



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 27, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00018

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

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As noted in our letter dated April 16, 2021 we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (the “FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six 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; (202) 616-2531. Please refer to the case number, F-2019-06332/FL-2020-00018, and the civil action number, 19-cv-02934, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
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:	Reeker, Philip T [REDACTED] (b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: Ukr story: 3 Saturday media updates
Date:	2019/04/01 00:52:36
Type:	Note

Further coverage/context

This captures the basic fake narrative [the assumption that Masha is some kind of "liberal outpost...leading a political struggle" really is without merit or validationm]:

"US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch here represents the State Department, which in principle was the last stronghold of the Democrats, where the Trump-ists have not yet reached. The State Department is the fortress of the democratic party, the outpost of the liberals. And Yovanovitch actually reflects this political force. We can say the same about the French Embassy. Western embassies are controlled by the liberal wing, and in Ukraine such diplomats continue the line of struggle that they lead in their homeland."

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Kent, George P [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 9:08 AM
To: Reeker, Philip T; Murphy, Michael J
Cc: [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: Ukr story: 3 Saturday media updates

Morning, Phil.

Below is the Saturday first take of US/Ukr media reaction, a day before election

—Long Foreign Policy piece that hits it more or less straight down the fairway - and addresses the Lutsenko fake news attack in two paras, highlighted.

—the primary pushers of the Lutsenko story in the US, (The Hill's) Solomon and Carter, will appear on Fox TV Sunday evening at 10 to talk about the 2016 thread.

—Ukr online interview with a far right nationalist leader/MP, Biletsky, who talks about the US culture wars, and claims the State Dept/Embassy is a bastion of US liberal attitudes. He leads the "National Corps," the pseudo-paramilitary group being used to prevent Poroshenko from having a monopoly of force in play before/during the election. While Biletsky coordinates with Minister of Interior Avakov, Avakov (and Biletsky) don't control their creation entirely.

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From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:38 AM

Subject: RE: Reactions to The Hill - Friday updates.

Ukraine's Election Is a Mess—and That's Exactly What Putin Wants

A chaotic campaign, feuding oligarchs, and Russian disinformation efforts have combined to shake public faith in the electoral process....

...Since Ukrainians took to the streets to overthrow the Russian-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich in 2014, the country has become the front line of the West's new cold war with the Kremlin. Ukraine is considered Russia's biggest foreign policy priority, and Moscow-backed separatists have sliced off two separate parts of this former Soviet appendage: the Crimean Peninsula and a chunk of Eastern Ukraine. Three days before election day there were reports of mass armed searches and arrests targeting Crimean Tatars by Russian authorities. But Western countries, led by the United States, have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Ukraine and sent advisors to mentor the armed forces to stop the Russian advance. Ukraine is flirting with NATO and European Union membership, which would irrevocably alter both institutions. All of this means that Ukraine's elections are an inflection point for a country that is literally split between East and West. But the presidential vote in Ukraine is shrouded with mystery....

The biggest risk to Ukraine's vote is perception. Russia may attempt to hack the preliminary, projected results that appear on election day in an attempt to make Ukrainians doubt the final verified vote that comes out days later, experts and election officials say. The idea is to torpedo trust in the winner in a cunning blitz of psychological warfare. The polling places outside major cities are particularly at risk of cyberattack, an election official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Foreign Policy. "You don't even need to change the result—just by messing with the data, people will doubt the vote," said Kenneth Geers, a fellow at the Atlantic Council. "If having the Ukrainian vote lose legitimacy is your goal, that would be a powerful way to do it," he added.

At times, it feels like Russia will not have to do much to portray Ukraine's election as chaotic. Allegations of vote buying, wiretapping, and oligarchs funding candidates have already fueled doubts. More than 80 percent of Ukrainians believe that the elections will be rigged, one expert told a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty subsidiary. Even the United States has not been immune to the mudslinging.

Less than two weeks before election day, the country's prosecutor general, Yuriy Lutsenko, alleged in an interview with the Hill that the U.S. ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch, gave him a do-not-prosecute list in their first meeting. Lutsenko added that he was investigating whether anyone in Ukraine's government leaked financial records about former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort in order to support Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential run. (The State Department did not respond to questions, but the embassy has previously denied the story.) Although the story has zipped through the U.S. right-wing media, with the help of a tweet from President Donald Trump, experts view it with skepticism. Lutsenko offered no evidence to support his claim. Rather, it looks like an attempt from Poroshenko, the president, to convince senior Trump administration officials that he is an ally in case the elections are disputed. The logic is bizarre but relies on senior Trump administration officials backing Poroshenko because of his interest in investigating the Manafort leaks. If anything, the gambit has backfired already—a U.S. official told FP the embassy was "very angry." A spokesperson for Lutsenko said he was not available for interviews until after election day.

Yet this chaotic sentiment should not be cause for alarm, explained Liubov Tsybulska, the head of the Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group, which analyzes Russian disinformation campaigns. "I like that it's real democracy," she wrote in a text message. "Russians call it mess, but that's how free society does election." In fact, Ukraine's elections could not be any more different than Russia's, because current polls show the outcome is almost completely unpredictable. Of the three major candidates, Zelensky has consistently received the biggest vote in pre-election opinion surveys, but he has no political experience. He is the star of a popular TV show called *Servant of the People*, which is about a schoolteacher who accidentally becomes president of Ukraine. His politics are a mystery. Instead of traveling across Ukraine to give policy speeches, he has chosen to tour the country with stars from his production company. What is most suspect about Zelensky is that he models his candidacy on his television personality. Actors know that to make their character real they must draw on personal experiences. Zelensky has reversed this phenomenon.

"To some degree, maybe people really do have the feeling that the guy on screen and the guy in real life are one and the same person," Zelensky told reporters, according to the *Washington Post*. "This might even be true, to some extent." But no one knows how Zelensky will react when he encounters problems that lie outside the boundaries of a TV sitcom, like if Russia launches a cyberattack against the country's banks. Perhaps a scriptwriter will advise him. The other two major candidates—Poroshenko and Tymoshenko—do not share such an apolitical past.

Even Poroshenko's supporters admit that he has not done enough as president to fight corruption.

His campaign is plagued by an investigative report that found Poroshenko's allies were smuggling spare military parts from Russia and selling them at inflated prices to the Ukrainian military. For a country at war with Russia, the allegations have sparked ire. But Peter Dickinson, a fellow at the Atlantic Council, said that the claims may not be significant. "He has almost zero credibility as an anti-corruption crusader and therefore this issue is not an important part of his re-election bid," Dickinson wrote. "Poroshenko's electoral appeal is rooted in the notion of 'better the devil you know' and his presidential campaign rests on his ability to convince voters that he is the lesser of all available evils."

U.S. officials are skeptical of Tymoshenko, the country's former prime minister, and fear that she has a pro-Russian outlook. They point to a 2009 deal that Tymoshenko signed with then-Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to supply Ukraine with Russian gas. Steven Pifer, who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine during the Clinton administration, said Tymoshenko could also simply be a pragmatic politician who saw a personal political advantage in working with Putin. "She is pro-Tymoshenko," Pifer said. "She is also smart enough as a politician to know that anyone who gets elected and moves in a dramatically pro-Russian way is going to lose the country's support very quickly. Her views are flexible." Pifer argued that what is most worrying about Tymoshenko is her populist campaign to cut gas prices and raise pensions that would bankrupt the country and lead to the loss of crucial IMF funding.

The success of both initiatives will depend on Moscow's willingness to negotiate. And Ukraine's powerful oligarchs could shackle the future president. The oligarchs support different candidates in this election. Perhaps the two most influential—Poroshenko himself and the billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky—have feuded during this campaign. If the oligarchs don't come to a consensus and compromise on a presidential candidate, then there will be political gridlock, according to Victor Andrusiv, the head of the Ukrainian Institute for the Future think tank. Currently, there is little indication the country's richest men will come together.

"This is the first election where the oligarchs do not have a common candidate," Andrusiv said. "If there is no consensus, nobody can get power."

But Ukraine's next president may be at the mercy of larger forces. Parliamentary elections that take place this fall could thwart the president's agenda. The next president will be tasked with immediately renegotiating a gas deal with Russia and trying to end the war in the east.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/03/29/ukraines-election-is-a-mess-and-thats-exactly-what-putin-wants-russia-nato-european-union-poroshenko-zelensky-tymoshenko/>

—#2—

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Date: March 30, 2019 at 12:09:47 AM GMT+2

Subject: RE: Reactions to The Hill - Friday updates

Sara Carter just tweeted that she and John Solomon will appear on "Life, Liberty, and Levin" on Fox on Sunday, 10pm DC time. There's a clip in the below link where Solomon says that Hillary Clinton should be asked "were foreigners helping your campaign just like we heard in Ukraine?" No other references to Ukraine in the clip.

<https://insider.foxnews.com/2019/03/29/mark-levin-and-john-solomon-end-trump-mueller-probe-barack-obama-must-be-interviewed>

—#3: Novoye Vremya published a long interview today with Biletsky of National Corps. Below is a brief excerpt relating to Amb Y (rough translation)

- Question: Many Western experts have a negative attitude to the Ukrainian right-wing movement. Here is a phrase from the monitoring of specialists who deal with right-wing radical movements: "Activists and patriots of Ukraine repeatedly attacked people with non-Slavic appearance on the street." Rejection of the actions of the Ukrainian right-wing is also expressed in the US Embassy.

- Answer: Let's talk about the US Embassy or similar organizations.

In the West, there is a grand internal struggle. Western society is split about 50 to 50 between the liberals, who are literally neo-Marxists and conservatives, and the right, whatever you like to call them. We see this split in all countries: Italy, Austria, USA. In the States, the Democratic conflict is not even with the Republicans, but with the Trump-ists, who are much more conservative.

US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch here represents the State Department, which in principle was the last stronghold of the Democrats, where the Trump-ists have not yet reached. The State Department is the fortress of the democratic party, the outpost of the liberals. And Yovanovitch actually reflects this political force. We can say the same about the French Embassy.

Western embassies are controlled by the liberal wing, and in Ukraine such diplomats continue the line of struggle that they lead in their homeland.

Sender:	Reeker, Philip T (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechtbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/04/01 00:52:36

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Ukr statements of support for Ambassador/relationship
Date:	2019/03/22 17:23:30
Type:	Note

So that you have an electronic version to reference in addition to the printout. Thanks!

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(b)(6)

Office of the Counselor

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 11:28 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: FW: Ukr statements of support for Ambassador/relationship

Hi! AA/S Reeker asked that this gets shared w/ C. There are 3 emails below, each an update to the previous.

TY!

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:20 AM

To: (b)(6) Reeker, Philip T (b)(6) Murphy, Michael J

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

(b)(6) Eggleston, Brett A (b)(6)

Cc: Hill, Fiona EOP/NSC (b)(6) (U) Vindman, Alexander S (Kyiv | EOP)

(b)(6) (b)(6) Freden, Bradley A

(b)(6)

Subject: Ukr statements of support for Ambassador/relationship

FYI the Ukr Deputy FM who oversees relations with the US, Sergiy Kyslytsya, messaged me just now to offer regrets for not having gotten a Ukrainian government message of support/correction of the record out yesterday, after the CoDel Crepo meeting with FM Klimkin. He said flat out that had been a mistake on their part, and that the press line the MFA drafted yesterday had been "useless and served no purpose." The comments/statement issued by President Poroshenko today were drafted jointly by DFM Kyslytsya working with Ukr national security adviser Yeliseiev and MFA Acting Americas DG Slava Brisiuck, Kyslytsya indicated.

From: Kent, George P

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:08 AM

To: (b)(6) Reeker, Philip T (b)(6) Murphy, Michael J

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

(b)(6) Eggleston, Brett A (b)(6)

Cc: Hill, Fiona EOP/NSC (b)(6) (U) Vindman, Alexander S (Kyiv | EOP)

(b)(6)

Subject: Ukr FM Klimkin statement Supports U.S. Ambassador Yovanovitch

...and also from the FM/MFA. We had asked to hear from both Poroshenko and Klimkin, and both did so.

(below a wire service piece translated from Ukrainian by our embassy in Kyiv). Klimkin statements based on his comments to CODEL Crepo, which was in Kyiv yesterday.

Ukrinform: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperates fruitfully with Ambassador Yovanovitch and is grateful to her team for partnership

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine fruitfully cooperates with the US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch and thanks the American diplomat and her team for their contribution to building strategic partnership between our states.

This was stated to Ukrinform by MFA Spokesperson MFA Kateryna Zelenko.

"Pavlo Klimkin maintains excellent relations with the US ambassador, and we also highly appreciate the personal role of Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch and her team in building a strategic partnership between our states," Zelenko said.

She informed that the issues of the statements made by the Prosecutor General, Yuriy Lutsenko, concerning the US ambassador to Ukraine were raised during yesterday's meeting of [Foreign Minister] Pavlo Klimkin with a delegation of American senators and congressmen, and today during an interview with the Western media.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine clearly stated that the US is our strategic ally and friend. He emphasized that we are grateful for the steady support of the United States in countering Russian aggression, strengthening sanctions on the Russian Federation, facilitating reforms in Ukraine and achieving European and Euro-Atlantic standards," emphasized the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As reported, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko in an interview with The Hill stated that the US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch gave him a list of people to "not be prosecuted".

Lutsenko also said he was investigating interference from Ukraine in the US elections in favor of Clinton.

The State Department of the United States said that the statements of the Attorney General of Ukraine are not true and aim to tarnish the reputation of Ambassador Yovanovitch.

President Petro Poroshenko in his speech at the celebrations on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Security Service of Ukraine noted the important role of the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, in promoting Ukraine-US relations, and stated that she had his full support.

<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-politics/2665250-mzs-plidno-spivpracue-z-poslom-jovanovic-i-vdacne-ii-komandi-za-partnerstvo-zelenko.html>

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:24 AM

To: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6); Murphy, Michael J (b)(6); (b)(6)

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

Cc: Hill, Fiona EOP/NSC (b)(6); (U) Vindman, Alexander S (Kyiv | EOP)

(b)(6)

Subject: Poroshenko statement Supports U.S. Ambassador Yovanovitch

Note: this is the response we got after AAS Reeker demarched the Ukrainian embassy yesterday and made clear our expectation for a statement from Poroshenko (b)(5)

Has been shared with Exec Sec Kenna, and S special traveling with Secretary Pompeo, depExecSec Karen Enstrom indicates.

From Poroshenko's Remarks at an SBU (security service) event (as translated by EMB):

I want to highlight that Ukraine highly appreciates relations with its strategic partner - the U.S. - based on clear bipartisan support. Our relations with Washington have never been

so efficient and productive as they are today. As the Head of State I personally contributed great efforts to this and really appreciate this valuable asset of our international policy. In this context, I'd like to mention the important role of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine – Marie Yovanovitch – in advancing U.S.-Ukraine relations. I stress – she as the representative of the United States and the President of the United States Donald Trump, a great friend of Ukraine and great friend of mine, has my full support.

Tweet from President Poroshenko's spokesperson (translated):

President: I want to note the important role of the US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch in promoting Ukrainian-American relations. As the representative of the United States and good friend of Ukraine, President Donald Trump, she has my full support.

Posted on the Presidential website:

<https://www.president.gov.ua/news/ukrayina-cinuye-vidnosini-strategichnogo-partnerstva-zi-ssha-54142>

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/22 17:23:29
Delivered Date:	2019/03/22 17:23:30

From:	Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: Ukr fake news smear: Thursday Updates
Date:	2019/04/01 00:30:14
Type:	Note

Ulrich,

We sent this up to David Hale in your absence last week. It's a good summary of the story lines being peddled in the this, with good balance of facts. Reading through helps with context.

