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Longtime Clinton confidant Blumenthal to become Clinton advisor

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Longtime journalist and former Clinton White House advisor **Sidney Blumenthal** will become a special advisor without portfolio to Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, *The Cable* has learned. Blumenthal refused to comment. But sources say he is filling out the paperwork and disentangling himself from other obligations as he moves to become a special advisor to the secretary whose presidential campaign he helped advise. The position would not require Senate confirmation.

Clinton, who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken elbow, has been building her team at the State Department, while establishing her credentials as a team player supporting and amplifying her former presidential rival's foreign-policy vision. Sources close to her says she will prove indispensable to Obama, a point several Obama aides also **made** to *Politico*'s Ben Smith in a piece noting the relatively background role she has played in these early months. The planned addition of Blumenthal, a longtime confidant of the Clinton family and a fierce defender of Bill Clinton's presidential legacy, could indicate she plans to raise her profile. (Blumenthal is probably Clinton's best speechwriter, a friend notes.)

In the foreign-policy arena, Blumenthal advised former President Clinton on U.S.-British relations, and first introduced him to future British Prime Minister Tony Blair. He has also been active in the **Third Way-Progressive Governance process**. A former *Washington Post* reporter, Blumenthal has contributed commentary and editorial advice to *Vanity Fair*, Tina Brown's new online magazine *The Daily Beast*, the *New Yorker*, and *Salon*. Blumenthal has also been a fellow at New York University's Center on Law and Security.

Laura Rozen | Permalink | 🔲🔲🔲 **| Comments? Login or register**