



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 14, 2020

Case No. FL-2020-00017

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As noted in our letter dated August 21, 2020, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department has identified four additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all four records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, you may contact Trial Attorney, Joshua C. Abbuhl at Joshua.Abbuhl@usdoj.gov or (202) 616-2531. Please refer to the case number, F-2019-06331/FL-2020-00017, and the civil action number, 19-cv-02934, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Weetman
Deputy Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	McFeeters, Brian D (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
CC:	C_Special Assistants (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: clearance requested: EUR response to media query on Corruption, Biden, Burisma
Date:	2019/05/03 12:49:28
Type:	Note

Sir, (b)(5) on the press guidance below re Ukraine.

Brian

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:30 PM

To: C_Policy <C_Policy@state.gov>

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>

Subject: clearance requested: EUR response to media query on Corruption, Biden, Burisma

Good afternoon,

(b)(5)

(b)(5) EUR/Press will send these points back to Embassy Kyiv.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:58 PM

To: C_Policy <C_Policy@state.gov>

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>

Subject: For your information: EUR response to media query on Corruption, Biden, Burisma

Good afternoon,

(b)(5)

EUR is clearing the below response to **multiple** media query spurred by the New York Times article Biden Faces Conflict of Interest Questions That Are Being Promoted by Trump and Allies.

This has been cleared by: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) we will respond to the reporter.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Please comment on the validity of Prosecutor General Lutsenko's allegations.

(Previously-cleared language in response to a Foreign Policy query on 30 March 2019.)

Mr. Lutsenko's suggestion of a "do not prosecute list" is an outright fabrication.

Such allegations only serve the corrupt.

How was Prosecutor General Lutsenko able to raise those issues in the United States? Do you consider this lobbying? Has he registered under FARA? Has the US government put him on a visa “blacklist”?

(b)(5)

What interactions has the Embassy had with Hunter Biden or with the company for which he worked, Burisma?

(b)(5)

The NYT reported: “Hunter Biden’s work for Burisma prompted concerns among State Department officials at the time that the connection could complicate Vice President Biden’s diplomacy in Ukraine, former officials said.” Can you provide more background on this?

(b)(5)

What was Vice President Biden’s role in U.S. diplomacy with Ukraine? Why did Vice President Biden push for the removal of Ukraine’s previous prosecutor general? Isn’t this an unusual move?

(b)(5)

Is the U.S. government officially pushing the Ukrainian government to proceed investigations of Hunter Biden, NABU Head Sytnyk, or others? What is the status of those investigations?

(b)(5)

Has the U.S. Embassy had any contact with President Trump’s lawyer Rudy Giuliani on any of these issues?

(b)(5)

Why, in the State Department’s opinion, has Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko decided to re-open the investigation into Burisma?

(b)(5)	
Sender:	McFeeters, Brian D (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	C_Special Assistants (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/05/03 12:49:28

From:	Reeker, Philip T [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: WashPo inquiry re Giuliani allegations (Masha, Kent, Soros)
Date:	2019/05/27 16:02:40
Type:	Note

Ulrich,

Hope you are having a good Memorial Day, as we recognize all who serve/have served.

You may want S to be aware of below ongoing nonsense. [REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Kent, George P [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Reeker, Philip T; Murphy, Michael J; [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: Re: WashPo inquiry re Giuliani allegations (Masha, Kent, Soros)

I forgot to add that the context/trigger for this latest is that, according to press reports, the former mayor met the (corrupt) Ukrainian special anti corruption prosecutor Kholodnytsky in Paris for 3 hours this past week.

We stopped working with Kholodnytsky in February 2018, after an intense three years of mentoring, training, and more, when evidence emerged that he had engaged in witness tampering and obstruction of justice. So like Lutsenko, he seems to be looking for revenge.

From: Kent, George P
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 9:50:35 AM
To: Reeker, Philip T; Murphy, Michael J; [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: WashPo inquiry re Giuliani allegations (Masha, Kent, Soros)

Phil - happy memorial day.

