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**Subject:** Ref: F-2021-01610 / STATE-20-2845, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 at 9:43:37 AM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov  
**To:** foia@americanoversight.org

EXTERNAL SENDER

**\*\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\***

Ms. Sloan:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 1, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 1, 2020, regarding electronic communications sent by the following agency officials to anyone working in the White House: 1. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, 2. T. Ulrich Brechbuhl, Counselor, 3. Brian Bulatao, Under Secretary for Management, 4. Marik String, Acting Legal Adviser, 5. Toni Porter, Senior Adviser, and 6. anyone serving in the role of White House Liaison between November 1, 2019, through the present. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. Regarding items 1-5 of your request, this Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h).

This Office denies item 6 of your request, as currently written, because it does not reasonably describe the records sought. A request must reasonably describe the Department records that are sought to enable Department personnel to conduct a search for responsive records. Having reviewed your request both as a whole and considering each subset of that request individually, the Department has determined that it is not reasonably described and is therefore denied.

If you are not satisfied with this Office's determination in response to item 6 of your request, you may administratively appeal to: Appeals Officer, Appeals Review Panel, Office of Information Programs and Services, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Suite B266, Washington, D.C. 20520; or facsimile at 202-485-1718. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this email.

You requested a waiver for all fees associated with the processing of your request. Please be advised this Office will make a determination regarding a fee waiver at a later date.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances

include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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