Phil

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Reeker, Philip T; Murphy, Michael J; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Ukr fake news smear: Thursday Updates

The daily update of the fake news driven smear out of Ukraine:

- Podcast from a US amplifier (Bongino) involved in last week's first wave tweeting goes after Masha multiple times, and mixes in the latest "soros funding" storyline launched this week.
- The key Ukrainian anti-corruption NGO (AnTAC) smeared as a Soros organization mounts a spirited defense via transparency and fact-checking.
- *Newsweek* reporting article out last night.
- The fake list of alleged "do not prosecute" names posted on the dubious site Medium was from an "author" that apparently does not exist – no known profile, and only one follower. This is a common tactic to create "facts in the ether" then picked up later.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 7:37 AM
Subject: RE: Thursday Updates on The Hill Article

As mentioned in an earlier email, there was a new Dan Bongino podcast relating to Ukraine published yesterday. AMB Y was frequently mentioned by name throughout it. Here is a brief summary:

Main takeaway:

Bongino mentions the Ambassador multiple times during his speech, stresses her name and makes it a point that his viewers should remember her full name. According to Bongino, "...the lead of this story is the Obama administration co-mingled diplomatic U.S. efforts -- funded by

your taxpayer dollars -- with political attacks from liberal mega-donors [Soros]," claiming that this story will be "a neutron bomb level bombshell."

--

[Ukraine references start around 17:20] ... "that real collusion scandal involves the media, the Democrats, Russian operatives, and Ukraine." Bongino relates to the latest story on The.Hill by John Solomon, reads the headline "US Embassy pressed Ukraine to drop probe of George Soros group during 2016 election", and an excerpt of a paragraph.

When reading the part about U.S. Embassy's alleged involvement, Bongino stresses that he's "talking about **OUR ambassador - U.S. ambassador!**" He later continues, "So, the Ukrainian Attorney General is saying that the **United States Ambassador**, a woman by the name -- remember this name -- **Marie Yovanovitch** -- REMEMBER the name -- gave him a list of people that should not be prosecuted in the Ukraine." Bongino finishes by reading the next paragraph from The.Hill piece.

He then shifts to his book and makes a reference to Alexandra Chalupa, "a DNC operative, [...] alleged to work hand-in-hand with Ukrainian officials in the United States and the media to feed stories about Manafort", explaining Manafort's position in Ukraine and his role in the Trump presidential campaign. Bongino continues, "we now find out that the **U.S. Ambassador** -- remember the NAME -- this is gonna get good folks, I promise you, I've got some GOOD intel on this -- **Marie Yovanovitch** gives the Ukrainian, effectively, Attorney General a list of people [to] do not prosecute, because they're investigating this group AntAC for corruption and as it turns out, the group is being funded by our tax dollars via the Obama administration and also a liberal mega-donor George Soros". [21:12]

Bongino gets heated about the "fact" that democratic political consultants were being funded by U.S. tax dollars and stresses "These were not diplomatic efforts!"

He then references an old POLITICO piece from 2009 about the Obama administration political consultants coming to Ukraine (<https://www.politico.com/story/2009/11/obama-consultants-land-abroad-029410>). "These are not DIPLOMATS on behalf of the United States, folks! These are paid political consultants, working in the free market, who should be financed not even a [centiloid?] with your tax dollars!"

Also, Bongino drops a reference to John McCain being accused of Russian collusion back in the days of the Bush administration, the "same attack tried on Trump", which was nipped in the bud, according to Bongino, due to President Bush not allowing such attacks [by the Democrats].

Bongino going back to the Solomon piece, again mentioning U.S. taxpayer dollars being spent on funding political attacks and co-mingling with Soros ... "and suspiciously, the **United States Ambassador**, who is the highest diplomat in Ukraine for the United States, Joe [co host], then conveniently gives the Ukrainians a list of people "don't touch these people", according to the report, at least"... "and on that list are people associated with the group funded by George Soros and YOU!" -- stresses and repeats the point multiple times that U.S. taxpayer money is being used to go "after the political opponents of the Obama administration in Ukraine".

[28:42] "**The U.S. ambassador** is alleged to have told them not to touch these people, while they were using Manafort and the history of Manafort to fabricate a phony dossier through Steele to then go after and spy on Trump in the United States and his team!"

[31:40] "Two final points", Bongino continues, "the real collusion here is the Ukrainian collusion with the Obama administration and serious allegations that **Marie Yovanovitch**, Alexandra Chalupa, the DNC, and others are knee-deep in this whole thing in an effort to launder

information to the Ukraine, into the United States, while U.S. tax dollars are [used] to fund the group associated with George Soros."

Bongino continues with the Soros narrative, liberals, antisemitism, liberal attacks on free speech and briefly mentions Ukrainian AG Lutsenko and The Hill article.

Bongino's "final story" related to Ukraine is in reference to Joe Biden and his son, John Kerry and his step son, as well as Kerry's former political consultant, and their activities in Ukraine.

"Are any of those people [associated with Joe Biden's son] going to appear on a 'do not prosecute' list?", he asks in conclusion [end approx. at 37:45].

Official - SBU

DeControlled

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:55 AM

Subject: RE: Thursday Updates on The Hill Article

AntAC responds to allegations in The Hill's column:

Daria Kaleniuk posted in English on Facebook:

On Tuesday The Hill journalist John Solomon published a manipulative oped based on speculative and untrue quotes from Yuri Lutsenko.

Among other crazy statements Solomon called Lutsenko "widely regarded as a hero in the West for spending two years in prison after fighting Russian aggression in his country".

Lutsenko was actually well known on the West, but as a "hero" for his drunken and disorderly conduct in Frankfurt airport, where he was detained by the police in 2009 while serving as a Minister of Interior Affairs of Ukraine - <https://reut.rs/2FFxWhn>. And he was serving in prison not for fighting Russian aggression, but for embezzlement of state funds.

In the oped Solomon was attempting to drag AntAC into the internal political discussion within the US. He played with facts and part-truth to put a story on alleged mystical collusion between AntAC, NABU, Soros, US Embassy, Obama and FBI to intervene into the US presidential elections back in 2016.

I wish we could have such an influence and power at AntAC to be able to intervene into the presidential elections of the most powerful nation on the world. If we were that powerful Yuri Lutsenko would not have been appointed at the post of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and Ukraine would have been in much better conditions than it is now.

Immediately the messages from Solomon were spread by FoxNews to feed the internal political debates in the US.

I wonder who were Solomon and Lutsenko consultants in the US who helped to build up and play with the story. This must be not a cheap operation. Or could Solomon himself serve as undeclared lobbyist? Will The Hill take a responsibility for disseminating lies? Would TheHill give us oped place to tell the true version of the story?

In the post-truth era we can fight manipulations only with facts.

Below is AntAC rebuttal of all fake messages from Solomon and Lutsenko:

<https://antac.org.ua/.../hero-lutsenko-and-soros-group-antac.../>

Information from that ANTAC Link (information was published in English)

ANTAC: “Hero” Lutsenko and “Soros group”: AntAC rebuts new accusations of The Hill

journalist

The opinion article, which was published on March 26 on The Hill media platform, contained a number of allegations regarding AntAC. We would like to offer our fact check and explanations.

Quote from the opinion article: “While the 2016 presidential race was raging in America, Ukrainian prosecutors ran into some unexpectedly strong headwinds as they pursued an investigation into the activities of a nonprofit in their homeland known as the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC).

The focus on AntAC was part of a larger probe by Ukraine’s Prosecutor General’s Office into whether \$4.4 million in U.S. funds to fight corruption inside the former Soviet republic had been improperly diverted.

The prosecutors soon would learn the resistance they faced was blowing directly from the U.S.

Embassy in Kiev, where the Obama administration took the rare step of trying to press the Ukrainian government to back off its investigation of both the U.S. aid and the group.”

The criminal case into alleged embezzlement of U.S. technical assistance of 4 million USD of the US taxpayers money which had to be spent on the PGO’s reforms was opened on March 16, 2016 by the Prosecutor General’s Office under the leadership of the previous Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin.

On April 4, 2016 the PGO received the letter from the U.S. Embassy.

Yuriy Lutsenko, who was appointed to the position of the Prosecutor General in May 2016, fully agreed that the allegations were groundless, he even said that they ‘simply dishonor the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine’.

As soon as Lutsenko was appointed, the case was closed in May 2016 by the PGO.

“Yuri Lutsenko, widely regarded as a hero in the West for spending two years in prison after fighting Russian aggression in his country, was named prosecutor general and invited to meet new U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch.”

Firstly, Yuri Lutsenko is widely regarded in the West as “hero” for his drunken and disorderly conduct in Frankfurt airport, where he was detained by the police in 2009 while serving as a Minister of Interior Affairs of Ukraine.

Secondly, Yuri Lutsenko was sentenced to four years in prison in early 2012, this was two years before Russian aggression that started in 2014. Allegations against Lutsenko were for embezzlement of funds of the Ministry of Interior under his leadership and abuse of office resulting in illicit allocation of state-owned apartment to his former driver, facilitating illicit social security payments to this person and illicit allocation of funds for the celebration of the Militia (police) day in 2008-2009. He was charged with

causing damages of \$125,000 to the state. Lutsenko submitted a claim to the European Court of Human Rights and in 2012 the court ruled that Lutsenko's arrest and subsequent detention violated the European Convention on Human Rights.

"Lutsenko told me he was stunned when the ambassador "gave me a list of people whom we should not prosecute." The list included a founder of the AntAC group and two members of Parliament who vocally supported the group's anti-corruption reform agenda, according to a source directly familiar with the meeting."

During the first possible meeting of Madam Ambassador with Lutsenko, which could not have happened earlier than late August 2016, there were no ongoing criminal prosecutions against AntAC Head of Board Vitaliy Shabunin.

The criminal case against AntAC on alleged embezzlement of the U.S. taxpayers money was already closed for around 3 months.

The criminal investigation into Shabunin's punch of a bully-provocateur, which took place on June 8, 2017, was triggered in summer 2017. There is an ongoing trial in this case in the court.

"It turns out the group that Ukrainian law enforcement was probing was co-funded by the Obama administration and liberal mega-donor George Soros."

AntAC was founded in the end of 2011 by Vitaliy Shabunin and Daria Kaleniuk, who formerly were activists of youth NGO "Foundation of Regional Initiatives". In 2012 AntAC was functioning without any financial support as a volunteer project of its founders.

In 2013 the NGO received first funding as a subgrant from the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDs supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the public monitoring of public procurement of medications in Ukraine.

"In the end, no action was taken against AntAC and it remains thriving today."

This is not true. The action was taken in May 2016 – the PGO closed the criminal case "due to the absence of criminal offence." However, no-one from PGO officers who abused the power triggering criminal investigation on AntAC was punished disregarding organization's requests.

Information PGO obtained through the course of the investigation (banking statements) was later repeatedly leaked to media with the goal to discredit the organization.

"After the Obama Justice Department launched its Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative a decade ago to prosecute corruption in other countries, the State Department, Justice Department and FBI outsourced some of its work in Ukraine to groups funded by Soros."

In December 2013 in the middle of the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine AntAC launched a campaign on freezing foreign assets of Ukraine's former President Yanukovych and his associates. AntAC was running a webpage yanukovich.info, which gathered all publicly available facts about corrupt assets of Yanukovych's allies and mapped the role of Western lawyers, banks and companies in covering and enabling grand corruption. The campaign was funded via crowdfunding from concerned citizens and was not financially supported by neither government of the U.S. nor Soros foundation.

Within the campaign AntAC reached out to the law enforcement agencies in the EU, Switzerland, the U.S. with request to investigate foreign assets of Yanukovych and his associates. DoJ Kleptocracy Asset

Recovery initiative was part of a long list of foreign law enforcement agencies AntAC reached out in December 2013 – February 2014.

“One key U.S. partner was AntAC, which received 59 percent (or \$1 million) of its nearly \$1.7 million budget since 2012 from U.S. budgets tied to State and Justice, and nearly \$290,000 from Soros’s International Renaissance Foundation, according to the group’s donor disclosure records.”

Apart from the projects, funded by abovementioned donors U.S. government and Open Society foundations, since 2013 AntAC was funded by a wide range of other donors, including:

§ The Global Fund via All-Ukraine Charitable Organization “All-Ukrainian Network of People living with HIV/AIDS”

§ The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands via Matra program

§ The Embassy of the United Kingdom

§ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

§ European Union

§ Donations from individuals/legal entities

“The U.S.-Soros collaboration was visible in Kiev. Several senior Department of Justice (DOJ) officials and FBI agents appeared in pictures as participants or attendees at Soros-sponsored events and conferences.”

Right after the victory of the Revolution of Dignity and runaway of former President Yanukovich from Ukraine, AntAC activists were invited to the meetings with law enforcement officers from various countries willing to help Ukraine in tracing proceeds of corruption of ousted president Yanukovich. AntAC also met with representatives from DOJ and shared with them all publicly available information the organization gathered on corrupt officials under Yanukovich regime.

Recovery of proceeds of corruption of Yanukovich and his associates was one of the key priorities of work of AntAC, which was organizing specialized asset recovery conference in Ukraine in 2014, 2015, 2016. Law enforcement officers from Ukraine and abroad were invited to these conferences, including Karen Greenaway. Apart from DOJ officials there were Ukrainian (including PGO), Italian, British, Swiss law enforcement officers speaking and participating at AntAC asset recovery conferences.

“Greenaway recently retired, and Soros’s AntAC soon after announced she was joining its supervisory board.”

In February 2019 Karen Greenaway agreed to join AntAC Supervisory Board after she will finish her other professional obligations.

AntAC Supervisory Board membership is a non-paid commitment from distinguished professionals who care about Ukraine and countering grand political corruption. Among AntAC Supervisory Board members there are Francis Fukuyama from Stanford University, Giovanni Kessler, former head of the EU Anti-Fraud Office, Oliver Bullough, British author and investigative journalists, Oleksa Shalayskyi, head of Nashi Groshi investigative project in Ukraine.

“Senior U.S. law enforcement officials confirmed to me that the early kleptocracy collaborations inside Ukraine led to highly visible U.S. actions against the oligarch Dmitri Firtash, a major target of the

Soros group, and Manafort. Firtash is now represented by former Hillary Clinton lawyer Lanny Davis and former U.S. Attorney Dan Webb.

Dmitri Firtash was never a **major** target of the Anti-corruption Action Centre.

AntAC collects publicly available evidence of alleged corruption and money laundering of **all** oligarchs in Ukraine, as well as **all** top corrupt officials. AntAC has been doing this under the regime of ousted president Yanukovich and continues to do that under the new government leaded by President Poroshenko since spring 2014.

“Ukrainian NGO Anticorruption Action Centre (AntAC) petitioned the United States Justice Department on behalf of Ukrainian civil society to dedicate the nearly \$3 million in forfeited and seized assets allegedly laundered by former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, to creating an anti-corruption training facility,” a 2015 foundation document stated.

In 2013 AntAC submitted a petition to the DoJ with request to repatriate \$250mln proceeds of corruption of Pavlo Lazarenko, a former Prime Minister of Ukraine, convicted in the US for money laundering back in 2006. Since 2004, the U.S. government started in rem forfeiture procedure aiming at recovery of proceeds of crime. The procedure is still pending.

In the petition supported by more than 10 civil society organizations AntAC called the US government to refrain from repatriation of stolen assets back to the corrupt government of Ukraine at that time headed by Yanukovich, which could steal them again. AntAC called the US Government to consider the success story of repatriating proceeds of corruption to Kazakhstan, where independent BOTA foundation was set up for the repatriation of proceeds of corruption. In 2015, AntAC updated the petition given the abrupt changes in the country and emerged news in media claiming that Lazarenko’s funds were about to be confiscated by the DoJ.

