

## Secret Meetings Plan Post-Assad Syrian Regime

According to Josh Rogin, writing on the *Foreign Policy* magazine blog [“The Cable”](#) on July 20, for the last six months, 40 senior representatives of various Syrian opposition groups have been meeting quietly in Germany under the tutelage of the U.S. Institute for Peace (USIP), to plan how to set up a post-Assad Syrian government.

“The project . . . was partially funded by the State Department,” he writes. “The leader of the project,

USIP’s Steven Heydemann, an academic expert on Syria, has briefed administration officials on the plan, as well as foreign officials, including on the sidelines of the Friends of Syria meeting in Istanbul last month.

“The project is called ‘The day after: Supporting a democratic transition in Syria.’” Heydemann described the project to “The Cable” as “working in a support role with a large group of opposition groups to define a transition process for a post-Assad Syria.” The group has been meeting since January and providing updates on its work to the Arab League, the Friends of Syria group, the team of UN Special Envoy Kofi Annan, and the opposition Syrian National Council.