The former NY mayor gave a long interview to a Ukrainian online news portal, censor.net, out today. The allegation that has US (WashPo) and Ukrainian (Kyiv Post) press seeking USG comment is that Masha will move on to work for Soros, and that she and I were the representatives in an effort - before she was ambassador - to derail an investigation and protect him (soros). This is a mash up of the March story lines - all those not involving Biden/Burisma.

(b)(5)

George

From: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 8:03 AM
To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Kyiv IOs; Kyiv EXEC; EUR-Press; EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL; Kent, George P; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Censornet interview with Rudy Giuliani and head's up re POLITICO

Dear (b)(6) and EUR Press

So David Stern and I finally connected and he is writing this story for the Washington Post. He is not on deadline today but the Post "is extremely interested in this story so I wanted to get the request in early for tomorrow," said Stern.

I explained to him that I would need to consult with Washington and I declined a request to talk on deep background or off the record.

Here is what he would like:

- 1). It is rare that the President's personal attorney makes accusations as was done in this interview. Does the Department of State have any on the record comment? (regarding the allegations in the paragraph about former Ambassador Yovanovitch, George Kent and Soros.)
- 2). If not, would the Department give an off the record comment about what is going on with these allegations?
3. He would also like a general backgrounder on what is going on and U.S. policy.

Here is the specific paragraph (although I urge reading the whole article).

- Whatever the course of President Zelenskiy's actions will be, the US will now regroup in Ukraine. And they may start with the new ambassador. By the way, what about the ex-ambassador Yovanovitch, why did she leave the country? And what will be her further career?

- Somehow she'll go working for Soros, directly or indirectly. All I can tell you is the things I heard about her. Which is that her embassy was involved heavily in finding dirty information and creating it on people in the Trump campaign. That they were heavily involved in helping Soros (including getting a case dismissed that would hurt him), and George Kent and her were the representatives in this effort. They actually put together that whole Special Prosecutor thing. It was before she got their payoff with the ambassadorship. And they put that together and then used it as a way to protect Soros, which is a horrible thing to do. If we are lecturing you on corruption we can't have our own corrupt person sitting in the background that we're doing the bidding of.

From: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: May 27, 2019 at 2:34:22 PM GMT+3
To: (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A
 (b)(6) Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Kyiv IOs <KyivIOs@state.gov>, Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>, EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>, EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL <EUR-UkraineDesk-DL@state.gov>, Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: Censornet interview with Rudy Giuliani and head's up re POLITICO

Folks

Long interview between local portal Censornet and POTUS's private attorney Rudy Giuliani. Covers many topics: his canceled trip, Zelenskiy administration and Kolomoisky, corruption, delegation to Inauguration, Soros, former Ambassador and new one, Giuliani's bus business with governor of Kharkiv.

So far, other local publications have not picked up the story but only a matter of time.

David Stern, local correspondent for **Politico**, (and also WashPo stronger) seems to be looking for some kind of comment but we are playing phone tag. EUR PRESS Will let you know what he is after.

Censor.NET

27.05.19 00:00

Rudy Giuliani: "The US should know the truth about the situation in Ukraine, we need to create a realistic policy - a policy of real and rapid changes"

Author: Yevhen Kuzmenko, Tetiana Nikolayenko

"Censor.Net" met President Trump's personal attorney to interview him in details about his reasons for not coming to Ukraine. Other topics in conversation included newly appointed Head of President Zelenskiy` Administration, President`s relations with one of Ukrainian top-businessmen Ihor Kolomoiskyi, Giuliani`s opinion on former USA Ambassador to Ukraine Marie L. Yovanovitch and many more.

Two weeks ago Rudi Giuliani`s fiery interview became a big hit in Ukraine. President Trump's personal attorney and close friend said on "Fox News Night" that he will not be traveling to Ukraine as previously announced. Former Republican mayor of New York City explained that he believed he would be "walking into a group of people that are enemies of the president, and in some cases, enemies of the United States and in one case, an already convicted person who has been found to be involved in assisting the Democrats with the 2016 investigation".