“Spokespersons for AntAC and Open Society Foundations did not respond to repeated requests for comment.”

AntAC did not receive any requests for the comments by John Solomon following recent Lutsenko’s interview. The only request from him to provide answers to the questions was received back in October 2018 (six months before publication of Lutsenko’s interview). At that time, AntAC did not provide any response to Solomon after the background checks on him. AntAC became aware of John Solomon’s controversial reputation in American media for spreading manipulative and biased messages. For instance, last year, the staffers of the Hill expressed their concerns over Solomon’s biased reporting. AntAC was rightfully concerned that our answers would be misused and manipulated by Solomon.

Also, here’s a post by Mykola Bieliskov, blogger, Institute of World Policy (rough translation to English) :

This stream of publications of The Hill is an interesting connection of internal disputes in Ukraine with internal disputes in the U.S.

But whatever that was, these articles would not do anything good for Ukrainian-American relations. The hit will not be against the image of individual Ukrainians, but the image of the country as a whole. It's harder to tell why Washington should help Kyiv. It can be expected that in the United States there will be those who will begin to demand an investigation into the misuse of U.S. taxpayer money in Ukraine.

And tell me this is the price that some politicians are willing to pay for setting the scores within the country? !!

I personally feel very disappointed to watch it all.

Official - SBU

DeControlled

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:18 AM

Subject: Thursday Updates on The Hill Article

Below is a Newsweek article published last night. Commentator Dan Bongino also issued a new podcast in which he discusses Ukraine; we will send a brief synopsis of this a bit later today, once we've had a chance to listen. Ukraine and George Soros continue to be widely discussed on social media, and the latest Hill column continues to be frequently shared on Twitter.

Newsweek: How Donald Trump and Sean Hannity are promoting theory Ukraine interfered in 2016 election to help Hillary Clinton

As Ukraine prepares for its presidential elections on March 31, collusion with a foreign country and President Donald Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort have made their way into the public discourse. And President Trump, his son Donald Trump Jr., and the president's favorite television presenter Sean Hannity are helping the conversation along, alleging that anti-corruption leaders in Ukraine tried to sway the U.S. election in favor of Hillary Clinton.

It all started on March 5, when U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch criticized the country's record on corruption, pointing to a recent high court decision to decriminalize illicit enrichment—when a public official has significant increases to their wealth or assets that cannot be explained by their income. Ambassador Yovanovitch specifically noted that the high court's decision weakens Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau, a law enforcement body established after a pro-Western movement ousted pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich in 2014.

From there, Ukraine's officials went on the offensive, appearing to target the bureau. Ukraine's Prosecutor General, Yuriy Lutsenko, announced on U.S.-based Hill Television earlier this month that he was opening a probe into alleged efforts by Ukrainians to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Those efforts, he said, involved the head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Artem Sytnyk. He also alleged that U.S. ambassador Yovanovitch had attempted to pressure him not to prosecute certain people, a claim the State Department denied in an email to *Radio Free Europe*.

Lutsenko alleged that Sytnyk published information about secret payments from Ukraine's former President Yanukovich's party to Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort in order to hurt the Trump campaign. The bureau says the information was published in the name of transparency, not to influence the U.S. election.

The prosecutor also told *The Hill* this month that he is expanding the inquiry into whether Sytnyk was trying to sway the 2016 elections in favor of Clinton. Conservative television presenter Sean Hannity then invited the reporter from *The Hill* onto his show to repeat the claims. Trump, who watches Hannity's show and reportedly speaks with the television presenter frequently, then promoted Lutsenko's narrative. "As Russia Collusion fades, Ukrainian plot to help Clinton emerges," Trump tweeted on March 20. Sytnyk played a central role in discovering and publishing secret records, nicknamed the "black ledger," with information about \$12.7 million in undisclosed cash payments made by Yanukovich's party to Manafort from 2007 and 2012. The anti-corruption bureau alleges that Yanukovich stole from Ukrainian taxpayers in order to pay Manafort. The former Trump campaign manager had worked as a political consultant for Yanukovich for years.

On Wednesday, a Swedish broadcaster revealed that a shell company that Yanukovich allegedly used for accepting bribes also made payments to a company, Inlord Sales LLP, which transferred funds to Manafort.

But some members of Ukraine's government—who are eager to curry favor with the Trump administration to gain U.S. support in their own fight against Russian interference—have tried to frame Sytnyk's revelation about the payments to Manafort as an attempt to hurt Trump's campaign. Previous reports suggested that Ukraine's government may have stopped cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Manafort so that the Trump administration would sell the country lethal weapons with which to defend itself from pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. And a Ukrainian court ruled in December last year that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau's transparency efforts were an attempt to influence U.S. elections.

Olga Lautman, an investigator covering Russia and the former Soviet Union, told *Newsweek* that Lutsenko recently met with Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani in Washington, and that the efforts to create a narrative about people in Ukraine working to help Clinton and hurt Trump was coordinated with Republican leaders.

"Manafort is at the heart of this investigation and Lutsenko is investigating how Manafort's black ledger files were leaked and whether this was an attempt to sway the election in Hillary Clinton's favor," Lautman told *Newsweek*. "This is all a very poorly orchestrated attempt between Prosecutor General Lutsenko, Trump, and the Republican Party, who are now vowing to open their own investigations into the matter to deflect from Russia's attack on America to Ukraine's 'involvement' with Hillary Clinton." Michael Carpenter, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense in charge of Russia and Ukraine, argues that an investigation into Manafort's work in Ukraine should not be politicized.

"It's outrageous that anyone would question the motive of Ukrainian authorities for investigating Paul Manafort—a corrupt political hack who worked for Ukraine's disgraced, kleptocratic former president," Carpenter told *Newsweek*. "Manafort's a convicted felon who committed financial fraud in the United States, and he may have committed similar crimes in Ukraine, so why wouldn't they investigate him? Even more appalling, however, is that the investigation was reportedly stymied by senior Ukrainian officials because they thought it would upset Trump."

"Whether they arrived at that conclusion on their own or whether Trump advisors like Rudy Giuliani helped guide them to that realization remains an open question," Carpenter added.

Conservative U.S. media have focused on U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Yovanovitch, pointing out that former President Barack Obama had appointed her.

"Calls to remove former President Barack Obama's U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, have intensified over the last week as a scandal in Ukraine surrounding the 2016 U.S. presidential election has started to gain more attention," reads a March 24 article in the *Daily Wire*, a conservative website founded by political commentator Ben Shapiro.

The article cited claims that former Congressman Pete Sessions had written a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asking for Yovanovitch to be removed. The U.S. president's son Donald Trump Jr. then tweeted the article.

"We need more @RichardGrenell's and less of these jokers as ambassadors. Calls Grow To Remove Obama's U.S. Ambassador To Ukraine," Donald Trump Jr. Tweeted, referring to Trump's pick for ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell.

Grenell has been widely criticized for lacking experience and offending U.S. allies during his short tenure as U.S. ambassador to Germany.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau issued a statement saying Lutsenko's claims about U.S. election interference are an effort to "discredit an independent anti-corruption agency."

"The NABU's jurisdiction is to expose and eradicate corruption offenses committed by Ukrainian top-officials," the statement reads. "Therefore, during the investigations, the NABU Detectives have never collected evidence as of illegal activities of Paul Manafort, as he was beyond the competence of the National Bureau.... We remind that the NABU published information mentioning the presence of Paul Manafort's name among others on the pages of the so-called 'black ledger' in response to numerous requests from Ukrainian and foreign media in order to avoid any speculations."

<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-sean-hannity-theory-ukraine-colluded-hillary-clinton-1376867>

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 4:24 AM

Subject: RE: Countering disinfo: A crude fake list, and a genuine business card from 2015

Hi George,

PAS Kyiv concurs with you – we do not see evidence to suggest Tony Sealy is a real individual. The Medium account in his name appears to have been created solely to publish this one piece of information. His account has only one follower, no profile information, and only this one post about the alleged “list.”

Regards,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kent, George P [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10:04 PM

Subject: Countering disinfo: A crude fake list, and a genuine business card from 2015

+ [REDACTED] (b)(6) and [REDACTED] (b)(6) minus those not in the disinformation trenches

One wonders why they didn't bother to do a bit more quality control in the fake list. Thankfully, those behind the crude forgery had not gone to the Gene Fishel school of how the USG spells Ukrainian names in transliteration. There are only two of the 13 names spelled how I would, or USG officials should, spell them. Or even close alternative spellings – the frequent use of “j” and the “c” for Hrytsenko suggests a Balkan (or Czech?) predilection for spelling Slavic names – certainly not Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, or Polish practice. And some of them are people I have never met (and one I had never heard of – Aleksandr (sic) Pasenyuk – judge of the high administrative court). This is a classic disinfo play – start with the three amigos that everyone knows have been close to us, add corrupt associates that Lutsenko can then point to as “I would have prosecuted them, but the US embassy told me not to,” and some other random names.

The business card attached is the one I used in 2015 during 3 A/DCM stints – not only the title, but the temporary email [REDACTED] (b)(6). When I returned to Kyiv in March 2016 full time, I transferred my email account from DC, switching to my normal [REDACTED] (b)(6) email.

If anyone has ever heard of the supposed author, Tony Sealy, or found evidence that he is a real person, please forward to Tyler/me. We did a quick google search this morning, could find no such evidence, and wonder if he is a real person.

Medium is a known platform for anyone to put anything on the web, furthering a suspicion this may be creating “facts on the web” that can be used in future pieces.

Jorje

Sender:	Reeker, Philip T [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U [REDACTED] (b)(6)
	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/04/01 00:30:14

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	C_Schedulers /o=SBUState/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=C_Schedulerse8b <C_Schedulers@state.gov>
Subject:	FW: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)
Date:	2019/03/22 21:44:42
Type:	Note

Sir – more from Amb. Reeker below. I've printed it out and will put in your inbox.

--

(b)(6)

Office of the Counselor

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:27 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: C_Schedulers <C_Schedulers@state.gov>

Subject: FW: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)

Can you also pass this onto C from AA/S Reeker? It has to do w/ what I sent you before. Thanks!

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:19 PM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL <EUR-UkraineDesk-DL@state.gov>

Subject: FW: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)

And the (nonsensical) beat goes on . . .

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:09 PM

To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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(b)(6) (b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

(b)(6) (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6)

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

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

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)

@JackPosobiec of One America News Network (with about 440 thousand followers) tweeted about 15 minutes ago: "U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Maria [sic] Yovanovitch, an Obama holdover, has told U.S. Embassy employees and Ukrainian officials that they need not pay attention to Trump since he is going to be impeached."

(This appears to be the line stated by DiGenova on the air with Hannity a couple days ago; just flagging that it is being recirculated now by a Twitter user with a large number of followers, in case it leads to new press inquiries in DC, etc)

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Date: March 22, 2019 at 7:16:20 PM GMT+2

To: 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) [REDACTED] (b)(6)

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

[REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

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

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)

Summary of the Dan Bongino video mentioned in my previous email:

- The video is an hour long; the first 20 minutes are on Ukraine (and then he transitions out of the Ukraine story to focus on Senator McCain).
- No references to U.S. Embassy, State Department, or U.S. diplomatic personnel.
- Very brief overview of the commentary in the video: There was no Russian collusion, but there is taped evidence of Ukrainian collusion. The host summarized the Hill article about how Ukraine is investigating Ukrainian interference in the U.S. election. The host discussed how Obama and Clinton consultants were active in Ukraine; Manafort was working for Yanukovych, Clinton people were working for Tymoshenko, and Obama people were working for Yushchenko. American consultants were getting rich in Ukraine. The Obama people had been involved in Ukraine's election, so the Ukrainians were probably paying back a favor by feeding the USG info on Manafort to help Clinton. Biden's son Hunter had connections in Ukraine too, on the board of a natural gas company. Manafort knew what Obama and Clinton's people were up to in Ukraine, so he needed to be silenced. A Fusion GPS employee said one of their sources of info to help Clinton was a lawmaker named Sergey Lushenko (assume he meant to say Leshchenko, unless there's another lawmaker I'm unaware of with a similar name).

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:36 PM

To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

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

(b)(6) PassisLL@state.gov>; Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article (Giuliani Tweet etc)

See tweet below from Rudy Giuliani, directing people to content released by Dan Bongino (host of The Dan Bongino Show Podcast and a Fox News Contributor, per his Twitter profile). The Dan Bongino video is an hour long. I'll try to skim through and get key points now....

Rudy Giuliani Verified account @RudyGiuliani 50m50 minutes ago

Pay attention to @dbongino for an analysis of some real collusion between Hillary, Kerry and Biden people colluding with Ukrainian operatives to make money and affect 2016 election.

Dan Bongino Verified account @dbongino 24m24 minutes ago

Joe Biden is going to have A LOT of explaining to do regarding Ukraine. A LOT.

Dan Bongino Verified account @dbongino 15m15 minutes ago

The Ukrainian collusion with the anti-Trump crowd is the REAL scandal. Don't miss my show where I break it all down. Joe Biden has some explaining to do. Watch free here <https://t.co/Co2utkkAdJ>

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:55 PM

To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

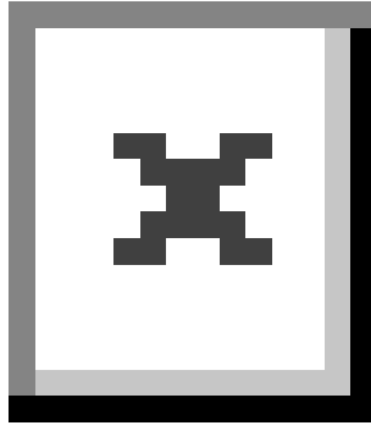
(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

More social media reactions from Ukraine:

The following parody on a Soviet slogan, featuring Lutsenko's image, is circulating on social media (posted by the Anti-Corruption Action Center):



cid:image005.jpg@01D4E0D8.5A497BB0

“Put your green dollar back into your tranche – we will stop the State Department’s revenge!”

Journalist Marina- Danuluk-Yarmolaeva:

For ICTV Factly: About how our system wants to dress Marie Yovanovitch in warm boots and to flatter with the vocabulary of the grandmothers, and she resists. Haha

"If the 60-year-old Marie Yovanovitch was Ukrainian and not a career diplomat, and the seller of pastry at the a train station market, Lyashko would compete with Groysman for her.

She would have been lured both by the boots, and by the subsidies, and by the hundredth hryvnya on the top of it. But Marie Yovanovitch is the U.S. ambassador and any obscure clashes of our stars [sarcastically: means Lutsenko] with an influential figure are only exposing them in a bad light " *link to column:* https://fakty.com.ua/ua/opinion/babusyni-gamashi-dlya-mari-jovanovych-yak-nasha-systema-opyrayetsya-zdorovomu-gluzdu/?fbclid=IwAR3pJxeISrju_FZ1WRky6uybR1S9DiVeesi3h2LHdjgsIYZJTAi3KZuFpgc]

Mykola Katerenchuk, politician:

Lutsenko's attack on Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch 10 days before the election is an attempt by the current authorities to neutralize the U.S. ambassador, and cast doubt on

her reputation within Ukraine. Why? "Because Poroshenko is not going to win the election honestly, but declare himself president, using large-scale falsifications." The United States, of course, does not recognize such elections. And to talk about this, in the first place, will be the U.S. ambassador, giving a signal to the State Department and the rest of the world.

But it turned out exactly the opposite. After the top-breaking news about Ukraine in the world was corruption in Ukroboronprom and Svynarchuk, now the top news in the world will be the allegations and fight of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine against the United States. We are going our own way,[Poroshenko's campaign slogan] that's for sure!

