / - catherine ashton
- prime minister papandreou

B5

- ISAF calls:

1. Italy
2. Poland
3. Romania
4. France
5. Turkey

HA 09/01/2015



UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976492 Date: 11/22/2016

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2009 4:51:03 PM  
**To:** H  
**CC:** 'OFlores'  
**Subject:**

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

B6

Abu mazen is waiting per your request. Can u call in to ops.

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 26, 2009 3:14:15 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Jim steinberg asking to talk.

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2009 12:37:00 PM  
To: H  
Subject: Re: Follow up

RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6

Jake wants to talk to you so I will call after you r done with funes and him.

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

From: H  
To: Huma Abedin  
Sent: Fri Nov 27 12:01:52 2009  
Subject: Re: Follow up

Can you call me?

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

From: Huma Abedin  
To: H  
Sent: Fri Nov 27 11:35:46 2009  
Subject: Follow up

Started follow up on everything you sent yesterday.

- Sent WH all relevant call and meeting requests.
- will make a brussels schedule with additional bilats for you to look at. We can either do a very intensive brussels day on friday and come back. Or do bilats on sat and fly back early. Working on it with EUR. Most people are out today.
- I left a few messages for [redacted] I'll also ask danny for his plane as soon as I hear back. I hear cheryl is also working

B6

B5

on this. The sense I'm getting is they still haven't figured this out.

- I sent oscar a note from david miliband to print for you
- do you want the pdb today? Or do you want fri and sat to come together tomorrow?
- for sunday, we can book you on a 3 or 4pm shuttle and you can go home [redacted] What do u want to do?

B5

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976545 Date: 11/22/2016

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 29, 2009 12:28:24 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Also send oscar the latest draft of human rights speech to print for you.

RELEASE IN  
FULL

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976545 Date: 11/22/2016

HA 09/01/2015



UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976544 Date: 11/22/2016

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
Sunday, November 29, 2009 12:27:12 PM  
H  
Donilon available whenever you want to talk.  
today.

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

will be at house when u get back

B6

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976544 Date: 11/22/2016

RELEASE IN  
FULL

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 28, 2009 12:37:23 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Holbrooke asking to talk.

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976528 Date: 11/22/2016

**From:** wburns [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 28, 2009 4:51:47 AM  
**To:** H  
**CC:** sullivanjj@state.gov; Huma Abedin  
**Subject:** Re: Gen. Jones

B6

RELEASE IN PART  
B5, B6

B6

Sorry to be so slow. I haven't been able to get into my [redacted] account  
until now [redacted]

B5

Hope

you have good weekend. Bill

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976528 Date: 11/22/2016

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

From: Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:37:49 PM  
To: H  
Subject:

B5

[redacted] going to sleep so will need to make call tomorrow.  
I have your black bag.  
Your coat and scarf are in the car.  
When you are done, they are expecting you will just walk back over [redacted]  
[redacted]



RELEASE IN PART  
B5

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 01, 2009 7:32:32 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder

the call sheets are all the same. They personalized indonesia cause he was only one confirmed but ill double check.

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

**From:** H  
**To:** Huma Abedin  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 01 07:31:26 2009  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder

We can do both but I don't have separate call sheet for

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

**From:** Huma Abedin  
**To:** H  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 01 07:29:01 2009  
**Subject:** Reminder

Indonesian fm natelagawa at 730.  
Also,

B5

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976435 Date: 11/22/2016

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 8:21:40 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Notes

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6

- [redacted] at 7:30
- Malaysian fm not confirmed yet for 7:30.
  - The briefing book is waiting for you at house. The Libyan foreign minister kusa is a new call.
  - told kennedy center you will skip sunday and they are totally fine

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976438 Date: 11/22/2016

RELEASE IN FULL

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 8:50:08 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Jack Lew just faxed the document to the house. Says he doesn't need to talk but would like to know if you sign off on it.

HA 09/01/2015

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05976438 Date: 11/22/2016

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

**From:** Huma Abedin [Huma@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 05, 2009 7:53:29 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Re: Hi Hillary - my Thursday column for The Hill- Purple Nation: Criticized From the Left and Right, Obama Must Be Doing Something Right By Lanny J. Davis

Ok

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

**From:** H  
**To:** Huma Abedin  
**Sent:** Sat Dec 05 07:27:53 2009  
**Subject:** Fw: Hi Hillary - my Thursday column for The Hill- Purple Nation: Criticized From the Left and Right, Obama Must Be Doing Something Right By Lanny J. Davis

Pls print.

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

**From:** Davis, Lanny J.  
**To:** H  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 04 09:32:23 2009  
**Subject:** Hi Hillary - my Thursday column for The Hill- Purple Nation: Criticized From the Left and Right, Obama Must Be Doing Something Right By Lanny J. Davis

Hi H-

Know you are in Europe doing Great Work, as usual.

I stopped my column for Wash Times after my friend Exec Editor John Solomon resigned on principle. But still writing each Thurs for The Hill - and am using my favorite theme, "Purple Nation."  
See below.

