

RELEASE IN FULL

## MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY CLINTON

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Location: Foreign Press Center  
From: Mike Stanton, Jim Dickmyer, Foreign Press Center, Caroline Adler  
CC: Philippe Reines  
Re: **"Global Press Conference" at Foreign Press Center and Foreign Press Interviews**

---

YOU will participate in a 30-minute "Global Press Conference" at the podium in the Foreign Press Center, with approximately 150 DC-based correspondents from overseas outlets in the briefing room. Correspondents in the New York Foreign Press Center and the Brussels Hub will be joining via video conference.

Following the Global Press Conference, you will participate in 3 5-minute press interviews at the TV studio in the Foreign Press Center with: (1) RTR TV (Russia); (2) South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (South Africa); and (3) Al Jazeera (Arabic service).

Upon departure, we also hope there will be time for a quick photo with staff from the Foreign Press Center. (T)

This briefing contains the following:

- Scenario (Page 2)
- Background on Foreign Press Center (Page 3)
- Background on Podium Briefing (Pages 3-5)
- Background of Interviews and Related "General Frames" (Pages 5-12)

*Longer Guidance Packet also available*

**\*\*Most of the guidance for the podium briefing and interviews will be covered in the 9:15am pre-brief with Philippe, Jake, PJ, and Ian Kelly.**

## Scenario

**11:35am:** HRC arrives Foreign Press Center and takes the elevator to the 8<sup>th</sup> floor

- Greeters: Jim Dickmeyer (Director of the Foreign Press Centers) and Mike Stanton (Acting Director of the Washington Foreign Press Center)
- HRC proceeds to main FPC entrance through Suite 800 glass doors.  
**Note:** Overflow press will likely be gathered on both sides of lobby, but there will be a clear walkway.
- HRC proceeds down hallway to the right, into briefing room and directly to podium

**11:40:** HRC gives 3 minutes of remarks and opens the briefing for 6-8 questions from correspondents in the room, at the New York Foreign Press Center, and 1 question from overseas (for a total of 30 minutes)

- **Note:** Jim Dickmeyer, standing to HRC's left and off-camera, will moderate session and call last question.
- **Note:** Primary TV cameras for briefing will be positioned in the back of the room so HRC should respond to those cameras, and not the TV monitor for questions via video.

1. Monnica Maggioni - Rai TV: Reporter will appear via video on monitor to HRC's right.
2. Constance Ikokwu - This Day Nigeria – in the room
3. Geoffrey Ellio - The Australian – in the room
4. Shaffiq Saddiqui - Indus TV: via video from New York Foreign Press Center
5. Lalit Jha - Press Trust of India – in the room
6. Mitch Potter - Toronto Star – in the room
7. Tomasz Deptula - POLSKA Newsweek – via video conference from New York Foreign Press Center

**12:10:** Following the press briefing, HRC proceeds to TV studio for 3 on-camera interviews (5-minutes each) with:

1. Mikhail SOLODOVNIKOV - RTR (Russia)
  2. Manelisi DUBASI - SABC (South Africa)
  3. Abderrahim FOUKARA - Al Jazeera (pan Arab)
- Each interview will be in-person and journalists will rotate into the room after the previous interview concludes.

- There will be a single camera for all 3 interviews.

**12:30:** Following the interviews, HRC will proceed to conference room for a picture with staff at the Foreign Press Center.

#### **Background on Foreign Press Center**

- With offices in Washington and New York City, the Foreign Press Center has served the U.S. Government for over 60 years as a platform for outreach to the international press corps in the United States.
- The Foreign Press Center accommodates media reaching 123 countries through 1,531 outlets and more than 3,000 accredited journalists.
- The Foreign Press Center offers a platform for government officials to brief foreign correspondents on relevant issues, goals for overseas travel, on bilateral meetings and agreements; and to promote the government's foreign policy agenda.
- Recent briefers at the Foreign Press Center have included Treasury Secretary Geithner, Todd Stern, Paul Krugman, Amb. Stephen Bosworth, Chris Hill, and Admiral Mullen.

#### **Background on Podium Briefing**

Time-permitting, the following 7 journalists will have the opportunity to ask questions during the 30-minute podium briefing.

1. **Monica MAGGIONI RAI TG-1 (Italy; via video conference from Brussels)**



Monica Maggioni is a senior foreign affairs correspondent for RAI (Italian public TV) Channel One news program *TG-1* (Italy's top-audience newscast).