Daria Kaleniuk of Opora:

Do you think the Prosecutor General has spring exacerbation of schizophrenia?

But, it seems, we are not lucky, and the Prosecutor General is still mentally sound, and his schizophrenic statement to the American media The Hill tries to achieve two things:

1. To discredit in Ukraine the ambassador of the United States Marie Yovanovitch for public demand to dismiss the head of the SAPO and strong criticism of the reform of the Supreme Court

Remind you that the U.S. Embassy in 2014-2016 in every way supported the reform of the GPU and even funded a cool American adviser to Lutsenko. But at some point in the embassy, it became clear that the reforms of Yuri Vitaliyovich are only beautiful speeches, so they completely stopped cooperation. I think this happened at a time when the GPU seriously presented to the Americans a new face - the symbol of Yuriy Lutsenko's reformation - Kostyantyn Kulik. And they said that he would now be in the international department of the GPU under the close supervision of Eugene Enin to be in charge of international cooperation)) I remind that Kulik at that time was already accused by NABU of illegal enrichment.

2.Help Firtash to avoid extradition in the United States.

At the moment Firtash's attorneys try to prove that the criminal case of the FBI against Firtash was politically ordered in every possible way. This is exactly what will allow Firtash not to go to jail in the United States for 100 years, but to be in slight fear in Vienna.

Therefore, a public statement by the Prosecutor General of Ukraine that the U.S. ambassador instructed him not to investigate will be automatically used by Firtash lawyers in the courts of Vienna and Chicago. As an example, it's a dictation by the State Department official who is to be investigated by the Ukrainian prosecutor's office and who is not.

Daria Kaleniuk (another post):

Bravo, Yuriy Lutsenko, what a fantastic shot in the leg!

But not to yourself, to the country.

I translate the title from American political media The Hill: "Yuriy Lutsenko has opened proceedings against a possible intervention in the Ukrainian presidential elections USA 2016".

That is, while special prosecutor Mueller is investigating possible intervention of RUSSIANS in the U.S. presidential election 2016, Lutsenko Attorney General is investigating interference in the election by UKRAINIANS.

IDIOT.

Russia does not have to invent scenarios of how to sink Ukraine. Yuri Vitaliyovich does everything himself.

The Prosecutor General and the team on Bankova are inspired by Trump's retweets of the translated messages of Rozenblat and channel 112.

In a burst of inspiration and a burning wish to demolish on this wave Sytnyk and commit revenge against U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Yuri V. pulls rapidly Ukraine to the bottom.

Dariya Kaleniuk (posted before P2's reaction):

If Poroshenko did not really sanction Lutsenko's attack on the U.S. ambassador, why is Lutsenko still the Prosecutor General?

And why is there not a single comment from the President of Ukraine on the day after Lutsenko's mischievous attack on the U.S. State Department, on whose support the future of Ukraine depends?

The president is well aware that such a statement is a nuclear blow on the international arena against Ukraine.

Lutsenko's statement to an American journalist, which is not supported by any facts and easily refuted by documents, has all the signs of state betrayal.

Official - SBU **DeControlled**
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Hawkins, Kristin K (Kyiv)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:46 PM

To: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) <CastilloRA@state.gov>; Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) <TremontPM@state.gov>; Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) <YovanovitchML2@state.gov>; Holmes, Stephanie E (Kyiv) <HolmesST@state.gov>; Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) <PenningtonJS@state.gov>; Holmes, David A (Kyiv) <HolmesDA@state.gov>; Reinert, David "Mike" (Kyiv) <ReinertDM@state.gov>; Freden, Bradley A <FredenB@state.gov>; Collura, Nicholas A (Kyiv) <ColluraNA@state.gov>; Scovin, Timothy J (Kyiv) <ScovinTJ@state.gov>; Passis, Lindsey L (Kyiv) <PassisLL@state.gov>; Schutte, John P (Kyiv) <SchutteJP@state.gov>; Wahl-Tuco, Lillian C <Wahl-TucoLC@state.gov>; Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; Nguyen, Thu M (Kyiv) <NguyenTM@state.gov>; Glaser, Stephen T (Kyiv) <GlaserST@state.gov>; Cooney, John P <CooneyJP@state.gov>; Lazarus, Benjamin I <LazarusBI@state.gov>; Zapfel, Kimberly D <ZapfelKD@state.gov>

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

The Hill appears to have just updated their article from Wednesday with a line about NABU's statement issued today. (That part is highlighted below.)

<https://thehill.com/hilltv/rising/434892-senior-ukrainian-justice-official-says-hes-opened-probe-into-us-election>

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko told Hill.TV's John Solomon in an interview aired on Wednesday that he has opened a probe into alleged attempts by Ukrainians to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

"Today we will launch a criminal investigation about this and we will give legal assessment of this information," Lutsenko said last week.

Lutsenko is probing a claim from a member of the Ukrainian parliament that the director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), Artem Sytnyk, attempted to influence the 2016 vote to the benefit of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

A State Department spokesman told Hill.TV that officials are aware of news reports regarding Sytnyk.

"We have always emphasized the need for deep, comprehensive, and timely reforms that respond to the demands the Ukrainian people made during the Revolution of Dignity: an end to systemic corruption, faster economic growth, and a European future for all Ukrainians," a State spokesperson told Hill.TV.

"We have consistently said that Ukraine's long-term success and resilience depends on its commitment to reform, in particular the fight to address corruption. To succeed, Ukraine needs committed government officials and strong anti-corruption institutions. The United States is committed to engaging with our partners in Ukraine, including on efforts to roll back the persistent corruption that continues to threaten Ukraine's national security, prosperity, and democratic development."

NABU issued a statement on Friday, calling Lutsenko's comments "not true and is an absurd effort to discredit an independent anti-corruption agency."

Hill.TV has also reached out to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and Clinton's spokesperson for comment.

"According to the member of parliament of Ukraine, he got the court decision that the NABU official conducted an illegal intrusion into the American election campaign," Lutsenko said.

"It means that we think Mr. Sytnyk, the NABU director, officially talked about criminal investigation with Mr. [Paul] Manafort, and at the same time, Mr. Sytnyk stressed that in such a way, he wanted to assist the campaign of Ms. Clinton," he continued.

Solomon asked Lutsenko about reports that a member of Ukraine's parliament obtained a tape of the current head of the NABU saying that he was attempting to help Clinton win the 2016 presidential election, as well as connections that helped release the black-ledger files that exposed Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's wrongdoing in Ukraine.

"This member of parliament even attached the audio tape where several men, one of which had a voice similar to the voice of Mr. Sytnyk, discussed the matter."

— Hill.TV Staff

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:08 PM

To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6); Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

(b)(6); Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

A few pieces of social media commentary – reactions to Poroshenko's remarks, comments by an MP, and an article with commentary from Michael Carpenter.

MP Zalishchuk:

It was a fantastic evening yesterday. We gathered to say goodbye to a diplomatic colleague who completed her work in Ukraine. But not [goodbye] to the American ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, about whom there are abundant rumors being spread in the Rada. To the contrary, U.S. Ambassador, as far as I understand, will not only stay, but will stay here longer.

And this is not just a reply to the Prosecutor General's slipup, this is the message to the current and future government that the U.S. won't keep silent and turn a blind eye to corruption.

I wish all of you a good pre-election week.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10218743599451111&set=a.10202770840542121&type=3>

Censor.net: If Lutsenko cannot present evidence of his claims about Yovanovitch, he should immediately resign – Carpenter

If Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko cannot produce evidence on the list of "untouchables" that he declared receiving from US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, he should immediately resign.

Such a conviction was expressed by the director of the Center for Diplomacy and Global Interaction named after Biden, former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Carpenter, reports Censor.

"The Prosecutor General of Ukraine spreads some insidious conspiracy theories about the Clinton campaign - allegedly investigating Manafort was a pro-Clinton strategy (actually restoring justice) - and accuses our ambassador of his inability to resist corruption. If he cannot prove his claims, he must immediately resign," wrote Carpenter.

Anti-corruption Action Center:

Poroshenko about Ambassador Yovanovitch: I'd like to mention the important role of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine – Marie Yovanovitch – in advancing U.S.-Ukraine relations. I stress – she as the representative of the United States and the President of the United States Donald Trump, a great friend of Ukraine and great friend of mine, has my full support. – Lutsenko out?

RFE/RL Journalist Chris Miller :

Poroshenko doing damage control: "I'd like to note the important role of US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch in promoting Ukrainian-American relations. As a representative of the United States and a good friend of Ukraine President Donald Trump, she has my full support."

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:00 PM

To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Kent, George P (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)

(b)(6) (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Ukrainian MFA speaks out in support of AMB Y (rough translation of an exclusive interview with Ukrinform below).

Ukrinform: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperates fruitfully with Ambassador Yovanovitch and is grateful to her team for partnership

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine fruitfully cooperates with the US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch and thanks the American diplomat and her team for their contribution to building strategic partnership between our states.

This was stated to Ukrinform by MFA Spokesperson MFA Kateryna Zelenko.

"Pavlo Klimkin maintains excellent relations with the US ambassador, and we also highly appreciate the personal role of Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch and her team in building a strategic partnership between our states," Zelenko said.

She informed that the issues of the statements made by the Prosecutor General, Yuriy Lutsenko, concerning the US ambassador to Ukraine were raised during yesterday's meeting of [Foreign Minister] Pavlo Klimkin with a delegation of American senators and congressmen, and today during an interview with the Western media.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine clearly stated that the US is our strategic ally and friend. He emphasized that we are grateful for the steady support of the United States in countering Russian aggression, strengthening sanctions on the Russian Federation, facilitating reforms in Ukraine and achieving European and Euro-Atlantic standards," emphasized the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As reported, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko in an interview with The Hill stated that the US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch gave him a list of people to "not be prosecuted". Lutsenko also said he was investigating interference from Ukraine in the US elections in favor of Clinton.

The State Department of the United States said that the statements of the Attorney General of Ukraine are not true and aim to tarnish the reputation of Ambassador Yovanovitch.

President Petro Poroshenko in his speech at the celebrations on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Security Service of Ukraine noted the important role of the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, in promoting Ukraine-US relations, and stated that she had his full support.

<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-politics/2665250-mzs-plidno-spivpracue-z-poslom-jovanovic-i-vdacne-ii-komandi-za-partnerstvo-zelenko.html>

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:12 PM

To: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6)

Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv)

(b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

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

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

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

+ others in EE

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:11 AM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Holmes, Stephanie E (Kyiv)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P

(Kyiv) <(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

From Poroshenko's Remarks (translated):

I want to highlight that Ukraine highly appreciates relations with its strategic partner - the U.S. - based on clear bipartisan support. Our relations with Washington have never been so efficient and productive as they are today. As the Head of State I personally contributed great efforts to this and really appreciate this valuable asset of our international policy. In this context, I'd like to mention the important role of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine – Marie Yovanovitch – in advancing U.S.-Ukraine relations. I stress – she as the representative of the United States and the President of the United States Donald Trump, a great friend of Ukraine and great friend of mine, has my full support.

Tweet from President Poroshenko's spokesperson (translated):

President: I want to note the important role of the US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch in promoting Ukrainian-American relations. As the representative of the United States and good friend of Ukraine, President Donald Trump, she has my full support.

Official - SBU

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:01 PM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Roraff, Brian R (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P

(Kyiv) (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

FYI for Washington – we should have exact wording for you shortly...

President Poroshenko has just publicly voiced his support of Ambassador Yovanovitch.

Speaking at the event dedicated to SBU's 27th anniversary, he said that Ambassador Yovanovitch plays extremely important role in development of Ukraine – U.S. relationship, that she represents the United States of America and President Trump, who is a great friend of Ukraine, and that she can count on his full support.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:10 PM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Roraff, Brian R (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Yesterday I circulated some content from Hannity's program. It appears Hannity also discussed this issue with a couple of guests (former assistant deputy attorney general Victoria Toensing, former attorney Joe DiGenova, and John Solomon of The Hill) on Fox News on 3/20. Below is a summary of that discussion I found on swampdrain.com. (The link to the article below and in the article is the video clip from Fox.)

<https://swampdrain.com/2019/03/21/digenova-unveils-us-ambassadors-dirty-tricks-as-ukrainian-anti-trump-efforts-get-exposed/>

DiGenova Unveils US Ambassador's Dirty Tricks As Ukrainian Anti-Trump Efforts Get Exposed

On Wednesday, John Solomon of *The Hill*, former attorney Joe DiGenova, and former assistant deputy attorney general, Victoria Toensing, joined host Sean Hannity on *Fox News*.

This comes after Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said he opened an investigation into alleged attempts by Ukrainians to interfere in the United States' 2016 presidential election on behalf of Hillary Clinton.

In an interview that aired Wednesday with The Hill's TV, John Solomon Lutsenko said, "today we will launch a criminal investigation about this and we will give legal assessment of this information."

The probe is based on a claim from a member of the Ukrainian parliament that the director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), Artem Sytnyk, was working to benefit Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, per Sara Carter.

Lutsenko told Solomon the parliament member "got the court decision that the NABU official conducted an illegal intrusion into the American election campaign."

"It means that we think Mr. Sytnyk, the NABU director, officially talked about criminal investigation with Mr. [Paul] Manafort, and at the same time, Mr. Sytnyk stressed that in such a way, he wanted to assist the campaign of Ms. Clinton," Lutsenko said.

Solomon told Hannity that Lutsenko said during their interview, "There's enough evidence to open up a criminal investigation into the illicit effort by a Ukrainian to try and influence the United States election in favor of Hillary Clinton." He added, "That's a profound statement coming from the top law enforcement of Ukraine."

Solomon explained that it's important, because there's a court in Ukraine that's already concluded that Ukrainian officials leaked Paul Manafort's financial records to try to sway the U.S. election.

He further revealed that a parliamentary member has said to having a tape of law enforcement officials admitting that "they did it to help Hillary Clinton."

When asked how Mueller can look in the mirror and call his investigation "fair" after all the evidence is stacked up against the FBI, DOJ, Hillary Clinton, and Democrats with *no* Trump-Russia collusion, Joe DiGenova said, "I don't know how it can be called a fair investigation for that very reason. It is quite obvious there were crimes committed with people associated within the Clinton campaign with the Democratic National Committee, with Fusion GPS and other people."

DiGenova continued, "Here's the thing that's really changing: now we know that not only was there Russian collusion through Fusion GPS and through [Christopher Steele], but now we know the Ukrainian officials were deeply involved in trying to help Hillary Clinton through this."

He added, "And we also now know that the current United States Ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch, has bad mouthed the President of the United States to Ukrainian officials and has told them to not listen or worry about Trump policy because he's going to be impeached."

"This woman needs to be called home for consultation!" DiGenova declared.

When asked if Attorney General Bill Barr will do his job, DiGenova and Toensing resoundingly agreed he would. "Yes, without any doubt."

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:54 PM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Roraff, Brian R (b)(6)

Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Here are a few Ukrainian social media reactions from today, plus a longer statement from the Anti Corruption Action Center website:

Tetyana Danylenko, ZIK reporter:

This whole story of how Ukraine initially supported Democrats, indecently "drowned" [the reputation] of Trump, and for each step got "agreement" of Marie Yovanovitch, and then squeezed out blackmail for their friends to support the same Trump - that was about the country-idiot [Ukraine]. The world is already afraid to have a deal with Ukraine, because everyone is throwing each other under the bus here. Our reputation is frightening not only to civilized countries, but also to the third world countries, who compared to Ukraine feel decent and adequate. Moreover, "ours" [hinting at authorities] are sincerely asking "what is extraordinary here?" - everyone cares about their own national interests. And this is true. But not everyone steals forks and grunt while eating salad at a diplomatic reception.