"Censor.Net" met Mr.Giuliani in Paris last Wednesday to interview him in details about his reasons for not coming to Ukraine. Other topics in conversation included newly appointed Head of President Zelenskiy` Administration, President`s relations with one of Ukrainian top-businessmen Ihor Kolomoiskyi, Giuliani`s opinion on former USA Ambassador to Ukraine Marie L. Yovanovitch and many more.

- Mr.Giuliani, so what was the reason behind your plan of meeting with the President?

- The reason I wanted to meet with the president was to say "Mr. President, please, don't let them talk you out of these investigations (Giuliani here speaks of the former Democratic Vice-President Joe Biden`s supposed dealings with Ukraine – Censor.NET). Please go forward with it. We've got to get over once and for all. And a critical piece in putting together the picture of how they developed these false charges on President Trump is going to be this. There are other pieces (including lot of stuff done wrong in

our country and in the UK, Italy and Cyprus) - it's not just Ukraine! But this is an important piece.

And then I asked for a meeting but what I got instead was the leak to the press that Leshchenko and somebody else were advising him to drop the investigation and not to meet with me. And when I checked on that (I actually had not known who they were), I was told by people in my country that I shouldn't go, because it was a trap that was being worked out with democrats, people loyal to Soros. And now I see that he's put around them - Kolomoyskiy's lawyer and a couple of guys who work with Soros. And the message that President Trump would send to him (what I would send to him) was: "It's not a good idea to surround yourself with enemies of President Trump". It's one thing to surround yourself with decent people who may have a different political ideology - but another thing is to surround yourself with a guy who was the lawyer for this major oligarch who has reputed to have taken billions from your bank and then has some kind of unholy alliance between Soros and that Embassy that has to be broken.

- But you may know that on the day of his inauguration President Zelenskiy met the American delegation (led by minister Perry) and asked the United States for support - especially in the field of strengthening the sanctions against Russia.

-Good.

- And he also was enthusiastic about doing full scale reforms and getting Ukraine closer toward European values and democratic transparency. And here we want to ask you: will President Trump believe President Zelenskiy? Or will he prefer to wait for actions, not words?

-I cannot speak for the President, I'm just his personal lawyer. But my advice is: let's see what he does. Words are cheap - other people have said that. And while I think those were very good words, I agree with them - I find some actions very contradictory. I think that's important that you both say the right thing and then do it. So let's see.

But you know that's all politics and diplomacy. My only concern professionally is that the investigation not be interfered. And I haven't heard him say that. What should be so hard about saying: "Someone will investigate that"? Or: "It will be given to this person, we're gonna investigate it fully and let the chips fall where they may". That's easy to say. Come let's see if he does it.

- On the other hand, President Zelenskiy has recently appointed Mr.Bogdan, who is Mr.Kolomoyskiy's lawyer, the head of the Presidential Administration. And according to various media sources, President Zelenskiy was strongly advised against this choice by minister Perry and the US special Envoy Kurt Walker. And you – while in your interview on FoxNews - you didn't specifically mention Mr. Bogdan, you still mentioned – let me quote you: "one particular oligarch who is quite corrupt".

So what do you think about this appointment? Does it mean that President Zelenskiy's actions contradict what he is saying?

- The simple answer is yes. I mean, if you're going to clean up the power that people have over that government for their own personal benefit, you can't take someone that's associated with a person who's one of the most prominent people accused of it.

But I'm still waiting to hear him say that the investigation is going forward. And that it's going to be full and complete and they're not going to be afraid to do it. That's all I want. The rest of it is up to the President and the Secretary of State: what they conclude. I'm not involved in it. I have my own opinions about it but that doesn't govern anything because I'm not with the government.

I mean it's sensible for the President of Ukraine to work out a strong, good and honest relationship with the US. And for the United States, that we have a strong and honest relationship with Ukraine. You are important for us, and we're an important country to you.

- Well, about 2 years ago, while visiting Ukraine, you said that President Trump asked you to say to Ukrainians: "Make Ukraine great again!".

