

Hoskins, Bert

From: Di Gangi, John [digangi@fac-aec.gc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 6:23 PM
To: Wright, James R.
Cc: Hooper, Jack; Portelance, Luc; Topozini, Mike; Reynolds, Rick; Richards, Paul; Livermore, Daniel; Anderson, Gary; Saleh, Magdi; Hoskins, Bert; Bakewell, Peter
Subject: ABDELRAZIK: US EMBASSY DEMARCHE

Classification: SECRET

US Embassy DCM John Dickson made a demarche this afternoon re Abdelrazik. He said that he had sat in with Ambassador Wilkins on two conference calls today - Lebanon and Abdelrazik. He had been asked to deliver a message from the White House, specifically from senior levels of the Homeland Security Council. Ambassador Wilkins might be calling Ministers Toews or Day tomorrow. Frances Townsend might also be calling.

Dickson's main message was that the US would like Canada's assistance in putting together a criminal case against Abdelrazik so that he could be charged in the US. The US had information on Abdelrazik but at this point, it was not enough to charge him; the same might be true for Canada. If Canadian police or security agencies shared what they had, it might prove to be enough for the US to proceed, as the threshold for prosecution there was lower than here.

Dickson recalled that with Abdullah Khedr, Canadian authorities had not been prepared to share information until he had been formally charged in the US. He recognized that this might again be the case but wanted to be sure that the US request would be given due consideration. He suggested that there was surprise in Washington at the short notice re Abdelrazik's release, and that this matter had not come up in the context of recent visits, eg Chertoff.

I responded that I would convey the US request, noting that his Embassy had been advised of the impending release shortly after we heard about it. I reassured Dickson that the Canadian position was unchanged, ie that Abdelrazik would be given the usual consular assistance, and that if and when he provided our Embassy in Khartoum with a confirmed travel itinerary, he would be issued a one-way travel document.

Dickson probed whether Canada wanted Abdelrazik back and how he would be handled if he returned. I repeated that as a Canadian citizen, he had the right to return to Canada, if he wished. I also noted that while we might get a sense of Abdelrazik's intentions shortly after his release, the question of possible outcomes would likely be a matter of continuing discussion here and between our governments.

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