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Subject: Celebration of Religious Freedom

Date: Wed, Feb 18, 2015 1:04 am

Dear Ambassador Loeb,

Sorry I did not get back to you sooner regarding your letter from December 2014. We have decided to implement your suggestions to celebrate President's Day honoring President George Washington and his commitment to religious freedom in the U.S. Today I am having a lunch with religious leaders and representatives of the Tajik government. We have translated your article "The Story Behind the George Washington Letter to the Hebrew Congregation....." into Tajik. We will discuss the issue and read the letters during the lunch.

Thanks for the suggestion. In a country that is over 90 percent Islamic and struggling to control/contain extremism, sometimes the government limits the freedoms guaranteed in the Tajik constitution in an effort to prevent extremism. I will let you know how the event works out, but I am looking forward to not only honoring President Washington, but having a productive dialogue about religious freedom and countering violent extremism.

Thanks again,

Susan

Susan M. Elliott
U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.