*Questions not known.*



2. **Constance IKOKWU THISDAY (Nigeria, based in DC)**



THISDAY is the leading national Newspaper in Nigeria. It has a daily circulation of 100,000 and 150,000 for Sundays.

*Questions not known.*

3. **George ELLIOT The Australian (Australia, based in DC)**



The only newspaper to circulate nation-wide, The Australian reaches influential audiences in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne with week-end circulation of 295,000 copies plus the popular website.

*Proposed Questions:* What is the Obama Administration's view of Australian PM Rudd's proposal to form an Asia-Pacific Community (APC)? Any comment on Australia's announcement of additional troops and financial contribution to Afghanistan?

4. **Shafiq SADDIQI INDUS Television (Pakistan; via video from New York)**



Mr. Saddiqui recently interviewed Vice President Biden in Washington (2008) and had an exclusive interview with Pakistan President Musharraf during his last official trip to the United States.

*Proposed Question(s):* How would you respond to those in Pakistan who believe that the Taliban gained strength in Pakistan as a response to America's quiet backing of the balkanization of Pakistan and the separation of Baluchistan from the federation of Pakistan versus a weakened Pakistan state? Why can't American drones not find, detect and destroy the insurgent supply line?

5. **Lalit JHA Press Trust of India (India; based in DC)**



The Press Trust of India is India's largest news agency, and has a non-profit sharing cooperative among several Indian newspapers.

*Proposed Question(s):* Reaction to the Indian elections, also questions on Pakistan and Sri Lanka. How the US will work to keep Pakistan's nuclear

arsenal safe, and how we intend to see that the government of Sri Lanka protects Tamil civilians in the wake of the defeat of the LTTE.

**6. Mitch POTTER Toronto Star (Canada; based in DC)**



Mitch Potter is a veteran Canadian journalist on third foreign posting after seven years in London and Jerusalem as correspondent for the Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily.

*Questions not known.*

**7. Tomasz DEPTUL Newsweek Polska (Poland; via video from New York)**



*Newsweek Polska* is the second largest weekly in Poland and is part of the U.S. Newsweek franchise with a circulation of 200,000-300,000

***Proposed Question(s):*** Mr. Deptula will likely raise the issue of Missile Defense and the move from Poland; the inclusion of Poland in the Visa Waiver Program.

**Background of Interviewers**

Following the press briefing, you will participate in 3 5-minute one-on-one interviews with:

1. Mikhail SOLODOVNIKOV, RTR (Russia) - Page 5
2. Manelisi DUBASE, South African Broadcasting Corp (South Africa) – Pages 7-8
3. Abderrahim FOUKARA, Al Jazeera – Pages 9-11

General Frames for each interview follow below.

**1. Mikhail SOLODOVNIKOV, RTR (Russia)**



Mikhail Solodovnikov is the Washington bureau chief of RTR, a position that he has held since the bureau first opened in March 2006.



Solodovnikov has reported from many of the world's hotspots, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Serbia, and Kosovo.

*RTR* has a weekly audience of 45.8 million and reaches almost 100% of Russian households. The interview will be shown on the prime "News on Sunday" program, a top-rated news wrap-up program; excerpts will be shown on the daily prime time news; and it will also be carried on the Vesti-24 all-news channel, and on their Internet site.

#### **General Frame: Russia**

- The administration seeks a future of cooperative engagement with the Russian government on matters of strategic importance, while standing up strongly for American values and international norms.
- We must not shy away from pushing for more democracy, transparency, accountability. Still, there can be no return to the Cold War. Russia is not the old Soviet Union, and this is not the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The administration will work with Russia on areas of common strategic interest like counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation, while pressuring Russia when it interferes with its neighbors and abuses power at home.

#### **General Frame: Russia's walkout at the Geneva talks on Georgia**

- The following statement was released yesterday in response to Russia's walkout at the Geneva talks on Georgia (in Ian Kelly's name): The U.S. regrets that Russia followed the South Ossetian separatists in walking out of the Geneva discussions on Georgia on May 18 during the introductory round of remarks. The U.S. also regrets the Abkhaz decision to boycott the talks from the start. The United States is dismayed by such behavior, which contravenes the spirit of the August 12 ceasefire brokered by French President Sarkozy as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1866, both of which call for talks to contribute to security and stability in Georgia. We hope the Russian delegation and South Ossetian and Abkhaz participants will attend the talks when they reconvene on May 19.

