

Diplomatic Engagement 101

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Wednesday, April 08, 2009

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In case anyone wondered how actually one [like a president, some members of Congress or a Canadian prime minister] would go about practicing diplomacy on the international stage, here are two examples from today alone.

I think this is why there used to be a red phone on a desk in the oval office:

The Obama administration said Wednesday it will participate directly in group talks with Iran over its suspect nuclear program, another significant shift from President George W. Bush's policy toward a nation he labeled part of an axis of evil.

via [US to attend group nuclear talks with Iran.](#)

And then...

A "very energetic, very clear-thinking ... very engaging" Fidel Castro met the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) on its weekend visit to Cuba.

...

"And so all we're saying is, do we need to move forward to have constructive dialogue based on national sovereignty and mutual respect? And members of our delegation believe that that's the case."

via [TheHill.com - Obama to be pressed on Cuba before summit.](#)

See? That wasn't so hard!

But then unbalanced Canadian prime ministers like Harper need to have a bad guy to rhetorically throttle now and again to build up their ego. If it isn't George Galloway or Abousfian Abdelrazik it needs to be some kind of axis of evil.

Aren't we yet done with that kind of bravado, when the perfect storm of peak oil, a climate crisis and an economic meltdown from the rapacious nature of capitalism are stunting the required process of building resilience?

I'm tired of it all. How about you?