

A Unique Request from Diana Nyad (via WikiLeaks)

In 2010, Nyad's effort to obtain State Department permission to swim from Florida to Cuba hit a bureaucratic brick wall. To help her scramble over, she contacted a friend who knew the then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Thanks to Wikileaks, we can watch as Nyad's effort unfolds and ultimately succeeds. Diana remains Diana throughout the emails. Her obsequious pleas brim with the usual hyperbole, half-truths, and lies.

An annotated cast of characters and an explanation of abbreviations follow the messages.

From: Rosen And Company
To: H; millscd@state.gov <millscd@state.gov >
Sent: Sun Jul 04 11:09:52 2010
Subject: A unique request for your help from Hilary Rosen

HRC:

You may remember many years ago when **olympic champion swimmer diana nyad** tried to swim from cuba to florida and failed. Diana wants to try again as part of an ongoing commitment she has to promoting fitness among older people. As you can see from this email she needs your help to get clearance. I wouldnt ask if i didnt think taking it to your level is the only way to get it done.

Thanks so much in advance for looking into this. I know it is a busy month for you. You are just the best!!!

Hilary Rosen

Nyad's introduction to her initial approach to Debbie Wasserman Schultz:

From: Diana Nyad

In full appreciation of Hilary's always-hectic life....and particularly her current high-octane stresses with the oil spill work....I thought it easiest for her to simply show her below a letter I wrote this week to hopefully

be delivered to Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, dem out of FL, in a desperate plea for help to get me and my expedition cleared into Cuba.

The basics for Hilary to know are that CNN is covering the entire summer's event I'm doing live.

24-hour training swim off Key West next week-end.

The Cuba Swim early August, weather dictating.

It's not that I've been flat turned down by the State Dept. But I have been told I won't be approved this summer...warm water, my training, all of it....there's no other time I can or will do it.

It's going to be a terribly upbeat story to follow (in CLEAN ocean just nearby the oil spill), it's going to be an embraced strong message to redefine middle age as strong and relevant, to see a 60-year old swim 103 miles and walk up onto the shores of her own country.

I have been told by lawyers within Treasury that it will take either Hilary Clinton or Obama himself to clear my event.

I know somebody has the power to green light in an hour's time, if I can just get to the right person.

Please know that I wouldn't interrupt either your or Hilary's precious holiday week-end if I hadn't committed a year of **hardship training** to this and now involved many good people in the adventure.

I just can't let this dream slip away because I can't get into Cuba with State Dept approval.

Here is the Schultz doc below. And next I'm going to send you a link to a short promo video.

Thanks so very, very much,
diana

Nyad's original plea to Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

DIANA NYAD CUBA SWIM—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the end of July, 2010, just a month from now, I will attempt to become the first person in history to swim the 103 miles from Cuba to Florida without the aid of a shark cage.

In 1978, I swam out of Havana into a raging sea. 41hrs, 49mins later, it was not to be.

I'm 60 now. This time, when I do walk up onto the Florida shore, I will send a loud message to all the millions my age that 60 is not irrelevant, that we are still strong, vital, vibrant individuals, that our best days are not by any means all behind us.

For 30 years, I hadn't swum a stroke. I valued physical fitness to an extreme degree, but just hadn't swum at all for 30 years. And now this past year's training is done. It has been intense. Many, many 10, 12, 15 hour swims in the Caribbean. Grueling tests of both body and spirit.

But I was naive to think the training would be the tough part. I am feeling strong and confident. But the government permissions for me to walk off the Cuban shore are keeping me from my Dream.

I first went to the Cuban Interest Section and was told the Cubans would eagerly welcome my event. They remember my first attempt and I have been back many times for clinics and such. But they said I would definitely need to first have approval from the State Department. I was told there that it is a sensitive time politically, that both Obama and Hilary Clinton are very much pro-embargo and it would take perhaps a year to procure State Department clearance.

On advice from **three lawyers from Sonnenschein in D.C.**, I was told that it would take a direct green light from Hilary herself to get this expedition cleared.

Because I have been stymied by Treasury and the State Dept, I let the Cuban Interest Section permissions go so now I don't have permissions from their end, either.

I am going to make one last attempt to get this done legally by contacting Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Perhaps in light of a positive story vis a vis Florida Tourism....there is beautifully clean water, not far from the oil disaster....and the heroic message of a 60-year-old swimming 100 miles and walking up onto the shores of her own country, her own home state, Congresswoman Schultz could champion the project into full legal status, from both the Cuban and the State Department sides.