Volodymyr Boiko, journalist:

The U.S. Department of State is outraged by the story of General Prosecutor Yuriy Lutsenko in an interview with the American television channel Hill.TV about how soon after her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch handed over to him a list of persons whom the Ukrainian authorities under no circumstances should never prosecute. Since in this list, which, as we now know from the statement of the State Department, never existed, were the names of MP Sergey Leshchenko and the head of the Department of Special Investigations Sergey Gorbatyuk, and here is my post published two years ago.

I remind the plot: in 2016, the Trump campaign was headed by well-known Paul Manafort and the then FBI representative in Ukraine Karen Greenaway, in order to compromise Trump, handed to Artem Sytnyk for publication on the NABU website excerpts from the "Black bookkeeping of Party of Regions" where there was information about illegal payments to Manafort. And in order to somehow explain why Sytnyk had "Black bookkeeping of Party of Regions" the then deputy U.S. ambassador (now Deputy Assistant Secretary of State) George Kent instructed MP Sergei Leshchenko and the first deputy head of the SBU Viktor Trepak to do the dirty work (Trepak at that time was already put into use and was preparing to leave the SBU, since it was documented in specific relations with the U.S. embassy). So, Leshchenko, publishing parts from the "black bookkeeping" in "Ukrainska Pravda", did not even wonder what exactly he was distributing, and after reading his own publication he realized that among the recipients of the "black cache" from the Party of Regions, was also the editorial staff of Ukrainska Pravda.

I hope Sergey Gorbatyuk, whose name is not on the list of Yovanovich (as we now know, such a list never existed), will immediately trigger the interrogation of Sergei Leshchenko, who also never used the protection of the American Embassy, and detain citizen Pytula [owner of Ukrainska Pravda] together with her PR Agency under the name "Ukrainska Pravda"

Oleskandr Sushko, foundation Vidrozdennya, political expert:

Lutsenko did an incredible disservice to the president at the most unfortunate moment. In addition, some say this was done with the knowledge of the president himself or his associates or consultants.

The clumsy attempt to interfere in the American infighting as if on Trump's side is now a bigger mistake than that, in 2016, an attempt (more made up than real) to help Clinton's victory. Because now the elections are here and not there. And the U.S. is a key strategic partner.

Worst of all, if we were a victim of the game of American players and their messengers-consultants who could offer to "help Trump" to get the perpetrators of the Manafort case in exchange for carte blanche to get even with Sytnik and "circle of friends" of the current U.S. ambassador. Then in the USA the number of those who consider Ukraine as a basket case will get larger. And then the surprise for us will be that the next ambassador will have the same circle of friends ...

The one who advises Lutsenko on international relations, receives the Darwin Prize. Unfortunately, this may also affect the "natural selection" of higher officials. Did you want the best? *[aimed at Lutsenko, asking if he really wished the best for Ukraine when giving this interview]*

And Ambassador Yovanovitch will be really replaced. But this will be done not immediately, and not in connection with the Manafort case and Lutsenko's denunciations - and in the order of routine rotation - and the new ambassador will arrive, as expected, at the end of summer or in the fall of this year.

Vitaly Shabunin, Anticorruption Action Center:

The only document that the prosecutor provided to journalists in support of his words about the list of "untouchables" - was signed long before the appointment of Marie Yovanovitch and it was regarding the fabricated case, which at one time Lutsenko himself acknowledged as such <http://bit.ly/2JxBR43>.

Yuriy Lutsenko – you are, excuse me, a fairy-fool. You really wanted to sell the "conspiracy theory" in the U.S., based on this letter and "Rosenblat Records" (Rosenblat, Carl!)?

Let me remind you that the only source of "NABU's Director words" for helping Clinton are the records published by Rosenblat.

Anti-corruption Action Center Website: Chronology Problems: Lutsenko told a lie, accusing the U.S. Ambassador

The American publication TheHill has published a letter from the U.S. Embassy to the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine, which told journalists Yuriy Lutsenko has proof that the U.S. ambassador Marie Yovanovitch during her first meeting with him indicated which people should not be prosecuted.

This is the only document that the prosecutor has provided to journalists in support of his words about the so-called list of "untouchables". However, it was signed long before the appointment of Marie Yovanovitch and concerned a fabricated case, which at one time himself Lutsenko recognized.

Prosecutor General Lutsenko told a lie in his interview with TheHill. Let's recreate the chronology and explain why.

On March 16, 2016, the so-called Department of Kononenko-Granovsky began criminal proceedings for alleged theft by the Anti-corruption Action Center of funds that the organization did not even receive.

Investigators were looking for \$ 4.4 million dollars of American taxpayers which, according to their version, had to go for the reform of the GPU.

Already on March 22, the investigators of the General Prosecutor's Office actually misled the court regarding the allocation of these funds to the Criminal Code and received permission to access the accounts of the organization, and later its counterparts. As a result, the Anti-corruption action Center was compelled to file a statement on the crime of investigators and prosecutors in this case. At that time, the GPU was not worried about the lack of any claims by the U.S. government regarding the disappearance of US taxpayer funds in Ukraine.

Since the Anti-corruption action Center has never been involved in the reform of the prosecutor's office, this criminal proceeding was a common denominator for investigators to obtain access to bank accounts, transactions, financial and accounting documents of the organization.

On April 4, 2016, the Deputy Head of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, George Kent, sent a letter to Deputy Prosecutor General Yuri Stolyarchuk on behalf of then Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt explaining the fake case of stealing money for the GPU reform. This letter was handed over to American journalists by Lutsenko in March 2019. [pic of the letter]

Even after these official confirmations from the U.S. government that no funds had disappeared, the General Prosecutor's Office continued investigating actions against the Anti-Corruption Action Center, and two days before the closure of the proceedings, it received 11 more decisions on temporary access to the documents of the organization, its counterparts and donors.

Deputy of the Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, Yuri Stolyarchuk, even stated that he intended to interrogate the then Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt in this case.

On May 12, 2016, Yuriy Lutsenko was appointed general prosecutor. Speaking at the Verkhovna Rada on the same day, Lutsenko said that the cases against the Anti-Corruption Action Center are "such grave nonsense that they simply disgrace the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine."

On May 30, 2016, the case was closed in the GPU because of the absence of a crime.

On August 29, 2016, Marie Yovanovitch presented credentials and embarked on the duties of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine.

That is, the first meeting of Ambassador Yovanovitch with Prosecutor General Lutsenko could not take place earlier than August 29, 2016, when a "grave nonsense" criminal proceeding, which "disgraced the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine", had already been closed.

Official**UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:20 PM

To: (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Roraff, Brian R

(b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) <YovanovitchML2@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

Subject: Re: Reactions to Hill Article

Thanks very much Kristin and team for these early heads up, particularly amplification in US media overnight. Very useful.

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:10 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); Roraff, Brian R; Yovanovitch, Marie L

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Kent, George P; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv); (b)(6) EXEC; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Press

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

A few updates:

- For those in Washington who haven't already seen it – below is a transcript of National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) Head Sytnyk's video in which he comments on audio leaks / election interference.
- Below I've pasted articles published by both Rush Limbaugh's website and Breitbart yesterday about Lutsenko (both focus on a Clinton-Ukraine connection, rather than the U.S. Embassy)

- This morning, we tweeted about concerns relating to Naftogaz (unrelated to the Lutsenko story, obviously, but prominent media outlet Ukrainska Pravda retweeted us with a message that's hard to translate word-for-word into English but basically indicates "we don't know about Lutsenko's list, but here the U.S. Embassy is openly expressing its positions" [in contrast to how Lutsenko alleges the Embassy operates])

NABU Video Transcript:

NABU posted a video of Sytnyk commenting on the audio leaks -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5_MRvL04D4. Here's a google translation of the transcript: "We are currently seeing absurd speculations and incorrect interpretations of what seems to be my intervention in the 2016 US presidential election.

I officially declare.

The United States Government in general and the US Embassy in Ukraine, in particular, have always supported Ukraine and NABU as an institution.

On the part of our international partners who, even in the most difficult times, were standing side by side with the Bureau, much was done to combat corruption in Ukraine. I am particularly grateful to the US ambassadors who have lived with NABU all the way to our formation:

Geoffrey Pyatt and Marie Yovanovitch.

I made a mistake.

During a personal, private, friendly conversation that took place in 2019, I jokingly recalled the popularity of the media about allegedly interfering in the 2016 US presidential campaign.

I am ready to confirm my words and give testimonials to United States authorized persons on this matter. After all, I deeply appreciate the trust and support of our international partners.

And I have nothing to hide.

Over the past four years, the National Bureau has repeatedly argued that it is an apolitical law enforcement body that brings criminal responsibility to senior officials. It was with the advent of NABU that Ukraine, for the first time in its independence, witnessed the arrests and arrests of top officials previously considered "intact". But even under such circumstances it is difficult to imagine a situation where a newly established law enforcement agency in the country after the revolution could somehow influence the elections in the United States of America.

The competence of NABU is to expose and prosecute Ukrainian top officials. Therefore, no evidence of Paul Manafort's illegal activity was detected by NABU detectives, and they were not transmitted as it was beyond the competence of the National Bureau.

I emphasize that neither I, the Director nor the National Bureau, as a state law enforcement agency, had any influence or influence on the election of the President of the United States."

Rush Limbaugh's Website: Ukrainians Investigate Hillary Clinton Collusion

RUSH: "[TheHill.com: Ukrainian Prosecutor Investigating Alleged Plot To Aid Hillary Clinton](https://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2019/05/27/ukrainian-prosecutor-investigating-alleged-plot-to-aid-hillary-clinton)."

This story you will not see in the Drive-By Media. There are two versions of this, one by Sara Carter and the other is by John Solomon. "Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said he opened an investigation into alleged attempts by Ukrainians to interfere in the United States' 2016 presidential election on behalf of Hillary Clinton."

Would this not be the piece de — there wasn't any Russian collusion with Trump. What if there actually was Ukrainian collusion with Hillary? And it makes sense because the Ukrainians hate Putin! The Ukrainians despise Putin, and they don't have a whole lot of love for Putin's Russia. And so the Ukrainians colluding with Hillary, they would do this because the assumption they would make is that Putin wants no part of Hillary. I don't know about any of that.

But wouldn't this just be amazing. "In an interview that aired Wednesday with The Hill's TV, John Solomon Lutsenko said, 'today we will launch a criminal investigation about this and we will give legal assessment of this information.'"

Here's Solomon's story. He reports that "Ukraine's top prosecutor has opened an investigation into whether his country's law enforcement apparatus intentionally leaked" Paul Manafort's financial records in order to help Hillary win in 2016. That, by the way, is the dirt that led to Manafort leaving the Trump campaign.

Let me go over this again. We're kind of in a lighthearted, jocular mood here today in spurts, but this deserves some serious explanation. And by the, the headline that's attached here to John Solomon's story: "[As Russia Collusion Fades, Ukrainian Plot to Help Clinton Emerges](#)." So we're back to is Russian collusion really fading? There wasn't — don't misunderstand. There wasn't any. But is that really what the Mueller report is gonna say?

So many leaks, so much lowering of expectations about this. And I just know how much people try to manipulate us on the left, the Democrat Party. But then again we got Trump out there suggesting that he thinks this report ought to be made public, which would tend to indicate that he's not worried about it, and so he maybe not be worried about it because he's been given a heads-up. He says he doesn't know what's in it.

But, anyway, let's look at this. "Ukraine's top prosecutor divulged in an interview aired Wednesday on Hill.TV that he has opened an investigation into whether his country's law enforcement apparatus intentionally leaked financial records during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign about then-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort in an effort to sway the election in favor of Hillary Clinton.

"The leak of the so-called black ledger files to U.S. media prompted Manafort's resignation from the Trump campaign and gave rise to one of the key allegations in the Russia collusion probe that has dogged Trump for the last two and a half years."

This dirt is what did in fact lead to Manafort leaving the Trump campaign. And it's what led to Manafort being investigated by Mueller. By the way, not a single lawmaker was contacted by the FBI or the CIA about the Ukraine government being involved in our election this way. It really isn't anything new, it's just being reported here for the first time.

Solomon got his mitts on it. But the FBI, CIA, nobody there was contacted about the possible Ukrainian collusion with the Clinton campaign. And that's an amazing contrast, is it not, compared to how the FBI and CIA warned a number of lawmakers about Trump's possible collusion with Russia, which never happened?

But they weren't out there warning politicians, hey, be very wary the Ukrainians are trying to interfere in the election. Nobody was warned of that when was it happening! You know, we actually first heard about what Ukraine did to help Hillary back in January 2017. We pointed out then that there was a huge article, it was a hundred paragraphs that carefully detailed the work done by the Ukrainian operatives to undermine Trump in order to help Hillary, including giving the Democrat National Committee dirt on Manafort. Nobody has even denied that all of this happened, yet there's been no outrage at a foreign government interfering in our election. There wasn't even any Drive-By Media coverage of this story.

Here it is. January 11, 2017, archives of The Politico. "[Ukrainian Efforts to Sabotage Trump Backfire](#)." I don't expect you remember us talking about this, but I remember the story because it was the exact antithesis of what the American people have been told for two years.

“Donald Trump wasn’t the only presidential candidate whose campaign was boosted by officials of a former Soviet bloc country. Ukrainian government officials tried to help Hillary Clinton and undermine Trump by publicly questioning his fitness for office. They also disseminated documents implicating a top Trump aide,” Paul Manafort. “And they helped Clinton’s allies research damaging information on Trump and his advisers, a Politico investigation found.”

But the story ran in The Politico and nowhere else. January 2017. This is about 10 days before Trump is inaugurated and this story surfaces. And that’s the story that Solomon and Sara Carter are zeroing back to today. And we’ll see where this goes.

<https://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2019/03/21/ukrainians-investigate-hillary-clinton-collusion-2/>

Report: Ukraine Probing U.S. Election Interference by Local Officials on Behalf of Hillary Clinton

Ukraine has opened a probe into alleged attempts by domestic government officials to interfere in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States to boost Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton’s chance of winning, the Eastern European nation’s top prosecutor told the *Hill* in an interview aired on Wednesday.

“Today we will launch a criminal investigation about this and we will give legal assessment of this information,” Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko told the *Hill*’s John Solomon. The top prosecutor is reportedly investigating a claim from a local member of parliament (MP) that the director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), Artem Sytnyk, attempted to interfere in the 2016 presidential election in the United States to skew the results in favor of Hillary Clinton

“According to the member of parliament of Ukraine, he got the court decision that the NABU official conducted an illegal intrusion into the American election campaign,” the top prosecutor proclaimed.

“This member of parliament even attached the audio tape where several men, one of which had a voice similar to the voice of Mr. Sytnyk, discussed the matter,” he later added.

In an editorial published by the *Hill* Wednesday, Solomon noted that as the Trump-Russia collusion investigations fade, the Ukrainian prosecutor’s probe will focus on “whether his country’s law enforcement apparatus intentionally leaked financial records during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign about then-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort in an effort to sway the election in favor of Hillary Clinton.”

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State (DOS) confirmed that President Donald Trump’s administration is aware of the news reports about Sytnyk attempting to prop up Clinton during the 2016 elections.

The DOS spokesperson told the *Hill*:

We have always emphasized the need for deep, comprehensive, and timely reforms that respond to the demands the Ukrainian people made during the Revolution of Dignity: an end to systemic corruption, faster economic growth, and a European future for all Ukrainians.

