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RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**From:** svcsmartmfi  
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**Subject:** (U) Secretary Clinton's September 26, 2009, Meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Espinosa

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**TAGS:** OVIP, PREL, SNAR, MX  
**Subject:** (U) Secretary Clinton's September 26, 2009, Meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Espinosa

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/2019  
TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY), PREL, SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: (U) Secretary Clinton's September 26, 2009, Meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Espinosa

1. (U) Classified by: Deputy Executive Secretary Paul D. Wohlers, S/ES, Department of State. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

2. (U) September 26, 2009; 11:00 a.m.; New York, NY.

3. (U) Participants:

U.S.  
The Secretary  
John Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security  
Ambassador Carlos Pascual, Ambassador to Mexico  
Daniel Restrepo, Senior Advisor to the President on Latin America  
WHA A/S Thomas A. Shannon  
INL A/S David T. Johnson  
Lt Gen Selva  
Mary Stickles (WHA Notetaker)

MEXICO  
Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Patricia Espinosa  
Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States  
National Security Advisor Jorge Tello Peon  
SRE Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs Juan Manuel

Classification Extended Class:  
**CONFIDENTIAL** Reason: B1 (b,d)  
Declassify on: 10/19/2024

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan Flanigan,  
Senior Reviewer

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Gomez Robledo  
CISEN Director General Guillermo Valdes  
SRE Deputy Secretary for Migration, Population and  
Religious Affairs Alejandro Poire  
Mexican Embassy DCM Ambassador Julian Ventura  
SRE Coordinator for Security Cooperation Ambassador  
Benito Andion

4. (U) SUMMARY. Secretary Clinton and Mexican Foreign Secretary Espinosa agreed to launch the next stage of the Merida Initiative cooperative process through the creation of a new bilateral policy coordination mechanism and a new programmatic structure. The two sides approved the new four-part strategy focused on disrupting DTOs, institutionalizing the civilian administration of the rule of law, creating a 21st Century border that supports security and competitiveness, and building resilient communities that advance a culture of lawfulness. The Secretary and Espinosa also approved a new organizational structure. The Secretary expressed her willingness for the High Level Group to meet in Mexico as soon as conditions dictate, either in mid-December or early in 2010. The Secretary and Espinosa agreed to craft a joint public and congressional relations strategy to highlight our shared successes under the Merida Initiative. END SUMMARY.

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MERIDA INITIATIVE AREAS OF FUTURE COOPERATION  
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5. (U) The Secretary and Espinosa agreed that Merida Initiative cooperation going forward will be organized in support of four goals: to disrupt organized criminal groups, institutionalize reforms to sustain the rule of

law and respect for human rights, create 21st Century borders, and build strong and resilient communities. Espinosa said there were many specific issues to coordinate under each broad theme. Espinosa recognized the need to address police and judicial reform at the state and local levels. She reported she also had received the strong endorsement of this approach by governors and law enforcement during her participation in the recent Border Governors conference.

6. (U) Espinosa raised the need to work together through the Merida Initiative framework to facilitate an effective regional security dialogue with Guatemala and Belize. The Secretary agreed. The dialogue would aim to develop common strategies to address common concerns regarding the vulnerability of the Mexican-Guatemalan-Belizean border. Narcotics traffickers have continued to freely traverse the region, which has been particularly destabilizing in Guatemala and has presented a potential risk for Belize.

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MERIDA INITIATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
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7. (U) The Secretary and Espinosa expressed

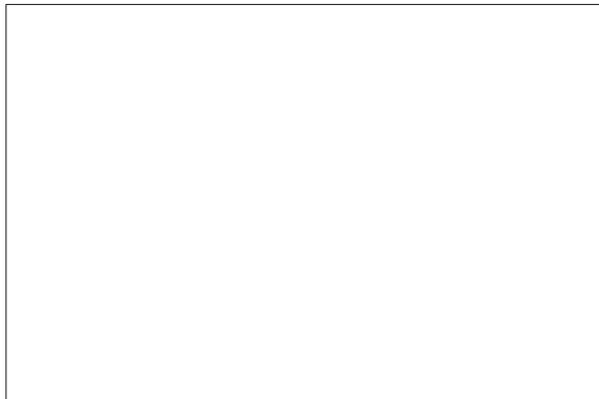
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satisfaction with the new expanded organizational structure that was crafted to move the Merida Initiative forward. Both recognized a need to channel cooperative efforts that were on-going at all levels of government and to solicit the input of civil society. Espinosa announced that the Mexican interagency process would be co-chaired by National Security Advisor Jorge Tello and CISEN Director General Guillermo Valdez, making them co-representatives to the Policy Coordination Group. The Secretary announced that John Brennan would be the sole U.S. chair of that body, which would report progress to the High Level Group and raise issues requiring high level resolution.



1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

9. (U) Espinosa and Sarukhan explained their desire for a new name for the initiative to signal an advance in the initiative, to provide space for activities to be carried out with Central American countries, and to provide an opening for greater congressional input into the planning process. Sarukhan argued that with a

symbolic new start and a concerted effort to reach out to both congresses in the planning process, we could turn them into stakeholders. Secretary Clinton asked that Sarukhan play a lead role to carry this out, and that Ambassador Pascual play a similar role with Secretary Espinosa in Mexico. Likewise, he and Ambassador Pascual would be key in our efforts to bring our joint message to the media.

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HIGH LEVEL MEETING  
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10. (U) Espinosa said it was important to hold the next meeting of the High Level group as early as possible, preferably before the end of the calendar year. Although the original idea had been to alternate the site for the meeting, she would travel to Washington again if that meant they could keep to the original yearly schedule. The Secretary said it was important not to hold the meeting before a robust agenda had been developed for discussion and that she was looking forward to traveling to Mexico for the meeting. She expressed willingness to meet in December or early in the new year as conditions would dictate. They discussed including a congressional component to the

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meeting.

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 THE IMPORTANCE OF METRICS AND COORDINATED PUBLIC  
 MESSAGING  
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11. (U) Tello and Brennan said they were interested in measuring the inputs and results of our bilateral security cooperation and in communicating those results to both U.S. and Mexican Congresses and the public on a regular basis. Pascual agreed and said we must show results to ensure the continuation of this new bilateral approach. He also believed that reporting would be easier and more comprehensible if we do so under the four overarching program objectives. Sarukhan warned that we must manage our message or others would do it for us, and recommended increasing the frequency of public communications as well as coordinating the content. Pascal invited Sarukhan to participate in his previously scheduled press briefing.



1.4(B)  
 1.4(D)  
 B1

CLINTON

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**Classified By:** Deputy Executive Secretary Paul D. Wohlers, S/ES, Department of State,  
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**Declassify on:** 09/25/2019  
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