-Yes, that's true.

- Sounds great but what did you mean by that?

-What I meant by that was: to give you the government that you deserve. An honest government that works for the [people, and doesn't work for the people who pay it money. And to make certain that you've got people in government who are not awarding contracts to themselves, who were not taking money out, laundering it, getting it out of the Ukraine so they can be fat and happy after they leave government. So you don't have a certain number of people who are corrupting the government. You cut that out and then you've got to be tough about that. We can't be soft-headed about that. There should be a zero tolerance rule for corruption. No corruption. It does not mean you're not going to have it. Every government has corruption. But you've got to go get it. Get rid of it.

What - we were fighting with the corruption in the Reagan administration's, in the Clinton administration, in the Bush administration and with the corruption in the Obama administration. And I'm sure there'll be some in Trump administration, because you have thousands of people working for him and some of them turn out unfortunately crooked. But if you've got to go get them, you've got a prosecutor, you are going to make an example out of them, and you've got to make sure that the President of the country is on that side.

And if you have people around you that have a close relationship with the people that need to be investigated that creates a terrible appearance. But anywhere, not just in Ukraine, any place. If President Trump appointed someone who was involved with one of the major alleged organized criminals in America...

- But tell us how one starts getting rid of the oligarch with whom there are so many connections in one's business or artistic career? How would you do it?

-How would I do it? I would do it in a day! I did it in New York. I changed the way in which we give out very lucrative contracts for investing New York City's money. New York City pension fund is one of the biggest investors in the United States. All the Wall Street firms wanted it and usually the ones who got it were the ones that were favorable to the mayor. I changed that. I set up a committee and we rotated it, so everybody got their fair share. And if anybody got caught doing anything: given a bribe, paying money - they'd be prosecuted and put in jail.

I had a buildings department where when you get a building inspector to a certain number, the inspectors would ask for money and sometimes it go pretty high up. I had them all prosecuted, I had them all removed - 40 or 50 of them.

After a while people see that. They say "Oh I'm not going to do this, this guy is serious. He's not just talking about being honest when you're not, he puts you in jail!". And that gets more attention after a while.

And there's no reason why these oligarchs can't do business. I have nothing against very rich people. I think they're largely very hard working people and they make jobs for the people. But they could make plenty of money honestly. And in some cases, you know, it's a question of whether there were two billion or three billion. None of them need the corruption, it becomes the way of life! Corruption is not necessary for the running of a government. You can run a government perfectly without it and people can make a lot of money without it.

- Whatever the course of President Zelenskiy's actions will be, the US will now regroup in Ukraine. And they may start with the new ambassador. By the way, what about the ex-ambassador Yovanovitch, why did she leave the country? And what will be her further career?

-Somehow she'll go working for Soros, directly or indirectly. All I can tell you is the things I heard about her. Which is that her embassy was involved heavily in finding dirty information and creating it on people in the Trump campaign. That they were heavily involved in helping Soros (including getting a case dismissed that would hurt him), and George Kent and her were the deputy. They actually put together that whole Special Prosecutor thing. It was before she got their payoff with the ambassador then. And they put that together and then used it as a way to protect Soros, which is a horrible thing to

do. If we are lecturing you on corruption we can't have our own corrupt person sitting in the background that we're doing the bidding of.

- So, any hint about the name of a new ambassador? Or will that be a terminal attorney? Many people in Kyiv are waiting for the decision.

-It takes a little while. You have to go through the people. Then also you've got to be patient because they have to go to the Senate confirmation. It'll take a while but somebody will be named, I'm sure of it. In the next couple of weeks.

- Is it true that at some moment Mr. Vice President Pence was planned to participate in President Zelensky's inauguration, but later his arrival was canceled?

