

FOIA-6

**Sent:** Fri, 24 Jul 2009 18:31:00 -0400  
**From:** "Person. Fran" <fran\_person@ovp.eop.gov>  
**To:** [REDACTED] bbiden@comcast.net, hbiden@senecaga.com  
**Bcc:** hbiden@senecaga.com, [REDACTED] bbiden@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Fw: A Very Successful Visit

Read email below from Ambassador John Tefft to Tony regarding the trip to Georgia– it's great!

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**From:** Blinken, Antony J.  
**To:** Smith, Michele; Orloff, Nancy; Person, Fran  
**Sent:** Fri Jul 24 17:49:59 2009  
**Subject:** FW: A Very Successful Visit

Please show this to the VP.

Antony J. Blinken  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
National Security Advisor to the Vice President  
202-456-9501

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**From:** Tefft, John F [mailto:TefftJF@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2009 5:08 AM  
**To:** Blinken, Antony J.  
**Cc:** McFaul, Michael A.; Gordon, Philip H; Celeste.Wallander@osd.mil; Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY; Bryza, Matthew J; Bennett, Kirk; Hunt, Baxter; Germano, Maria; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.; mark.simakovsky@osd.mil; Yakhedts, Anya; Russell, Daniel A; Jones, Stuart; Brand, Matthew L; Logsdon, Kent D; Fisher, Julie D  
**Subject:** A Very Successful Visit

Tony: Tbilisi is still glowing today in the aftermath of the Vice President's visit. Everyone from President Saakashvili to his most ardent opponents has had nothing but good things to say about the visit and the Vice President personally.

The speech in Parliament followed by the hour long town hall-like meeting with IDP kids had Tbilisi buzzing last night. Both events were carried live and then rebroadcast several times on all television channels. As happy as people were with the substance of the speech, the Vice President's engagement with the IDP kids touched people's hearts here. No exaggeration. Many people have mentioned to me how moved they were when the Vice President told the IDP kids that he understood what they had gone through, but that his mother always told him good things can come out of bad. They identified very personally when he cited as an example the tragic death of his first wife and daughter in an automobile accident, and the survival and his subsequent joy in raising his two sons.

President Saakashvili was extremely happy with the visit. He told me at the airport that the visit exceeded his most optimistic expectations. He said the speech was truly "historic," and that he and Acting Foreign Minister Bokeria were both receiving calls from people praising the speech. The opposition members who met with the Vice President all came out of their meeting praising the discussion and American support for democracy in Georgia.

If this sounds a bit emotional, well that is because the impact of the visit here has been emotional. I hope you will convey this to the Vice President. He really conveyed the message effectively that the Administration supports Georgia's independence and territorial integrity.

Thanks for all that you and the traveling team did to make the visit such a success. All the best. John