We have consistently said that Ukraine’s long-term success and resilience depends on its commitment to reform, in particular the fight to address corruption. To succeed, Ukraine needs committed government officials and strong anti-corruption institutions. The United States is

committed to engaging with our partners in Ukraine, including on efforts to roll back the persistent corruption that continues to threaten Ukraine's national security, prosperity, and democratic development.

The top Ukrainian prosecutor's bombshell revelation comes amid various investigations into alleged collusion between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia that so far have failed to find any evidence of the alleged offense. A bipartisan investigation by the Senate and a more partisan one by the then-Republican-led House have found no evidence of collusion.

The American public is still waiting for the most high profile probe into the Trump campaign's relationship with Russia — the investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller, which the president has dismissed as a witch hunt.

"Mueller is expected to present a report to the Justice Department any day now outlining the findings of his nearly two-year investigation into Russian election meddling, possible collusion with Trump campaign officials and possible obstruction of justice by Trump," the Associated Press (AP) reported Thursday.

On Wednesday, President Trump told reporters he is looking forward to perusing the report's findings, declaring that he also believes the conclusions should be made public.

"Let it come out, let people see it," the American commander-in-chief declared. "Let's see whether or not it's legit."

Several days before then President-elect Trump was inaugurated, *Politico* broke the story about the alleged Ukrainian ploy to benefit Hillary Clinton, revealing in January 2017:

Ukrainian government officials tried to help Hillary Clinton and undermine Trump by publicly questioning his fitness for office. They also disseminated documents implicating a top Trump aide in corruption and suggested they were investigating the matter, only to back away after the election. And they helped Clinton's allies research damaging information on Trump and his advisers, a *Politico* investigation found.

Politico found that Lutsenko is not the only Ukrainian official willing to investigate the relationship between Clinton and Ukrainian officials.

Andrei Derkach, an independent Ukrainian lawmaker who was formerly aligned with a pro-Russian party, has also urged the country's prosecutor general to "launch a pretrial investigation into 'illegal interference in the election of President of the United States organized by a criminal organization,'" *Politico* reported. "This organization, he said, consisted of senior members of the country's National Anti-Corruption Bureau, government officials, and other public figures."

Since 2014, Russia-backed militants and the Ukrainian military have been fighting a war that has killed up to 13,000 people and injured at least 27,000 others, according to the United Nations

In October 2017, the *Hill's* Solomon and Alison Spann shed light on allegations that Clinton facilitated the sale of 20 percent of U.S. domestic uranium production to Russia under the administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama.

<https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2019/03/21/report-ukraine-probing-u-s-election-interference-by-local-officials-on-behalf-of-hillary-clinton/>

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:02 PM
To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Kent, George
P (b)(6)
(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC
<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article
Associated Press report: Ukraine, US bicker over corruption fight ahead of election

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine and the United States are having a diplomatic spat after Washington criticized the Ukrainian government's anti-corruption efforts ahead of the nation's March 31 presidential election.

Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko claimed in an interview with The Hill TV aired Wednesday that U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch gave him a list of people who should not be prosecuted. He said he rejected the demand.

The U.S. State Department on Thursday dismissed Lutsenko's claim as false.

The dispute came days after Yovanovitch scathingly criticized Ukraine's record on fighting corruption. She called for the firing of Ukraine's special anti-corruption prosecutor, who has been accused of helping suspects avoid corruption charges.

<https://apnews.com/9bbfcc6ba8e47e0a0398b6656e30116>

From: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: March 21, 2019 at 8:07:36 PM GMT+2
To: Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); Hawkins, Kristin K (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Kent, George
P (b)(6)
(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC
<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article
Apologies folks (and thanks Brian): **the expected Chris Miller, RFE/RL article; note that EUR-Press just sent him the updated statement. He may update the story, too.**
U.S. Rejects Top Ukrainian Prosecutor's 'Don't Prosecute' Accusation

By RFE/RL

March 21, 2019 16:59 GMT

The U.S. State Department has dismissed a reported claim by Ukrainian Prosecutor-General Yuriy Lutsenko that U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch gave him "a list of people whom we should not prosecute."

The back-and-forth comes less than two weeks ahead of a Ukrainian presidential election in which challengers have sought to paint incumbent Petro Poroshenko as failing to combat corruption and abuses of power since taking office in mid-2014.

"The statement of Ukraine's prosecutor-general does not correspond to reality and is meant to weaken the reputation of Ambassador Yovanovitch," the State Department said.

Lutsenko's assertion came in an interview broadcast by The Hill's TV arm on March 20.

Lutsenko also reportedly told The Hill's John Solomon that Ukrainian authorities would "launch a criminal investigation" into whether Ukrainians sought to interfere in the U.S. election in 2016.

The question of Kyiv's actions in the run-up to Donald Trump's election as president took on added significance with former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort's U.S. prosecution in part for advisory work he did in Ukraine.

On March 20, Trump cited Solomon in a tweet repeating the allegation that Ukrainians had tried to "help" his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, in 2016.

[Donald J. Trump](#)

[@realDonaldTrump](#)

"John Solomon: As Russia Collusion fades, Ukrainian plot to help Clinton emerges." [@seanhannity](#)

[@FoxNews](#)

[62K 4:40 AM - Mar 21, 2019](#)

Poroshenko's administration was caught off-guard by Trump's election two years ago and pivoted abruptly to downplay perceived criticisms from Ukrainian officials of Trump during the campaign. Kyiv has tried hard to maintain Western diplomatic and financial support as a simmering conflict continues in eastern Ukraine against Russia-backed separatists.

Lutsenko, a former interior minister who served jail time for charges that he and European officials described as politically motivated before a presidential pardon freed him in 2013, has served as an adviser to Poroshenko and is widely seen as the president's staunch political ally.

He was named prosecutor-general in 2016 despite having no law degree -- forcing parliament to amend legislation before approving his nomination.

He has since faced repeated calls from critics for his dismissal, and even announced his resignation as recently as November 2018.

In the halls of Ukraine's parliament after the reports of Lutsenko's comments about the U.S. ambassador, deputy speaker Oksana Syroyid said Poroshenko should either receive written, documented confirmation backing up the prosecutor-general's claim or fire Lutsenko.

"President Poroshenko this morning can only have [one of] two documents: either one substantiating the claim of Prosecutor-General Lutsenko or his submission to parliament that Lutsenko be dismissed as Ukraine's prosecutor-general," she said.

Lutsenko [told Hill.TV](#) that "from the first meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, [Yovanovitch] gave me a list of people whom we should not prosecute," adding that such a thing was "inadmissible."

The State Department reportedly called the assertion "an outright fabrication."

Polls consistently show Poroshenko trailing comic and TV president Volodymyr Zelenskyy and neck-and-neck with former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko ahead of the March 31 vote, which will go to a two-candidate runoff in April if no one surpasses 50 percent.

Yovanovitch in a recent speech was blunt in her [criticism of Kyiv's anticorruption efforts](#), one of the key criteria for billions of dollars in lending from international institutions since the eastern Ukrainian conflict broke out in early 2014.

Yovanovitch also said that the chief of Ukraine's Special Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office, Nazar Kholodnytskyy, should be replaced to ensure the integrity of the anticorruption institutions.

Kholodnytsky has been **embroiled in a corruption scandal** over allegations that he helped officials suspected of corruption evade prosecution.

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont,
Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
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(b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Latest post from MP Mustafa Nayyem (rough translation):

Besides the political aspect of the question, this absurdity, there is also a legal component. The ambassador of the foreign state enters the office of the Attorney General and submits to him a list of untouchables, with the requirement not to expose them to prosecution.

If this is true, and Yuri Lutsenko does not deceive us, the above-mentioned actions of the US ambassador to Ukraine fall within the scope of Article 343 of the Criminal Code in relation to "interference in the activities of a law enforcement officer".

In other words, the ambassador committed or attempted to commit an offense against the principal procedural person of the country. And according to the laws of Ukraine, Yuriy Lutsenko was obliged to go to the law enforcement agencies with a statement on the crime, to hand over to the investigators all the evidence available to him and how the Prosecutor General would obtain an appropriate investigation, and then legally obtain the expulsion of the ambassador from the country.

In addition, Part 6 of Art. 16 of the Law of Ukraine "On Prosecutor's Office" gives the right to any prosecutor, in the event of a threat to his independence, to appeal to the Board of Prosecutors and to demand that measures be taken without delay to eliminate the threat.

And in fact, it is unknown, whether Yuri Lutsenko did exactly that. Sent him a request to provide relevant information. And at the same time, to transmit a copy of the list of Marie Yovanovitch. I think we have the right to know who the US embassy is "protecting" (*krisha* term used here) and what should the Prosecutor General do in order to withstand this pressure.

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From: Hawkins, Kristin K (Kyiv)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:11 PM
To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont,
Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC
<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov> (b)(6)
(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

In this update:

National Corps comments

Journalist Oleksiy Kuzmenko on Twitter: Leader of far-right the National Corps ("nationalist hate group" per @StateDept report) party in Ukraine Biletsky brings up Lutsenko's allegations - that the US Ambassador meddled in his work - to make own point against "colonialism"

Biletsky of National Corps – posted on Telegram (rough translation): The US Ambassador allegedly gave Lutsenko 'a do-not-prosecute' list of people in Ukraine, because they represent the interests of the same USA. Anti-corruption prosecutor Holodnitsky provides testimony about head of NABU Sytnyk to the Americans. The testimony about how Sytnyk worked for the U.S. elections in the interests of the American Democrats. Who, in their turn, put Sytnyk as the head of NABU.

In all of this, I cannot understand one thing: where is Ukraine here and the Ukrainian interests?

Poroshenko's logo "We paddle our own canoe" means, in fact, direct external (foreign) administration. I think that the Ukrainians have made tremendous sacrifices during the Revolution and at War not for sake of replacing a Russian overlord with an American one. We have fought and continue fighting for a free, great country. The country that is a leader, but not a semi-colony of the East or the West.

An overlord may be needed for a dog, but not for a human being, and moreover for the people. A Little Russian is not the one who sees his/her overlord to be from Russia, but also the one who seeks his/her overlord to be from outside of Ukraine.

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6); (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont,
Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC
<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

A few updates:

- More Ukrainian outlets are reporting based on the expanded NSC-cleared talking points (rather than on the more abbreviated points used in The Hill's article)
- Social media post from MP Svitlana Zalishchuk criticizing Lutsenko and Poroshenko
- One article notes that Lutsenko's statement coincided with the arrival of CODEL Crapo.

General Note on Ukrainian Media Coverage:

We are seeing more Ukrainian outlets picking up Washington's broader talking points on this issue (the ones cleared by the NSC, rather than the earlier version provided to the Hill).

Ukrainian outlets publishing articles this afternoon with the newer talking points include:

UkrPravda, Interfax, VOA Ukraine, Glavcom, 112, UMoloda, Vesti-Ukr

MP Svitlana Zalishchuk:

One could expect such a statement from the Russian Prosecutor General. The creation of an external enemy has always been an effective means of mobilizing the electorate. But here we are dealing with dangerous geopolitical schizophrenia, when along with Russian aggressors, the American Ambassador becomes an enemy as she appears to be prohibiting the investigation of corruption. What threat does he pose? A complete discrediting of the Ukrainian authorities as a reliable partner for international friends.

Why does Lutsenko need it? In fact, one must understand that this is not Lutsenko's personal creativity, but a coordinated campaign with Poroshenko. His main goal is a knockout of NABU's head [Sytnyk]. It did not work out through a manual auditor, there was not enough compromise, and on the background of questions to NABU on the investigation of Gladkovskyi - it's a very convenient moment now. This is the first.

And the second. With Lutsenko's hands the President tries to neutralize American criticism of the corruption in the Ukrainian government and also reinforces the image of "enemies of Ukrainian government" among opposition politicians and civic activists.

Poroshenko thinks that all this old school [political game] brilliantly clears the road for him to the 2nd term. But the problem is that the president does not notice how he goes through the stage of internal Putinization [adoption of Putin's features, copying Putin]. And it has every chance to become a prism, through which the international community will look at Ukraine.

Lutsenko – CODEL Crapo Timing:

Below is an article that notes the timing of Lutsenko's statement coincides with the arrival of CODEL Crapo (the full article is below, and I've highlighted the portion where the CODEL reference begins).

DSNews: List of untouchables. How Lutsenko's war with Yovanovitch would affect Ukraine

Vladislav GIRMAN

Reviewer

Thursday March 21, 2019 2:00 p.m.

<http://www.dsnews.ua/politics/kapitoliy-nam-pripomnit-chem-grozit-ukraine-ataka-lutsenko-21032019220000>

In the US, presidents come and go, but the establishment will remember how Kiev scammed it twice in three years

11 days before the presidential elections in Ukraine, after the United States imposed sanctions on Russia for its aggression in the Kerch Strait and increased military assistance in 2020 US defense budget up to \$250 million, Kiev decided to shoot itself in the leg. Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko said that the US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch during their first meeting, gave him a list of persons whom the GPU should not prosecute.

"Unfortunately, during the first meeting with the US ambassador in Kyiv (Yovanovitch), she gave me a list of people whom we should not bring to justice. My answer to this is - unacceptable. No one in this country, neither our president, nor our parliament, nor our ambassador, will not prevent me from investigating whether a crime is taking place," Lutsenko said last week in an interview with the influential American publication The Hill, which was published on Wednesday, March 20.

The head of the GPU did not disclose the names from the list. His speaker Larisa Sargan only clarified in an interview with BBC Ukraine that the list contained the names of some of the deputies. Which ones? The list of Ukrainian politicians and officials who enjoy the support of the US Embassy is not a big secret for anyone in Ukraine.

In addition, the Prosecutor General complained that his department did not receive \$ 4 million of US technical assistance, again hinting at some confrontation with the diplomatic mission, more precisely,

even directly with the head of this embassy, as well as at the embassy's opacity. Quote: "At that time (Yovanovitch) believed that our interviews with Ukrainian citizens, Ukrainian government officials, who were frequent visitors to the American embassy, cast a shadow on the anti-corruption policy."

"Actually," says Lutsenko in an interview, "we received a letter from the Ambassador that the money we are talking about was under the complete control of the US embassy and that the US embassy did not require our legal assessment of these facts. The situation was rather strange, as the funds we are talking about were intended for the Attorney General's Office, and we told [them] that we had never seen it, and the US Embassy replied that there was no problem."

U.S. reaction

The State Department did not hesitate with the answer. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the accusations "frank falsification." At the same time, the representative of the State Department stressed that he is not cooperating on anything with the GPU at the moment because of the lack of political will to carry out real reforms. Yes, earlier "they tried to support the fundamental reform of the justice sector, including in the GPU," but it did not work out. Therefore, they say in the State Department, "we took responsibility before the American taxpayers and redirected assistance to more productive projects."

A similar statement was published by the US Embassy, stressing that Lutsenko is trying to damage the reputation of Yovanovitch and such accusations against representatives of the United States "are a manifestation of corruption." At the same time, they assured that "such attacks deepen our determination to help Ukraine achieve victory in the fight against corruption." That is, this is only the first battle, the battle is just beginning, which means that Lutsenko will not be so easily forgiven for this interview.

Why

Indeed, given the degree of risk, why did Lutsenko need this scandal? The answer lies on the surface: the conflict had already matured long ago, the confrontation with Yovanovitch did not begin yesterday or a month ago. Initially, it was clear that she would be a serious "adversary," considering her experience as a diplomat. Yovanovitch successfully worked under both George W. Bush (DCM in Ukraine, Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan) and Barack Obama (Ambassador to Armenia and from August 2016 - in Ukraine). "DS [this media]", by the way, predicted in 2016 that her main objectives would be to control the process of resolving the situation in ORDLO (with the appointment of Kurt Walker, he took this over) and "encourage the construction of a functional political system and a full-fledged market economy" in Ukraine. "In other words, the Ukrainian political bbomond should be prepared to be forced to reform," the article said. So it happened like this, which caused an increase in discontent in certain circles of power. After all, the US ambassador patronizes the same young European integrators, and even the director of the NABU Artem Sytnik. Consequently, the statements about a certain list and the \$ 4 million that the Embassy has hoarded are an attempt to discredit the current Ambassador in order to get her to leave six months ahead of time. Remember, in August Marie Yovanovitch will be the ambassador already for three years - the minimum stay as a head of the American diplomatic mission.