- I don't know that. One of the things suggested was that since Pence didn't go to the inauguration or Secretary of State didn't go, they picked to Rick Perry. I think that was not meant that way. Rick Perry is a good choice, because he's the Secretary of Energy. There's no other area where we have more involvement with Ukraine. And there is an area where we can help Ukraine much more than energy, help you become more independent of Russia. And Perry has a very big agenda to do that. He's done it in Poland and I think he'd like to do the same thing in Ukraine. So, I think that was a good choice of someone to go. And it was a fairly low key inauguration. Got moved up very quickly at the end, so I don't think that was meant as an insult.

- Getting back to the newly elected Ukrainian president, with whom of President Zelenskiy team would President Trump and his administration preferred to deal with? Obviously, there are some suspicious figures around him. But being a very experienced politician, you know that in the huge system of power like that there are various towers. And some towers may be cleaner than others. So maybe using these "cleaner" towers would be a right way of establishing effective relations with the newly elected president?

- It would be. Let's see what happens.

- Many people in Ukraine are wondering about the nature of your connections with Mr. Kernes, the mayor of Kharkiv. Because he does not have an exactly clean reputation in Ukraine. But you visited him in Kharkiv. And we'd like to know what's connecting you. Could you tell us?

-My company did a study for Kharkiv. It was finished in November 2017 when I visited there and presented it as security recommendations to improve security in Kharkiv. And one of the main recommendations is to build a modern state of the emergency management centre. Which they don't have but a lot of cities do have it. We're very good at doing it and that's what we recommended to.

We did that study about three or four months, from the summer to the fall of 2017. And then I injured my knee, I had to put off my visit there. So I went there late November 2017. That's when I met with him for a couple of days. Mostly with his deputy mayor but with him presented the report, explained it to them, answered questions about it. And then I went to visit President Poroshenko in Kiev. I saw mayor Klitschko also and had a conversation with him about things in general but mostly to explain what I had recommended to Kharkiv. Because to build it, as I can imagine, you have to get some money from the national government. And I explained to him why they needed emergency management center and how they work, how emergency management centers work. We've done this all over the world. I've done security assessments, I'm doing it now. Mostly in South America, Eastern Europe and Middle East. But also in countries all over the world. That's my business.

- You're talking about Mr. Kolomoyskiy as of some suspicious oligarch. But we have other oligarchs as well. And now all of them would want a share of the new President. They are trying to influence him. What should we do with them?

-It's very-very simple: they should do business honestly! I know the President has said that, now he's got to follow through on it. I mean you can't condemn everybody and you can't straight out all the mistakes of the past. But you can go forward from now and say: "Let's do business honestly. No payoffs, no hidden money, no laundered money. That's enough money to be made honestly. Let's change the nature of this country. Other countries have done that".

- By how do you clean the country if these oligarchs have their people in the Parliament, in courts, in government and media?

-You just keep pointing it out. How do you make a journey of a thousand miles? You take the first step and then you take the second step. Then there's the third step and the fourth. You take as many steps as you need to take before the airplane comes and gets you. Because the reality is - you don't have to go through all of it. You got to make examples out of the first one-two-three-four. And then they all fall into line, because they don't want to go to jail and they don't want to be exposed. They don't want their businesses to be taken away. And all of a sudden it occurs to them: "Maybe we can make a little less money. We'll still make a lot of money if we act honestly". That's how you do. It's not brain surgery. It does require a great deal of guts, lot of courage and very-very strong integrity.

- Mr. Giuliani, maybe you will change your mind and come to Ukraine?

-I would be happy to come to Ukraine!

- And then probably you could have a talk with President Zelenskiy and maybe organize the meeting of two presidents? That could be a direct blow to all the conspiracies on the matter.

-I love the country by the way. There are some countries I have strong affection for. And Ukraine is one of them.

The United States will support Ukraine, this is our course. My mission is to promote democratic reforms in Ukraine, to support true reformers, young people who are able to think and work in a modern way. Therefore, I will definitely come to Ukraine - I have friends here, I have people I know, and every day I communicate with them and we strengthen our contacts. The US should know the truth about the situation in Ukraine, we need to create a realistic policy - a policy of real and rapid changes, and I see how many friends America has in Ukraine. I wish all the success to Ukrainian politicians and the new president, Volodymyr Zelensky. I believe that Ukraine and the United States America should further strengthen the relationship in the coming years. We must help Ukraine to protect itself from aggression.