## 2. Manelisi DUBASE, South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)



Manelisi Dubase is the senior U.S. correspondent for South African Broadcasting. Mr. Dubasei covered the inauguration of Barack Obama, the 2008 US presidential election, the recent visits of several foreign leaders - including South African President Thabo Mbeki. He closely covers the issues relating to Africa - AFRICOM, HIV/AIDS, and development.

*South African Broadcasting* is the national broadcaster of the nation of South Africa. The SABC also runs a 24-hour news channel, SABC International, which is seen in neighboring countries, such as Namibia. The television channels reach a daily audience of some twenty million.

### General Frame: Sudan

- The President has made clear that it is long past time for us to directly confront the vast human suffering in Darfur. If we keep waiting, history will judge us harshly. Tens of thousands have been killed and millions displaced.
- With American leadership, the international community must act to end this genocide. That means exerting American influence, galvanizing the international community, and pressuring the regime in Khartoum.
- USG support to Sudan has two main goals: (1) to support the maintenance of peace between North and South through continued implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and (2) the provision of assistance to Darfur that meets humanitarian needs and helps to resolve the conflict there.
- U.S. efforts will contribute to a better environment for good governance, increased availability of social services and strengthening nascent democratic policies and institutions. To carry out these aims and address fragility in underserved parts of Sudan, the U.S. is considering limited expansion of development assistance beyond southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile) to the East, North and Darfur, as security, operational and political conditions allow.
- In FY2010, for non-humanitarian accounts, we requested an additional \$36.5 million, or an increase of 10%, compared to the FY2009 appropriation. The additional funds will be used to support development programs in Southern Sudan, as well as peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and post conflict security sector reform activities.
- These will not be easy steps to implement, but the cost of inaction is too high. Ending this genocide must be a top priority.

**General Frame: Nigeria**

- Nigeria is important not only as an oil exporter, but also as a strategic partner.
- But the GoN has serious problems on democracy, governance, human rights, and trade/investment issues. The Yar'Adua Administration has failed to address problems which pre-date it and persist, including the need for electoral and economic reform, for establishment of better security in the oil-rich Niger Delta, and in fighting corruption.
- We intend to continue to support mutually beneficial cooperation, and to train and equip Nigerian peacekeeping forces to support regional operations, health and education, counter-terrorism programs, and trade capacity building.
- Nigeria is our largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa (due to oil exports), and the fifth-largest exporter of oil (11%) to the United States. It has vast untapped gas reserves.

**General Frame: Zimbabwe**

- The people of Zimbabwe have suffered through a man-made disaster – and that man is Robert Mugabe. The destruction of Zimbabwe's economy, the repeated abuses of power, and the recent cholera epidemic have been a catastrophe for Zimbabweans, and threaten the stability of the region.
- USG support is critical for Zimbabwe as the transitional government seeks to move the country toward reform and recovery. In FY 2009, the total request (including \$45 million for the Spring Supplemental) is \$111.5 million. This represents a 27.1% increase (valued at \$23.8 million) from the FY 2008 appropriation.
- In addition to food aid and other essential humanitarian programs, we seek funds (1) to help reestablish and strengthen democratic institutions, processes and systems; (2) support social assistance to protect vulnerable populations; and (3) support monetary and fiscal policy reform and economic revitalization, specifically for the agricultural sector to help address food security issues.
- We have not seen sufficient evidence to date that Zimbabwe is firmly and irrevocably on the path to inclusive and effective democratic governance with respect for human rights and the rule of law to support broad-based development assistance or budgetary support.



### 3. Abderrahim FOUKARA, Al Jazeera



*Al Jazeera* is a sometimes controversial 24-hour Arabic language news channel based in Doha, Qatar with 50 million viewers around the world. Al Jazeera is probably the most watched news channel in the Middle East, and many Arabs see it as a more trustworthy source of information than government and foreign channels.

#### General Frame: Situation with Gaza / Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation

- Egypt's work to consolidate a cease-fire in Gaza and its commitment to a Palestinian national dialogue are commendable.
- We strongly support Egypt's efforts to restore the legitimate authority of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and ensure that any Palestinian Unity Government that might be formed accepts Israel's right to exist, renounces violence, and accepts past agreements, including security agreements.
- Egypt well understands the importance of any Palestinian unity government's being one that can advance the peace process, not derail it.

