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Subject: Feingold

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Below is the memo feingold wants to discuss with you in the morning.

Memorandum for Secretary Clinton - August 1, 2009

Before you head off to Africa, I wanted to provide a few further thoughts on key issues, including an additional brief note on Somalia, that are likely to be raised during your meetings.

Somalia: Your meeting, in Kenya, with President Sharif presents an opportunity to discuss the recent assistance the United States has provided to help shore up his government during a particularly violent period. As the Somalia interagency policy review remains ongoing, it may prove useful to hear how he feels our most recent support has assisted his government in combating recent attacks - and how he sees that specific assistance connecting to broader efforts the TFG is undertaking to enhance its legitimacy and popular support.

Angola: As you know, Angola has had staggering economic growth over recent years, but the country continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, corruption and military abuses. We need to find ways to expand and strengthen our relationship with Angola, while pushing for progress in the areas of transparency, human rights and good governance. Angola's parliamentary elections in 2008 - its first in 16 years - were deemed relatively fair and free by the African Union, but we should encourage and support reforms in advance of Angola's presidential elections to ensure the independence of the National Electoral Commission and increased space for civil society. Furthermore, we should consider ways we might help the Angolan government to consolidate peace and promote development in Cabinda, Angola's oil-rich enclave that has long suffered from armed conflict.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Addressing the crisis in eastern DRC requires short-term steps to prevent the situation from deteriorating further and to reduce the current levels of sexual violence, but those steps must be combined with a long-term policy to address the conflict mineral economy and dismal state of Congo's security sector. Specifically, the administration should actively consider and commit to the following short- and long-term steps.

1. Help to rapidly enhance MONUC's ability to protect civilians, by providing additional capabilities and ensuring the deployment of the additional 3,000 peacekeepers authorized last December by the UN Security Council.
2. Press the Congolese military and its Rwandan counterparts to ensure they have a sufficient plan for civilian protection before they continue offensive operations against the FDLR rebels.
3. Support non-military initiatives to induce defections and open channels of dialogue between the warring parties, while seeking to cut off the supply chains and local support of the FDLR and other armed groups.
4. Push for the establishment of a regional framework to address the conflict economy - particularly the trade in cassiterite, coltan, gold and wolframite - which finances armed groups and makes war a profitable enterprise.
5. Leverage increased assistance toward real security sector reform, in order to address the regular delays in salary payments, a lack of accountability, and logistical problems in the Congolese military, which have led to a pattern of incompetence, abuses and desertions.

Nigeria: President Yar'Adua's government in Nigeria is increasingly weak and devastatingly corrupt. Yar'Adua ran on a platform of anti-corruption and promised to enact electoral reforms. We need to be press the Yar'Adua administration to take symbolic and substantive steps to demonstrate a renewed commitment to combat corruption and strengthen the rule of law. Appealing to their role on the international stage and as a critical ally on the continent are important aspects of the conversations. Steps the Nigerians could take include bringing greater transparency to government expenditures, renewing the credibility of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and reforming the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

y flare-ups of violence in both the Niger Delta and northern Nigeria are very troubling.

On the Delta, President Yar'Adua's recent offer of amnesty to militants should be expanded to a broader peace process that includes measures to address the underdevelopment of the region. We should look at how we might encourage and support such a process, both in terms of diplomacy and resources. In northern Nigeria, the military and police appear to have quelled a series of deadly attacks this week by members of the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram. But the government needs to give serious and sustained attention to addressing the conditions that have allowed Boko Haram to gain ground, including reforming the police and reversing discriminatory policies against "non-indigenes."

Liberia: Liberia has come a long way since its civil war, but there remains much work to be done. The military has been impressively reformed, and now there needs to be the same level of focus given to improving the capacity and professionalism of the police. The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United States should do more in this regard. In addition, corruption continues to be a real challenge for Liberia. President Johnson Sirleaf has committed to address corruption, but she needs continued support and encouragement from all areas of government, including the legislature. One area that deserves particular attention is Liberia's timber sector. The Liberian government and international donors have invested tens of millions of dollars to ensure sufficient guards against future abuse and exploitation, and the progress made needs to be sustained.

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