Yevhen Kuzmenko, Tetiana Nikolayenko, "Censor.NET"

Sender:	Reeker, Philip T	(b)(6)
		(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U	(b)(6)
		(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/05/27 16:02:40	

From:	Ortagus, Morgan D [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption
Date:	2019/06/19 23:17:56
Type:	Note

Great, thanks. I'm finding out when WashPost is running this and will flag for him

From: Brechbuhl, Thomas U [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:12 PM
To: Hale, David [REDACTED] (b)(6); Ortagus, Morgan D [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

I mentioned the primary question to him this AM.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Hale, David [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:11 PM
To: Ortagus, Morgan D [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Cc: Brechbuhl, Thomas U [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: Re: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

I have not.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 19, 2019, at 7:06 PM, Ortagus, Morgan D [REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

Checking in on this: have you two already flagged this story/guidance for [REDACTED] (b)(5)

From: Palladino, Robert J [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Harutunian, Ruben [REDACTED] (b)(6); Martin, Kathryn (Katie)
[REDACTED] (b)(6); Ortagus, Morgan D [REDACTED] (b)(6)
[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Subject: RE: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

1) Does the State Department agree that the accusations of these Ukrainian officials, relayed by Giuliani and others, is what caused Yovanovitch to be recalled before her scheduled departure?

(b)(5)

5) Did Jess Baily, the US Ambassador to North Macedonia, leave his post early?
Was the State Department pressured by conservative lawmakers and press to remove him?

(b)(5)

Official - SBU**UNCLASSIFIED****From:** (b)(6)**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 4:18 PM**To:** Martin, Kathryn (Katie) (b)(6); Palladino, Robert J

(b)(6) Ortagus, Morgan D (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

(b)(5)

Official - SBU**UNCLASSIFIED****From:** Martin, Kathryn (Katie) (b)(6)**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 4:05 PM**To:** Palladino, Robert J (b)(6) Ortagus, Morgan D

(b)(6); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

(b)(5)

Official - SBU**UNCLASSIFIED****From:** Palladino, Robert J (b)(6)**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 3:58 PM**To:** Ortagus, Morgan D (b)(6) Martin, Kathryn (Katie)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

Importance: High**Hudson** is chasing this:

Rudy Giuliani gave an on-record interview to one of our White House reporters in which he took partial credit for the early departure of the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. He said he obtained written statements from Ukrainians saying the ambassador had badmouthed the president and told Ukrainian officials they shouldn't listen to Trump because he would be impeached. "I reported

it to him [Trump], Giuliani said. He also gave the White House a "written statement, a video statement, several witnesses" attesting to Yovanovitch's behavior. Hudson asks:

1) Does the State Department agree that the accusations of these Ukrainian officials, relayed by Giuliani and others, is what caused Yovanovitch to be recalled before her scheduled departure?

2) Did Yovanovitch have a falling out with Lutsenko, the Ukrainian general prosecutor, because his agents were going after the National Anti Corruption Bureau instead of pursuing anti corruption investigations of former and current top officials?

3) Was Lutsenko placed on a US visa ban as a result?

4) The State Department defended Yovanovitch against Lutsenko's claim that she gave him a 'do not prosecute' list? But then Donald Trump Jr. retweeted the story, as did Donald Trump. Did the White House pressure the State Department to have her leave early?

5) Did Jess Baily, the US Ambassador to North Macedonia, leave his post early? Was the State Department pressured by conservative lawmakers and press to remove him?

(b)(5)

- Are you OK giving this to Hudson (his deadline is 5:00, but he always gives moving deadlines))

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:59 PM

To: Palladino, Robert J [REDACTED] (b)(6); EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Cc: Harutunian, Ruben [REDACTED] (b)(6); PA Press Duty
 <PAPressDuty@state.gov>

Subject: FOR PALLADINO: response to John Hudson on WashPost query on Ukraine, Yovanovitch, NMacedonia, corruption

Robert,

EUR has cleared the below response up to EUR A/S Reeker.