Saw Pres Clinton in NH Wed night - my soulmate Chris Spirou, who predicted your win in NH primary, invited me up as guest. Pres Clinton was truly great - still the second best public speaker and politically gifted person I have ever known. (You remain my #1!)

Congratulations on Chelsea. Pres Clinton actually said he looked forward to be a grand-father!!!!

Be well, sleep when you can, and you continue to amaze me and everyone else with the job you are doing (and with highest job approval rating of anyone in office on Washington and maybe in the world! Funny how life is a full circle and there is justice somewhere sometimes....)

My best wishes to you, the President, Chelsea and your future son-in-law for happy and health holidays (those two worlds being the ONLY ones that truly matter).

Lanny

(My column is below in case you want to read it)

Lanny

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

**From:** Davis, Lanny J.  
**To:** Davis, Lanny J.  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 04 08:19:37 2009  
**Subject:** Purple Nation: Criticized From the Left and Right, Obama Must Be Doing Something Right By Lanny J. Davis

Thursday, December 3, 2009

HA 09/01/2015



Purple Nation

Criticized From the Left and Right, Obama Must Be Doing Something Right

By Lanny J. Davis

<http://mobile.thehill.com/opinion/columnists/lanny-davis/>

The Obama White House must consider last week to have been a pretty good one. When the president is attacked personally in the same week both from the right by former Reagan speechwriter and Wall Street Journal columnist, Peggy Noonan, and from the left, by New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd, he must figure he's in the right place politically and substantively.

Late last week, Ms. Noonan made a rather personal attack on Mr. Obama for what she described as his "iconic" bow to the Emperor of Japan. This, she concluded, emblemized Mr. Obama's weakness as president. Then came the witty and acerbic Ms. Dowd a day or so later, noting that "President Obama can often be more interested in wooing opponents than tending to those who put themselves on the line for him."

Meanwhile, here are the facts and results in the reality-land called the White House:

\*Mr. Obama returned from his trip to Asia after obtaining some concessions from the Chinese on global warming for the first time ever; and then China also indicated it would join Russia, for the first time ever, to support increased pressures on Iran to cease its development of a nuclear bomb. Funny how that respectful bow to an emperor seemed more important to some conservative Republican critics of Mr. Obama than these concrete, albeit preliminary, results of his trip to the Far East.

\*Then on Tuesday night, after many weeks of deliberations, President Obama made the tough decision on Afghanistan to send 30,000 additional U.S. GIs (plus, he hopes, additional troops from NATO countries). But he made that decision not, as Ms. Dowd might suggest, in order to "woo opponents," but rather, based on a careful assessment of facts, a variety of opinions – elected officials from both sides of the aisle, experts, civilian and military – and then he exercised his best judgment. The mission, which he clearly spelled out in his sober speech Tuesday night, is to prevent Afghanistan from reverting to a rogue, Taliban-controlled state – one that provides safe harbor to Al Qaeda, and thus, increases the risks of a terrorist attack on the U.S. Most of Mr. Obama's, traditional anti-war Democratic Party base are probably unhappy with his speech and his decision.

\*Yet this is the same Barack Obama who banned torture and closed Gitmo, pleasing the left; but refused to prosecute Bush Administration officials for war crimes or even to support a Truth Commission, offending the left. This is the same Obama who has led this nation closer than it has ever been in its history to a national health insurance system, pleasing the left; while indicating he is willing to give up a government – run "public option" if that's what it takes to pass the bill, and thus, offending the left.

So which is it? The weak Obama who bows to an emperor? Or the Obama who is willing to use increased military strength to protect the U.S. from another 9/11?

Is it Obama the liberal, who believes in the FDR-embedded principal of government as a friend, not an enemy, and national health insurance as a follow-on to Social Security and Medicare? Or Obama the centrist, who fundamentally believes in the bedrock role of the private sector in a free market economy – i.e., who is ready to pass a national health insurance plan that almost entirely relies on the private insurance industry (even if a public option were included)?

To me, the answer is as obvious as it is displeasing to the both the hard left and hard right: Barack Obama was during his campaign, and remains to this day, a pragmatic man of the center-left.

I wasn't an Obama supporter during the primaries – and I don't always agree with him on every issue. For example, my gut favors getting out of Afghanistan entirely, based on past history and too many memories of Vietnam. But I am impressed with this president's careful and thoughtful decision-making; so I am going to trust him and support his decision on Afghanistan and hope and pray he has made the right decision.

Now comes the next battle. Purist liberals will again be angry when the president supports a health care bill without the public option, as he must, since it will be the only way national health insurance can get enacted into law this year. But as I've written before: I'll bet not one of those brave liberals who insist it is better to do without any bill than one without a public option have been forced to take a sick child to a public hospital emergency room because they couldn't afford health insurance; or have risked bankruptcy – or even death – for the same reason.

Such purist liberals who see the good as the enemy of the perfect may not be salvageable. But I only hope that thoughtful

HA 09/01/2015

and fair-minded conservative Republicans in the congress will give President Obama a chance to work with them and pragmatic progressive Democrats to create the bi-partisan consensus that he and most Americans – left, right and center – truly want in the months and years ahead.

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HA 09/01/2015