But why now, before the elections, when so much is at stake? First, let's note that, according to "DS" sources, the Prosecutor General played the game alone. And this is a problem, because it means that for Lutsenko there is no safe corridor, within which he can act at his discretion. The lack of a clear framework, beyond which one should not go, indicates that, by analogy with the administration of Donald Trump and his approach to recruitment, that there is a possible personalized and partial priority of loyalty over professionalism and comprehensive, long-term analysis and planning. As a result, there are such personal "initiatives" that promise serious problems. And they appear, we emphasize again, at a very, very wrong time.

Suppose that Lutsenko was planning to discredit Yovanovitch after the elections, but the investigation of the thefts in the Ukrainian defense industry, which was even more revealing the conflict between law enforcement agencies, in particular, the so-called Bigusgate, forced him to accelerate. Or, is it actually some geopolitical reflection. There was an opportunity – and [Lutsenko used it].

Speaking of opportunity. In Ukraine, for the reader who does not delve too much into American politics, only in the last couple of years, The Hill is becoming as recognizable not as The Washington Post or The New York Times, but as, for example, NBC News or Politico. The Hill, as the publication notes, is the

leading US political site, which the White House and most congressmen read more actively than any other similar resource. That is why, the message of Lutsenko is addressed primarily to the American audience. And therefore it is curious how, in fact, this interview appeared, who approached whom first: The Hill approached Lutsenko or vice versa. Or were there intermediaries? For example, Republicans offered The Hill to interview Lutsenko, and the Prosecutor General was called and asked for a service of this kind. It should be noted that, along with the statement of Lutsenko and the State Department's commentary, the publication's material does not explicitly mention an ex-member of the House of Representatives, the Republican from Texas Pete Sessions. Namely, that last year he wrote a letter to the State Department, in which he expressed concern with Yovanovitch. According to Sessions, he has evidence that Yovanovitch disdains the Trump administration.

One more thing. This may be just a coincidence, but on the day of the publication of an interview with Lutsenko, six lawmakers from the Senate and the House of Representatives arrived in Kiev. They are all Republicans (and half of them from Idaho) who are members or are in the leadership of influential committees. The delegation is headed by Senator, Head of the Committee on Banking, Member of the Budget Committee Mike Crapo. The rest of the legislators represent the following committees of both houses of Congress: energy and natural resources, foreign affairs, the environment and public works; on appropriations (an influential committee, decides on expenditures, including on assistance to Ukraine); banking, budget, legal; small business and entrepreneurship; on the armed forces; on agriculture, food and forestry; on trade, science and transport.

Republicans arrived officially to discuss cooperation, as we can see from the list of committees, in many areas, and instead found out that the Ambassador of their country, appointed by a Democratic president, got into a scandal. Which somewhat reinforces the hypothesis is the second reason for Lutsenko to make accusations against Yovanovitch: to play the Trump administration, to convince the US president of his friendship, because it is quite likely that he will become the next president.

Effects

The problem is that this way, Ukraine repeats the mistake of 2016, when Kiev, in particular, actively cooperated with American investigation on the case of Paul Manafort, since they bid on Hillary Clinton. And she lost ... They had to wash [out the consequences] for a long time.

And again, stepping on the same rake, because the same Lutsenko is playing a tactical, not a strategic game. Yes, for now Trump is the President. Yes, he can save a chair in 2020. However, in 2024, a Democrat might well be accommodated in the Oval Office, who will remember these sharp turns in Kiev. In the States, presidents are changing, but the establishment remains. And it sees that first Kiev conned the Republicans, looking into Clinton's mouth, and then the Democrats, changing sides. Accordingly, their credibility is undermined in the eyes of both. Capitol dwellers who are in charge of US policy are not sure that they will not be cheated again when the political situation changes.

Ukraine is again becoming a factor in US domestic policy, and this is very bad. Due to the vindictiveness of the American establishment. We [will eventually get the harsh payback]. Worse, even if Lutsenko is telling the truth about the list of immunity... In addition, there are signs that at least hint at the reality of if not some list of untochables, but at least of voicing urgent requests not to touch those or other persons. But this topic is too sensitive, as seen by the quick reaction of the State Department, the Embassy and the way the news is spread by Trump's supporters. And such an agiotage is another negative consequence for Lutsenko and, as a result, for Ukraine, because no one can prove anything. At least for now. Yes, the Prosecutor General claims the passing of the list, but does not show it. If it is confidential, then why talk? Or else, which is also likely, its publication is scheduled for later, when the scandal reaches its peak. Obviously, the price that Ukraine will have to pay in the future - in a year or four - will grow even more.

Official - SBU DeControlled

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Roraff, Brian R [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:57 PM

To: [REDACTED] (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)

<CastilloRA@state.gov>; Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)

(b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6); (b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6); Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

+ John and (b)(6) on the Desk.

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:56 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
(b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Two updates below:

• A not very credible Ukrainian outlet speculates who would be on the "so-called Yovanovitch list"

• A post from popular blogger Sergey Fursa, criticizing Ukrainian leadership.

<http://www.dsnews.ua/politics/spisok-yovanovich-kto-v-nego-vhodit--21032019090600>

YOVANOVITCH LIST. Who is on it?

After Yurii Lutsenko declared that there is a so-called Yovanovitch list which allegedly prohibits opening criminal cases against some people, a statement was issued by the US Embassy that there is no such list. We do not want to say whether such a list exists or not, but it is worth noting that our selective justice provides a wide field for fantasies. Moreover, it allows us to say that, besides the possible list by Yovanovitch, there are also lists by other respected actors. We decided to compose our own "Yovanovitch list".

1. Serhii Levochkin. Note that Firtash's partner is never mentioned either by Americans or by Europeans in conjunction with Firtash himself. However, how can you not remember that he did not answer for the crimes of the Yanukovych regime, and after resigning during Euromaidan, he went to the USA for several months. Why? Many believe that he received an indulgence in 2004, when, according to legend, he persuaded Kuchma not to follow the tough scenario.

2. Anatoly Gritsenko. Here, perhaps, it is not necessary to write a lot - everyone understands everything anyway.

3. Artem Sytnyk. One of the key players on our board who, besides the appearance of anti-corruption work, is collecting information. NABU is a key tool for gathering information in Ukraine.

4. Gizo Uglava. The right hand of Sytnyk and the main communicator of NABU with embassies and politicians. He is one of the main flywheels work NABU

5. Oleksander Danylyuk. Coming from the administration of Yanukovych, a man rather close to Serhii Levochkin, found himself in the position of one of the main reformers in Poroshenko Administration, and then in the chair of the head of the Ministry of Finance. His main achievement is his knowledge of the English language and the image of a certain reformer, although in reality he did nothing. He is needed

because he is ready to perform any tasks. Therefore, now he, who all around said that he professes radical libertarianism, began to appear regularly in the company of Vladimir Zelenskiy.

6. Andrii Kobolev - the head of the board of the NJSC "Naftogaz", who, despite the loud scandal around the huge salary and even higher premiums, retained the chair of the head of the main enterprise of the fuel and energy complex of Ukraine.

7. David Sakvarelidze. Former Deputy Attorney General. Perhaps, it was Sakvarelidze who hinted at Lutsenko in his interview, speaking of a "rather strange situation" with the release of \$4 million by the Americans by the GPU.

Of course, our list is only an approximate assumption, and it is quite possible to continue with other assumptions. Spokeswoman for Lutsenko Larysa Sarhan, for example, separately clarified that the names of MPs were on the "Yovanovitch list". Most likely, this is also a hint at a group of Euro-optimists-anti-corruption-activists led by Serhii Leschenko, whose active cooperation with the US Embassy is more than obvious. Also number of anti-corruption social activists could be added to the list, the most popular among them being Vitalii Shabunin.

--

Social media post by prominent blogger Sergey Fursa:

<https://www.facebook.com/sergey.fursa/posts/2672460412780356>

Lutsenko's statement about the Americans, who, as it turned out, dictate him whom to imprison (that is why, therefore, Semochko, Gladkovskiy and the leadership of Kherson region are still not in jail).

Demonstrative appointment to the Supreme Court of all the discredited corrupt officials along with a ban of a decent judge.

The decision of the Constitutional Court, which rolls back the anti-corruption reform and spits in the face of creditors, announcing amnesty to corrupt officials.

What is it? And right before the elections. In the most seemingly not appropriate moment. Many think it is nonsense, greed, madness. Yes, a lot of things can be attributed to all these.

In fact, it all looks like teenage [psychological] complexes. When a dummy teenager gets a chance to put his tongue out at his teachers when going to another school. When they do not have power over him now, but nobody knows what happens in the future. And he starts breaking windows. Beat the younger ones. Get drunk before school. And revenge for the fact that he had to follow the rules for so long. That he was forced to learn. That he was not allowed to smoke at school. Hindered to skip classes. In general, he was tortured so much.

And now they have grasped the moment. Previously they could not do it, because Ukraine is completely dependent on the support of creditors. And it is difficult to retain power when the country is in default [market crash/national bankruptcy]. So they were forced to obey. To carry out reforms. Sabotage, but move forward. And now the elections. And on the one hand, if they lose, then - everything else can go to hell. What difference does it make to them, then, will there be the national bankruptcy or not. And if they win, "you can start from scratch." And to bargain about the steps in the fight against corruption. Trade loans for smaller concessions. Throwing away the old skin, like selling it for a loan at the expense of the next attorney general, who has lost confidence. And lost his coast.

On the other hand, they are sure that the West still has no choice. Like the same teenager who knows that his parents won't leave him anyway. And now, when alternative candidates look even worse, they allow themselves to enjoy themselves. Where will the West go, they will still support them. You can spit in tea, and blame the ambassadors. Everything is possible. Moreover, they firmly believe that the West will support Ukraine anyway. After all, the disease of their brain is also called geopolitics.

Is it logical? More than yes. Especially if you are a teenager, you have hormones and [psychological] complexes. And you want to prove to everyone around that you are an alpha-male. If you think that you have been unjustly humiliated, and now you are taking revenge. And then you proudly tell the girls how you settled the score with all these old-farts. These western boring bureaucrats. These bourgeoisie. And here I remember the youth, the Komsomol, and all the lessons of the history of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union], which they learned. And fiery speeches that all these Lutsenkos proclaimed in their youth about the struggle for the happiness of the proletariat and the opposition to the imperialists.

The problem is that we are talking about the leadership of the country, and not about teenagers who want to prove something to everyone around. If we are talking about the leadership of a country that has made a choice in favor of European values, then this is not only inappropriate but also pitiful. After all, just look at such a teenager. With pity. And hope that once he will grow up and become wiser.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 2:26 PM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

(b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)
 Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) Kent, George P
 (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Schutte, John P (Kyiv)
 (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC

<Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Expanding the distro list for these updates slightly, and providing a few news and social media updates below.

Interfax: POROSHENKO SHOULD EITHER RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF LUTSENKO'S STATEMENT ABOUT YOVANOVITCH'S LIST OR SACK LUTSENKO – SYROYID

KYIV. March 21 (Interfax-Ukraine) – Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko must either receive written documented confirmation backing up the claim of Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko about receiving a list from U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch of persons who should not be investigated, or dismiss Lutsenko, Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, Oksana Syroyid has said.

"President [Petro] Poroshenko this morning can only have two documents: either information substantiating the claim of Prosecutor General Lutsenko, or his submission to parliament that Lutsenko be dismissed as Ukraine's prosecutor general," she said on Facebook on Thursday.

Lutsenko earlier in an interview with the Washington, D.C.-based The Hill publication said U.S.

Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch gave him a list of persons whom should not be investigated.

Lutsenko said he ignored the request.

"Unfortunately, from the first meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, [Yovanovitch] gave me a list of people whom we should not prosecute," Lutsenko, who took his post in 2016, told Hill.TV last week," The Hill quoted Lutsenko as saying. The prosecutor added, "My response of that is it is inadmissible."

More Social Media:

Political analyst Mykola Bielieskov:

Probably it was decided that the mission was early withdrawal from Ukraine of the current U.S. ambassador. Because Donald Trump is trying to form the impression that Marie Yovanovitch is somehow involved in intervening in the 2016 election in favor of Hillary Clinton. Such messages have already been launched in Ukraine.

As for me, this is more a vendetta attempt for a speech from March 5 - for criticism on the eve of the election, which was a hit to the head of state. What about the real fact of possible interference in the election of the ambassador herself in favor of Hillary Clinton.

In addition, there is probably a conclusion that if Yovanovitch remained short on the cadence, then skeletons can be taken out from the closet. It does not matter whether they are real or not.

But the biggest negativity will be this public clarification of relationships. Criticism of Yovanovitch is a critique of the entire American system, not just one person.

Mykola Bielieskov:

Stories about the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States are divided into mutual accusations, public attempts to clarify the relationship and attempts to shift responsibility of those who actually stood behind the information of the Party of Regions in the context of Paul Manafort's work here.

But the biggest concern is that the tone and individual theses are more reminiscent of the openly hostile relations between the U.S. and Russia, and not the partnership relations between Ukraine and the United States.

Against this background, it feels sad and disgusting.

Anti-corruption Action Center:

Fierce wrestler with American imperialism, Kholodnitsky now has a follower. Prosecutor General Lutsenko said that the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch gave him a list of people who were not to be prosecuted. We suspect that everyone was on this list: from Ivanushchenko to Zlochevsky, from Kernes to Boyko and so on.

But seriously, one must be a "genius" to declare war on the entire diplomatic system of Ukraine's key ally in the war with Russia. There was already one "hero" who tried to fight with Western diplomats. And where is he now? Somewhere in Rostov ... And remember the story of the liberation of the "son of a bitch" Shokin? And here's another shot in the leg. Fairy tale.

Blogger Alex Noinets:

I kind of understand everything, but when one of the key government figures in the press declares that the ambassador of a key government partner, thanks to whom we are, in fact, preserving our statehood, declares that this ambassador actually committed an official crime - this means that the situation is critical.

Before that, Yovanovitch had repeatedly jumped into questions that were not within her competence. But what is especially scary is that she clung to them in public. Not just recommended to the leadership of the country, but publicly recommended. This is, of course, unacceptable.

Instead, the prosecutor general accused her of the above and beyond. And what is especially scary - accused publicly. And not in our country, but in her country.

This is an incredibly bad signal. Not just bad. Awful signal. Love each other is optional. Listen to each other is optional. But to go out with such questions in public - to close off the possibility for a peaceful settlement of the issue to both ourselves and our opponent.

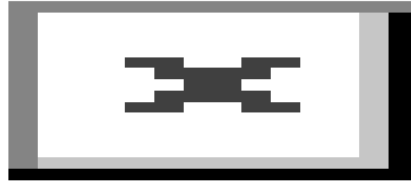
Everything. Very. Bad. Now either the prosecutor general or the ambassador must leave.

And I do not believe for a single second that Yury Vitalyevich went to war against the U.S. State Department himself, without prior agreement with Peter Alekseevich.

I cannot draw any conclusions, because I do not have any information. But to go to war with the State Department 10 days before the elections is either a prohibitively ingenious step, the meaning of which eludes me, because I am not a genius, or self-destructive.