Assume PA will discuss this to Morgan. EUR/Press understands his **deadline is 5pm**.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

From: Palladino, Robert J [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 5:18 PM

To: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] (b)(6) PA Press Duty
 <PAPressDuty@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions

EUR, thanks for your help in working this one. We'll need to flag proposed responses for Morgan prior to getting back to him.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Hudson, John [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:44 PM

To: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Cc: PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>

Subject: Questions

Hi [REDACTED] (b)(6) Hope the job is getting off to a good start.

Rudy Giuliani gave an on-record interview to one of our White House reporters in which he took partial credit for the early departure of the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. He said he obtained written statements from Ukrainians saying the ambassador had badmouthed the president and told Ukrainian officials they shouldn't listen to Trump because he would be impeached.

"I reported it to him [Trump], Giuliani said. He also gave the White House a "written statement, a video statement, several witnesses" attesting to Yovanocitch's behavior.

Primary question:

1) Does the State Department agree that the accusations of these Ukrainian officials, relayed by Giuliani and others, is what caused Yovanovitch to be recalled before her scheduled departure?

Other questions:

2) Did Yovanovitch have a falling out with Lutsenko, the Ukrainian general prosecutor, because his agents were going after the National Anti Corruption Bureau instead of pursuing anti corruption investigations of former and current top officials?

3) Was Lutsenko placed on a US visa ban as a result?

4) The State Department defended Yovanovitch against Lutsenko's claim that she gave him a 'do not prosecute' list? But then Donald Trump Jr. retweeted the story, as did Donald Trump. Did the White House pressure the State Department to have her leave early?

5) Did Jess Baily, the US Ambassador to North Macedonia, leave his post early? Was the State Department pressured by conservative lawmakers and press to remove him?

It would be good to get a response by 5 PM on Wednesday.

Thanks,

John

John Hudson

National Security Reporter

The Washington Post

Cell/Signal/WhatsApp: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sender:	Ortagus, Morgan D (b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechtbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/06/19 23:17:56

From:	Hale, David (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
CC:	Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Social media attacks on Masha continue 3/23 - Donald Trump Jr retweet of Sebastian Gorka, Ryan Saavedra
Date:	2019/03/24 01:03:21
Type:	Note

I did not have a chance. I can try to when we land.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2019, at 2:44 AM, Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks David. Phil and I are on the phone right now discussing the matter.

I brought S up to speed yesterday. He was going to make a call or two.

Have you and he discussed this over the last 24 hours by any chance? If so, did he have any additional insight?

TUB

T. Ulrich Brechbühl
Counselor, U.S. Department of State

On Mar 23, 2019, at 8:39 PM, Hale, David (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2019, at 1:54 AM, Reeker, Philip T

(b)(6) wrote:

TUB,

As soon as I have a break here in Ops, I'll call you again.

PTR

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From: Kent, George P (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 7:24 PM
To: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6) Murphy, Michael J (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Social media attacks on Masha continue 3/23
 - Donald Trump Jr retweet of Sebastian Gorska, Ryan Saavedra
 New tweets in the past several hours/afternoon.

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From: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 6:39 PM
To: (b)(6); (b)(6); Roraff, Brian R; Kent, George P; Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv); (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Freden, Bradley A; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) (b)(6)
 Kyiv EXEC; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Press

Subject: Re: Reactions to Hill Article - Donald Trump Jr tweet

Sebastian Gorka retweeted the Ryan Saavedra tweet (featuring DiGenova's comments about Amb Y) three times in the past two hours. One with no topper message, one with the topper message

“enough with the NeverTrump Obama holdovers,”
 and one with the topper message
 @realDonaldTrump deserves Ambassadors like
 @RichardGrenell, who actually support his
 America First Agenda.

