

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2009 2:41 PM
To: humamabedin [redacted]
Subject: Fw: follow-up on Kuwait

RELEASE IN
PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

B6

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
To: Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J; Macmanus, Joseph E
Sent: Tue Aug 04 14:39:47 2009
Subject: follow-up on Kuwait

Jake, Huma --

I sent a longer, more detailed version of this on the other system and copied Joe MacManus and S_Specials. But S may be interested in the follow-up [redacted]. According to the [redacted] who called me today, the Kuwaitis were, in short, disappointed. They felt that the atmosphere in the lunch was "chilly" and that POTUS had closed the door on Guantanamo returns. I assured them about the U.S. commitment to Kuwait's independence and security, as the President stated clearly. I also noted that we'd still try to work through the Guantanamo issues with them, but that our concerns about Kuwaiti detention/monitoring practices, as reflected by the President's comments, are real. I encouraged them to see the visit as a success.

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

[redacted] First, on Iran, it seemed as though [redacted] was taking Ahmadinejad's words that he wasn't developing nuclear weapons at face value. That's dangerous. Second, we were taken aback by the Kuwaiti objections to the maritime access issues regarding the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. [redacted] the Kuwaitis went into considerable detail, with maps, on this issue in their meeting with the VP.) I noted that they had been relaxed earlier about the maritime access issues, but now they seemed to be backing away from a UN-led process in which we had full confidence.

FYI: The maritime access issue is serious. If we don't get the Kuwaitis to be flexible on that, the Iraqis will never do what we need on the land border. The DeMistura-led UN process will falter unless we get action from the Iraqis on the land border and concurrence from the Kuwaitis on a maritime commission to look at maritime access. I am arranging follow-up phone calls with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministers. But if we don't get something in motion by, say, the Mubarak visit, I am thinking I will have to go out and shuttle a bit between Kuwait and Baghdad. One of the Kuwaiti complaints is that the Iraqis have never raised any maritime passage issues bilaterally with the Kuwaitis, and Kuwait thus objects to the referral to the UNSC. So one tangible step for us would be to attempt to get some bilateral discussion on this launched.

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