CNN is the exclusive broadcast coverer of my swim. I am just tonight on the front page of CNN.com .

There will no doubt be much positive news to come from this story...and to Florida....throughout my endeavor.

I will do a 24-hour training swim off Key West the week-end of July 10-11. CNN will cover live.

And then the hope is to go over to Havana on July 23 (or wait at a training camp in Key West starting on July 23) and then get the Cuba swim started whenever Mother Nature gives us a forecast of calm seas.

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com >
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2010 1:20 PM
To: 'sullivanjj@state.gov '; 'preines
Cc: Huma Abedin; 'cheryl.mills
Subject: Fw: A unique request for your help from Hilary Rosen

PIs try to get this approved. Enlist I agree it would be a great good news story. Let me know what I need to do.

From: Hillary Clinton
To: Lauren Jiloty
Date: 2010-07-05 05:54
Subject: A UNIQUE REQUEST FOR YOUR HELP FROM HILARY ROSEN

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com >
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2010 12:54 PM
To: 'JilotyLC@state.gov.'
Subject: Fw: A unique request for your help from Hilary Rosen

Pls print for me.

From: H [mailto:HDR22@clintonemail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 12:53 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob

Subject: Fw: A unique request for your help from Hilary Rosen

How can we get this done?

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2010 12:54 PM
To: H
Subject: RE: A unique request for your help from Hilary Rosen

I will follow up on this today.

----- Original Message -----

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com >
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 8:55 PM
To: 'sullivanij@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Diana Nyad

Thx so much for shepherding this.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov >
To: H
Sent: Tue Jul 13 19:35:56 2010
Subject: FW: Diana Nyad

Latest on Diana Nyad.

From: Zuniga, Ricardo F
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 6:11 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: RE: Diana Nyad

She has submitted her application to OFAC and OFAC is going to refer it to us. As soon as we get it, we'll work with EEB to send a positive response back to OFAC on foreign policy grounds. OFAC did signal a problem with her application, we said we'd be pushing hard, so would be helpful if they could be flexible. They got it, but we'll likely still have to nudge. They are directly in touch with Diana Nyad and working through the technical issues. She still doesn't have a boat selected to go down to Cuba and assist, which is going to make it tricky to get a Commerce license and USCG approval for a vessel (both authorizations go to the vessel and crew, not to Diana). It will be tight, but still think we can get it done by her late August/early September date.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov >
To: H
Sent: Tue Jul 27 21:16:59 2010
Subject: Re: MEP

Also, you'll be happy to know that Diana Nyad's license to swim was approved.

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com >
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 9:50 PM
To: 'sullivanjj@state.gov'
Subject: Re: MEP

That's great. When will the swim occur?

Despite everyone’s best efforts, Nyad had to call off the attempt after they ran out of time and good weather. Of course, that didn’t stop her from trying again . . . and again and again and again despite her declaration that “there’s no other time I can or will do it.”

“MEP” in the subject lines above stands for “Middle East Peace.” Maybe the Department of State had a specific section for addressing nearly-impossible objectives. I’m tempted to call it “BIG”: the Bureau of Impossible Goals. I can’t call it that, though, because I will never give up hope for peace in the Middle East.

ABBREVIATIONS

EEB	Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, US State Dept.
H or HRC	Hillary Clinton
OFAC	Office of Foreign Assets Control
USCG	United States Coast Guard

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Abedin, Huma	Clinton’s Deputy Chief of Staff.
Clinton, Hillary	U.S. Secretary of State.
Jiloty, Lauren	Special Assistant to the Secretary of State during Clinton’s tenure. Currently works for Bill Gates.
Mills, Cheryl D.	Clinton’s Chief of Staff. Currently CEO of BlackIvy, a company that supports businesses in sub-Saharan Africa. Appears as MillsCD@state.gov.
Nyad, Diana	Swimmer.
Reines, Philippe	Controversial advisor to Clinton. A political consultant, he eventually became Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Strategic Communications. Later, he stood in for Donald Trump during Clinton’s debate prep for the 2016 presidential election. Appears as “preines” (preines.hrco@gmail.com).
Rosen, Hillary	Political consultant, pundit, lobbyist, LGBT rights advocate. Currently a partner and managing director at the public relations firm SKDKnickerbocker.
Schultz, Debbie Wasserman	Member of congress from south Florida.
Sullivan, Jacob J.	Director of Policy Planning at the State Department under Secretary Clinton. Currently United States National Security Advisor to President Joe Biden.
Zuñiga, Ricardo	Headed the State Department’s Office of Cuba Affairs under Clinton. Currently Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State.