

RELEASED IN FULL

Stieg, Michael

From: Haas, Peter D
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2013 12:21 AM
To: Abdeen, Deanna H
Subject: FW: Washington O-I: Friday, April 5, 2013

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer
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Not sure if you are on distro for this (but we should get you added if you are not). See below possibility of an invite of Modi to the U.S. to speak in June....

SBU
 This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Rajadurai, Merin
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2013 2:47 AM
To: India O-I-DL
Subject: Washington O-I: Friday, April 5, 2013

(SBU) **A/S Blake-Newt Gingrich Phone Call on Modi:** As a follow-up to his Skype conversation with Chief Minister Narendra Modi and members of the recent NODEL, former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich asked to speak with Secretary Kerry about Modi's visa ineligibility. In a cordial conversation with Assistant Secretary Blake, Gingrich informed him of the likelihood of an invitation to CM Modi to speak in the United States in late-June, before the Chief Minister's focus turns to a national campaign. Gingrich communicated that CM Modi's recent promotion within party ranks and what the former Speaker characterized as his "absolution" in the Indian court system of involvement in the 2002 riots are reasons to issue a visa, and refusal would be an "embarrassment." Gingrich stressed that he has no financial interest in this, and is not lobbying. A/S Blake briefed Gingrich on the events that led to the Department's finding of Modi's ineligibility for a visa in 2005. A/S Blake noted the Department's view that Indian courts have not positively absolved Modi of culpability, however, welcomed new information that Gingrich might share. He noted various court cases still making their way through the Indian judicial system and observed that none of the judicial proceedings has yet produced new information with a direct bearing on Modi's visa eligibility. A/S Blake further noted Gujarat's strong economic record, American business presence in Gujarat, and engagement with the Government of Gujarat at the Consul General-level.