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Date: March 24, 2019 at 12:18:13 AM GMT+2

To: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R [REDACTED] (b)(6) Kent,

George P [REDACTED] (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond

A (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6), Tremont,

Pamela M (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

[REDACTED] (b)(6), [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) Freden, Bradley A

[REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

(b)(6)	
(b)(6)	(b)(6)
(b)(6)	

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Reactions to Hill Article - Donald Trump Jr tweet

Donald Trump Jr retweeted (with no additional comment) a post from Arthur Schwartz.

The Arthur Schwartz post stated: Time to clean house of all the anti-Trump, Obama holdovers serving as ambassadors. We need more people like @RichardGrenell and less of these Trump haters serving in the admin.

(The Schwartz post also included a retweet of the Ryan Saavedra post I mentioned earlier today, which quoted DiGenova as saying Amb Y badmouthed the President and told Ukrainian officials not to listen/worry about Trump policy because he's going to be impeached.)

So, for those who are not active Twitter users, to sum up, both the Arthur Schwartz and Ryan Saavedra messages are visible on Donald Trump Jr's page through this single retweet.

From: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Date: March 23, 2019 at 10:42:20 PM GMT+2

To: (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R [REDACTED] (b)(6), Kent,

George P [REDACTED] (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond

A (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6) Tremont,

Pamela M (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>

Subject: Reactions to Hill Article - final PAS Kyiv
update for this evening

Per a request here at post, I'm starting a fresh email
chain so it's easier to print these updates. This is
anticipated to be PAS Kyiv's final update of the

evening; I understand from Maria in EUR/Press that Kate will be available to monitor any major developments later today while we're asleep here in Ukraine. I'll resume monitoring Sunday morning Kyiv time.

- **Ryan Saavedra, Daily Wire reporter**, with about 200 thousand followers has tweeted in the past half hour:

Former federal prosecutor Joe diGenova: "The current United States ambassador Marie Yovanovitch has bad mouthed the President of the United States to Ukrainian officials and has told them not to listen or worry about Trump policy because he's going to be impeached."

Laura Ingraham: "In May 2018, former Congressman Pete Sessions sent Secretary of State Pompeo an urgent letter imploring him to remove the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. ... She's reportedly demonstrated clear anti-Trump bias."

- Throughout today there has continued to be active Twitter discussion from Twitter users who are not high-profile journalists/commentators relating to Amb Y, mostly sharing information from yesterday's Ingraham show.
- Somewhat tangentially – one of the individuals Dan Bongino listed along with Amb Y and

George Kent “who knew the entire time,” to be discussed on his Monday show was MP Serhiy Leshchenko. Leshchenko just gave an interview to Russian Novaya Gazeta about Ukrainian elections, etc. The article is titled “Trump is breaking a good system in the United States, while Zelenskyi [presidential candidate] will break a bad one [in Ukraine].” In the interview, Leshchenko is asked whether he agrees with the comparison between Zelenskyi and Trump. Leshchenko responded (rough translation):

“Well, this is a very popular comparison. There’s only that they both are anti-system politicians. First, it is a global trend. The request for such politicians is a society’s response to globalization, in which there are both beneficiaries and losers, and a lot of them. Second, it promotes the growth of antisystem moods and the emergence of new channels of communication that allow us to bypass traditional media. Well, the third is the fatigue of the world from expansion. At the same time, Zelensky’s program is absolutely liberal. He wants to create something that we do not have - an open market, and

launch a land reform, a reform
of the courts.

So the analogy of Zelensky with
Trump is superficial, as if
comparing Pamela Anderson
and Kim Bessinger. Well and
we can say that Trump breaks a
good system in the United
States, and Zelensky will break
a bad one in Ukraine.

Full

interview:<https://www.novayagazeta.ru/articles/2019/03/22/79965-tramp-lomaet-v-ssha-horoshuyu-sistemu-a-zelenskiy-budet-lomat-plohuyu>

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Sender:	Hale, David	(b)(6)
		(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U	(b)(6)
		(b)(6)
	Reeker, Philip T	(b)(6)
		(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/24 01:03:21	