

Harris, Grant T. (AF)

To: Smith, Gayle E. (AF)
Subject: Update on Butt gameplan

I spoke with Lee and got him on board with our approach (ditching the P-RAC meeting, sending a memo to Kerrick and recommending some manner to get Deputies up-to-speed). As for writing the memo, he would really like to send it up Wed because he has been out yesterday and will be out today because of a painful back injury (his STU is also not functioning).

Witney, however, is not on board and pushed back hard. He thinks the P-RAC meeting is necessary to get a blessing for sending out a small team. He wants a small team consisting probably of Lee, DOJ and FBI to meet him in SA next Thursday and Friday to talk further with SAG about their intentions. It is important to note that we still do not have a high-level commitment or indication of political will from SAG. Witney is going to try to call Pahad this morning. (Witney says he thinks the political will will be there, but we need to know for sure)

Witney was not convinced by any of my arguments that P-RAC was not the best way ahead.

1. Kerrick needs to be in the loop, and it was him who touched off this process (RAC meeting is not equivalent)
 2. We need to know high-level intentions of SAG before having any deputies-level meeting (it sounds silly to tell deputies "assuming the high-level political will of South Africa..." because that option may not pan out like we hope)
 3. P-RAC not necessary to get into the weeds and authorize a small group to be sent for further consultations.
- In short, there is no comparative advantage to P-RAC mtng vice Kerrick lead discussion, but there are disadvantages.

Witney is pushing for P-RAC largely because it could happen Thurs or Fri and he wants to attend before he leaves Friday night. He is not satisfied with my arguments and insists that the three of us have a conference call.

I think the right proposal is:

Memo to Kerrick includes any phone calls necessary to help push process forward and blessing of overall strategy
Then we either ask Kerrick to hold back relevant deputies after the next DC (the small team can be prepped to go to SA pending this blessing) or we can send the team without any broader blessing at all (this has merit; the team is only going for further consultations, and we need to understand SA thinking before approaching deputies)

Please advise.