#### General Frame: Iran

- It is clear that the policy of non-engagement has not worked. The President was clear in his Nowruz message that we want to engage in direct diplomacy with the Iranian government. I would like to reaffirm that we are committed to an approach that addresses the full range of issues before us, and to establish a dialogue based on mutual respect, designed to explore mutual interests, and acknowledge and address real differences. We have no illusions about the difficulty of engagement or about the real differences between the U.S. and Iran. But the United States places no preconditions on these discussions.
- The United States and the international community have made clear that Iran has the right to peaceful nuclear energy, but with these rights come responsibilities. The U.S. does not condone Iran's failure to comply with its nuclear and other obligations. Iran needs to take steps to improve rather than undermine international confidence.
- We will remain steadfast with the international community in continuing to take action within existing frameworks to address Iran's illicit behaviors. We will also remain steadfast in our cooperation with, and commitment to our friends and allies. Engagement with Iran should not be seen in zero-sum terms, and will not come at the expense of our friends and allies.
- We take the threat from Iran very seriously. Our national security and the security of our allies is paramount. Pursuit of nuclear weapons, support for terrorism, and

violations of international standards of human rights are unacceptable. But the present opportunity to see a change in Iran's behavior through diplomacy must be pursued. The opportunity for engagement should not be missed. We are serious about pursuing it, and encourage the Iranians to be as well.

- We will consider relaxing sanctions should diplomacy produce progress, and we begin to overcome our differences.

#### **General Frame: Israel & The Palestinians**

- The status quo is unsustainable. The U.S. is committed to advancing the two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live side-by-side in their own states with peace and security.
- The U.S. remains committed to Israel's security and to peace and prosperity for all of the people of the region.
- Both Israelis and Palestinians must take the steps that are necessary to build confidence, must uphold their commitments, and must overcome longstanding passions and the politics of the moment to make progress toward a lasting peace.
- The two-state solution is in the national interests of the United States and in the national interests of Israel.

#### **General Frame: Jordan**

- Jordan is a steadfast partner on Middle East peace, regional security including Iraq, counterterrorism, and other high-priority initiatives. Jordan actively promotes interfaith dialogue and moderation.
- The administration's FY 2010 requests for Jordan demonstrate continued strong support for the Government of Jordan (GOJ). Jordan is a lower middle income country facing significant challenges in unemployment and poverty. It faces a lack of natural resources, a growing population, and persistent threats of national and regional terrorism.
- Our support enhances Jordan's internal stability, growth, and capacity to promote peace throughout a troubled region.

#### **General Frame: Saudi Arabia**

- Saudi Arabia, a leader in both the Arab and Muslim worlds, is a dedicated U.S. ally in the Middle East. The Saudis are essential partners on a wide range of regional security issues, ranging from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Sudan. In particular, advancing U.S. goals with respect to Iran and Middle East peace requires working closely with the Saudis.
- Since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, and the Kingdom's own confrontation with Al-Qaida beginning in 2003, we have built a close partnership

focused on combating terrorism and defeating extremist ideology. The Kingdom fully supports U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

- While the Kingdom is an essential partner for U.S. regional security and counterterrorism objectives, we fully recognize its considerable shortcomings in terms of human rights inside the Kingdom, including the treatment of women and religious minorities. We are committed to diplomatic engagement with the Saudi authorities to press for greater openness and respect for human rights.

h

### **General Frame: Syria**

- The Administration has focused on advancing U.S. interests through direct dialogue with Syria. This is not engagement for engagement's sake. Rather we are undertaking these efforts after careful consideration and preparation, focusing on results.
- Syria can play a constructive role and make choices that promote regional stability. Syria's actions impact a number of U.S. regional priorities including a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, a stable Iraq, an independent Lebanon, and counterterrorism and non-proliferation cooperation.
- On February 26, NEA Acting Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Feltman met with Syrian Ambassador to the United States Imad Mustapha. On March 7 Feltman and Dan Shapiro, the National Security Council's Senior Director for the Middle East, traveled to Damascus for a follow-up meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallim, Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad, and Presidential Advisor Bouthana Shaaban.
- These have been serious, frank discussions about issues of concern for both sides.
- We talked about a mutual desire for a secure, stable Iraq and a comprehensive peace that includes a two-state solution and peace agreements between Israel and its neighbors, Lebanon and Syria.
- We also discussed issues where we have differences in opinion. These include regional threats such as nuclear and other non-conventional weapons programs, as well as terrorist groups.
- We will continue to use dialogue as a means to discuss concerns shared by the U.S. and the international community. We will base any future decision on issues such as returning a U.S. ambassador or easing sanctions on an assessment of Syrian actions and determination that such steps will advance U.S. interests.