

handed over to the public? Obviously not, from that standpoint.

Q Was there any intention to share this with Maliki before their discussions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There's no question there will be conversations, probably through the embassy, with Prime Minister Maliki, but they're meeting tonight, a perfect opportunity to talk about the contents of the strategy. Again, there's nothing --

Q Not the contents of the strategy, but the fact that this memo was leaked to the press?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, look -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The two leaders are not going to spend their time worried about the process of this being leaked to the press. He will be -- I'm sure the Prime Minister understands the memo has been leaked. I mean, it's in The New York Times. I'm sure he's been made aware of that. But the substance of the memo is already a key part of the agenda.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And again, if the Prime Minister is looking through it, you see the constant focus on building capability, which is precisely what he has been talking about and emphasizing in his conversations with the President.

Q I'm sorry, can you just clarify, you said that you're sure that he is aware of the contents --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Who?

Q Maliki, because it's in The New York Times?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm sure -- I'm just assuming he is. But I --

Q But you don't know for sure.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't verify that.

Q Okay. There's nobody in the administration that's alerted Maliki that this is out in the press?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't verify that.

Q Okay.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: A lot of people on airplanes, the Prime Minister is traveling, so I can't confirm that.

Q Just for the on-background record, you can confirm that the text of this memo as published is