



State Dept. on Clinton's Meetings with Mideast Leaders

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Senior Administration Official on Secretary Clinton's Meetings with
Iraqi Vice President al-Khuzai, Arab League Secretary General Elaraby, and Yemeni President Hadi

September 25, 2012
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
New York, New York

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The Secretary has been going full steam all afternoon with a number of bilateral meetings, and we thought we maybe could squeeze a readout a little bit earlier, but we got caught up in them.

Just to go over what we'll cover tonight, just a little bit of programming, we'll provide you now, as a Senior Administration Official, background readouts of her meeting with the Iraqi Vice President al-Khuzai, followed by a brief readout as well of her meeting with Arab League Secretary General Elaraby, and as well as her meeting with Yemeni President Hadi.

We will then, for your convenience, provide a readout at the conclusion of tonight's dinner – Transatlantic Dinner with NATO and EU foreign ministers, by phone and also on background as a Senior Administration Official. And that will also cover the three bilateral meetings that the Secretary just concluded with the Greek Foreign Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, as well as with Foreign Secretary Hague of the UK.

With that, let me just turn to the meeting that the Secretary had with Iraqi Vice President al-Khuzai. A good portion of the discussion focused on Syria, which you'll see was a very common refrain in almost all of her bilats. The Secretary, as you heard earlier, had her meeting with Brahimi that was read out, and there's a lot of work that's being done consulting with key partners, allies in the region in terms of how best to achieve the goals that we all share. And this was certainly a focus of the discussion with the Iraqi Vice President. And it was a discussion of the shared goals of trying to achieve an inclusive, stable, and pluralistic democracy for the Syrian people, the need to bring about a political transition, clearly a need to stop the violence.

And in that context, Secretary Clinton made very clear to the Iraqi Vice President the need – urgent need to ensure no passage of over-flights by Iran in supply of – military supply of the Assad regime. It was then a focus of discussion in terms of the urgency of continuing to provide humanitarian support. The Secretary urged the Iraqi Vice President to ensure that the borders remain open, allowing for refugees to come in as needed into Iraq, and to work with the UN to provide the support that is needed.

The Secretary also had the opportunity to thank the Iraqi Government, express appreciation for the way in which it has facilitated the peaceful relocation of the MEK from Camp Ashraf to Camp Hurriya. And then also the Vice President of Iraq took the opportunity to also express his sympathies to the United States in the wake of the tragic loss of Ambassador Stevens and the violence that has resulted from the video. And he also welcomed, very much so, and thanked the Secretary for getting – in working with the Senate to confirm Ambassador Beecroft, noting the importance for Iraq of having an American ambassador on the ground and doing his job.

<http://translations.state.gov/st/english/texttrans/2012/09/20120926136613.html#ixzz28Rp9Abws>