Blogger Anton Hodza:

Yovanovitch handed Lutsenko a new list [picture with piece of paper saying: You are screwed]



cid:image002.png@01D4DFEF.AF893690

MP Serhiv Leshchenko:

I heard that Prosecutor General Lutsenko decided to hit a new bottom and open a criminal investigation about alleged interference in the U.S. presidential election. The reason for this was the decision of the District Court of Kyiv (Bankova Hand Court) on the suit of MP Rosenblatt. This court, in the interval between Nasirov's restoration and Suprun's dismissal, rendered another ingenious decision, which recognized that I and the head of NABU Sytnik were interfering in the American elections. You may have seen this court decision - Viktor Medvedchuk, a secret ally of the presidential administration, actively promoted it.

I want to inform our Prosecutor General that the court's decision on Rosenblatt's claim did not come into force, and on Monday this week the appeal proceedings were opened. Of course, such a trifle as the absence of a legal court decision is unlikely to stop our Prosecutor General. No wonder they chose a person without such burdensome baggage as a legal education.

Mustafa Nayyem, MP:

There are two amazing circumstances that unite the administrations of Viktor Yanukovych and Petro Poroshenko. The biggest enemies of reform and the fight against corruption are still journalists, civil society and the U.S. Embassy. And the biggest friend is Rinat Akhmetov. And it is obvious that if there was a certain list of persons untouchable for the GPU, it would not be voiced by the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, but by President Petro Poroshenko, his entourage and friends, partners of the Prosecutor General himself. Because for all these years, they have systematically avoided justice, openly ignoring not only the law, but also the elementary rules of decency.

Meanwhile, Yuriy Lutsenko is unlikely to be able to influence the career of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. As far as I understand, Madam Ambassador will not only not leave her post before the end of her term in the country, but will also remain in her post for some time after the end of this term.

And about the investigation of the General Prosecutor's Office of the actions of the head of the NABU on interference in the elections in the United States. Yuriy Lutsenko somewhat overestimates his capabilities. The GPU lost the investigation functions in the fall of 2017. The only body that can initiate such an investigation into the disclosure of secrets of the investigation, for example, is the State Bureau of Investigation. However, in theory, Artem Sytnik can still be accused of treason, in this case, the investigation can be carried out even in the SBU.

We are left to wait for the head of the NABU to hand over the suspicion of interfering in the election of the U.S. president, while the Americans themselves suspect the Russian Federation of such interference. I think this decrepitude can be considered final.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:57 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
(b)(6)	Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv)
Roraff, Brian R	(b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6)	

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

The story is being widely discussed by prominent commentators in Ukrainian social media. Below are a set of posts (generally rough translations). Up top are a couple tweets by Western media, too, for EUR/Press' awareness. The commentary among Ukrainians on social media is mixed, but many commentators are skeptical of Lutsenko.

BBC Journalist Jonah Fisher:

So Ukraine's prosecutor general claims the U.S. Ambassador gave him a list of people not to prosecute. A few pertinent facts follow...

The Prosecutor General Lutsenko is very political - and very much President Poroshenko's man. There is an election in 10 days time and the polls show Poroshenko struggling to even make the second round

Two weeks ago the US ambassador to Ukraine was unusually scathing of President Poroshenko's record for tackling corruption.

FT/NYT Journalist Mark Rachkevych:

#USA amb. Yovanovitch implies #Ukraine PGO / Lutsenko is #corrupt in that taxpayer \$ is given where needed most and where it could make most impact in response to \$ allocated to PGO that wasn't received

RFE/RL journalist Chris Miller on President Trump's tweet:

Comments from Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, based on alleged leaked audio of NABU chief from scandal-plagued MP, have made their way to the White House via Hannity.

Social Media Commentary from Ukrainians:

Kristina Berdyskykh, Novoye Vremya journalist:

Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said in an interview with the U.S. media that the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine at their first meeting, handed him a list of who cannot be prosecuted. The U.S. Embassy says it's not true.

This is an unexpected move from Lutsenko. Indeed, he is now in a position (without any law [legal] education) solely because malicious Americans publicly and non-publicly repeatedly reminded the Ukrainian authorities that the discredited Prosecutor General Shokin in the GPU is bad for the reputation of the country.

Did Lutsenko really forgot how the president was holding on to Shokin with all his strength opposing the American pressure and did not want to dismiss him. But he did not stand, he gave his concessions, and replaced Shokin with Yuri Lutsenko. Here is the link, how Biden remembers it. [Link where Joe Biden said that he gave 6 hours to dismiss Shokin]

Since the prosecutor general has appeared in the media with the "List of Yovanovitch" and served as a newsmaker for Russia Today, let him announce these names from the list already. His relationship with the Americans can no longer be rescued, let him hand over and publish documents with the list in Facebook.

Finally, freeing from American pressure, nothing stops Lutsenko to fight corruption in Ukraine. This, of course, was the only factor that was preventing him to do everything. And if so everyone would already be behind bars. Finally, we know why corrupt officials are at still free :)

Now should also return Shokin to the GPU, the man was hurt for nothing.

Volodymyr Boiko, journalist:

Ambassador of the United States Marie Yovanovitch leaves Ukraine ahead of schedule - 5 months before the end of her assignment. In her home country, together with former FBI representative in Ukraine Karen Greenaway, former deputy U.S ambassador to Ukraine (now

Deputy Assistant Secretary) John *[error by author]* Kent and NABU director Artem Sytnyk. Mrs. Yovanovitch appears in the investigation into interference with the U.S. presidential election in 2016. This is about the so-called "black bookkeeping of the Party of Regions" with information on payments received in Ukraine by ex-leader of Trump campaign Paul Manafort.

As I have repeatedly said, in April-May 2016, in order to compromise Trump, Mrs. Greenaway handed excerpts from this "black bookkeeping" to Sytnyk for legalization by publishing on the NABU website. And Kent handed copies to make public to MP Sergey Leshchenko and was already practically released to the former head of the SBU's agency Viktor Trepak. At the same time in the "black bookkeeping" appeared another American - Gregory Craig. But since Craig was a lawyer serving the Barack Obama administration, Greenaway and Sytnyk warned the head of the SAPO Kholodnitsky that Craig's name should never be found, and that fraud should not be investigated.

In early 2019, the White House received from the leadership of Ukraine testimony of the head of the SAPO Kholodnitsky, who gave the testimony at the Prosecutor General's Office regarding the circumstances of Greenaway and Sytnyk's intervention during the 2016 presidential campaign in the United States. In order to avoid responsibility, Marie Yovanovitch and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Kent in March 2019 tried to infiltrate the scandal surrounding the corruption of Ukroboronprom's funds in order to force Poroshenko to dismiss the head of the SAPO Kholodnitsky and disavow Kholodnitsky's testimony by blackmailing the President of Ukraine that Sytnyk would open criminal proceedings on the son of Gladkovsky (godson of Poroshenko). But there was an overhand of the performer and former member of the Council of Public Control of NABU, a professional "public activist" Denis Bihus disclosed not only the information that threw the shadow on Gladkovsky, but also the evidence of participation in the corruption of funds Ukroboronprom by Sytnyk himself.

As a result, Mrs. Yovanovitch is already packing her suitcases - she might well have made company with her friend Karen Greenaway, who was expelled from the FBI in December 2018. The main shot was an interview, which the general, sorry God, prosecutor Yuriy Lutsenko gave the American television channel Hill.TV. In particular, Yuriy Vitaliyovych confirmed that criminal proceedings are currently being investigated, registered on the fact of interference from the territory of Ukraine in the campaign of the U.S. presidential elections in 2016:

In addition, the general, sorry God, prosecutor said that as soon as he took the position, Yovanovitch handed him a list of people who were intact and who under no circumstances could be prosecuted. I would add that this list is headed by MP Sergey Leshchenko:

Lutsenko also said that \$ 4 million of American government assistance, which was allocated for the reform of the prosecutor's office (\$ 2.5 million intended directly to the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine), had not reached its intended destination and was stolen.

I will note that the story about theft of \$ 2.5 million is well known to me, and I'll tell it the next time.

Serhiy Sydorenko, editor in chief Evropeiska Pravda:

In reflections and even without ideas: Why does Lutsenko needs this naive lie/made up information of the "list of untouchables from the U.S. Ambassador"?

The possibility that this is true given the reaction - I, of course, exclude a little more than completely. This is nonsense.

An option that the journalists would have turned this around would have made sense, but it's been several hours already, and Lutsenko is silent and does not refute his statement with potentially nuclear consequences for himself ...

It is important that the statement targeted the American audience, in The Hill.

Could Lutsenko said this without Bankova's OK? It is unlikely, but I would not exclude it. But let it be so, yes, the questions do not change. What is this role for Lutsenko in a cheap American blockbuster? Why? For whom? And against whom? And is it not obvious that this role has a very artificial appearance?

Or maybe this is not an American role, and our local revenge to Yovanovitch for her latest statement? Then it is generally distilled idiocy from the handbook of shooting yourself in the leg

...

So, a bunch of questions, and zero answers. I'm running in guesses.

it seems, the worst thing has been confirmed.

Well, then I'm a little bit about Panda's diplomacy [note: meaning unclear to translators]... [next post]

Serhiy Sydorenko (second post):

So, it seems that our government really decided to wage war with Ambassador Yovanovitch at any price for the country ... Now it's clear that this is not an amateur Lutsenko's lie - but a sanctioned one.

By the way Yovanovitch this year is still leaving Ukraine, her term is done. But somebody on Bankova decided that at the end it is worth going to war with her, not understanding the obvious - that they declared the war not with Ambassador, but the State Department, the American diplomatic system in general.

I have one analogy here. More precisely, two.

1) Summer 2011. Yanukovych's time. The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Voloshin comes to the French ambassador Jacques Faure and distributes ... fake that the ambassador is withdrawing from Ukraine because of the "support of the opposition". The fight with Faure was long lasting, and dirty rumors circulated against him. Everyone understood where it was coming from, but it was all "sources." But when Kyiv came out with a public official statement, then Paris was frankly shocked ...

As a result, Ukraine has significantly lost its credibility in Paris. Faure (really cool and pro-Ukrainian diplomat!) had his term prolonged as ambassador. Incidentally, after him, came an ambassador who did not love Ukraine, but that's another story.

2) Spring 2012. Again, Yanukovych's time (for such an idiocy no one else did with Western partners - only past [Yanukovych] and the present [Poroshenko]). The Foreign Ministry begins a comprehensive, open and backstage struggle with the then EU Ambassador to Ukraine Pinto Teixeira. Mistakes of history were taken into account, and acted mainly behind the scenes.

Fighting enthusiastically, creatively ... on several fronts.

Teixeira, however, had already completed his assignment, but the Kyiv war against him proved to many in Brussels that he was a good ambassador.

But some, like the profile commissar, who worked very closely with Klyuev, managed to convince the opposite.

As a result, Teixeira, after leaving, was well settled (for no one listened to commissars), but the participants of that fight generally believed that they had succeeded.

The fact that the ambassador of Ukraine in Brussels then was Yelisseyev, I consider to be a coincidence and an accident.

PS: How would you explain to somebody that the U.S. is not an EU at all, and even when there is conflicts between the American parties, this is not an occasion for us to fight with their system ... Even if at any moment we help an American with this war, this does not eliminate the falsity of tactics ...

But, afraid, it's too late to explain :(

Serhiy Sydorenko (third post):

Who I do not really envy right now- this is our ambassador to the United States.

Chalyi was definitely not aware of the ingenious idea of war with the State Department and for some reason I believe, that he would not approve it.

But he is the one who will have to deal with the consequences on the front.

Vitaliy Schadunin, Anti Corruption Action Center:

I am astonished that in the " Yovanovitch list" appeared Ivanushchenko (Yenakiyevsky), Kernes and Kholodnitsky but was not for example, NV editorial offices and Radio Liberty.

If by the morning of Monday from Poroshenko there will be no document for the dismissal of Lutsenko, then he is the same brilliant diplomat, as Yanukovych.

The latter was the only president (it seems, except Poroshenko) who tried to fight in similar games <http://bit.ly/2TP97si>. [link to previous Sydorenko's post]

Only a truly "brilliant diplomat" could declare war on the entire diplomatic system of Ukraine's key ally in the war with Russia. #listwhitefever

Oleksiy Mustafin, centrist blogger and journalist with Dzerkalo Tyznya

Let me remind you that Lutsenko is not the first. The first was Kononenko

Lutsenko, apparently, watched too many times the "Servant of the people" and also decided to send off ... American Ambassador.

Anton Hodza, blogger, active member of the Who killed Katya Handziuk initiative

The new motto for the Prosecutor General's Office is already: Dementia et audacia

Fugitive MP Aleksandr Onyshenko:

The Prosecutor General said that the U.S. Ambassador offered him a list of those who could not be prosecuted.

Given that I have already seen this somewhere, my forecast for the next month is approximately the same.

The cancellations of the U.S. visa, the ban on U.S. entry, a synchronous signal to Canada and the UK, the loss of international legitimacy, a sharp decrease in diplomatic contacts, the cancellation of upcoming meetings and the start of coordinated external activities aimed at resigning. *[not clear from his post who is exactly referring to]*

Simon Ostrovsky, PBC Newshour, CODA :

My sense is that @poroshenko is also trying to curry favor with Trump by pushing the narrative that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. election because Poroshenko is going to need his support if things go south in the upcoming poll in Ukraine

Ukrainian anti-corruption activist @fridarya says this is in part the @poroshenko administration attempting to discredit the U.S. Ambassador for her criticism of stalled reforms in the justice system

Journalist Katya Gorchinskaya on Ostrovsky tweet: Currying favor by shooting yourself in the foot - it's got to be a new tactic in diplomacy

Karl Volokh, Pro-Poroshenko blogger:

Did I tell you that Marivanna [Marie Yovanovitch] would leave us in an untimely way, without waiting for the end of the assignment? Well, and now, it was confirmed. Looks like her sponsored Sytnik needs to prepare.

I hope the Americans will not be limited to just dismissal - it was too much she screwed up here.

Another Post from Karl Volokh, Pro-Poroshenko Blogger:

Great foreign policy specialists panicked about the "tough reply" of the State Department to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General. Someone even foresees diplomatic complications. Do not cluck so vainly. In the State Department, George Kent - Marivanna's [Marie Yovanovitch] accomplice on most of her failures - is responsible for the Ukrainian direction and one could hardly expect a different reaction from him. I don't know what the reaction of Secretary of State Pompeo will be, but there are enough people in the White House and the Senate today who are running out of patience about the Obama's Ambassador. In general, don't worry, fellow citizens, we will break through

Denys Bihus, investigative journalist:

Judging by the GPU's criminal cases that resulted in imprisonment, Yovanovitch handed over to Lutsenko the telephone list of the residents of Koncha Zaspa [elite residential area in Kyiv]

Sergiy Rudenko, Espresso journalist:

Three years ago, U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch gave Yuriy Lutsenko, as the new Prosecutor General, as he says, a list of "untouchables" of Ukrainian politicians. And all this time

Yuri Vitaliyovich was heroically silent. And now he decided to speak. Because there is no more power to endure this whole American oppression! Dope!

Lutsenko must announce the list of Marie Yovanovitch. Ukraine needs to know who is "Washington's hand". The Prosecutor General says that there are surnames of MPs. Imagine if Yulia Tymoshenko is on the list? How then should we respond to the theory that Yulia is "the hand of Moscow"?)

Marie's List: Gladkovsky, Nasirov, Semochko, Rosenblatt

Now everything is clear?)

Mykola Bielieskov, journalist at Glavkom:

A cheery asymmetrical answer was invented by us on the criticism in response to Marie Yovanovitch on March 5, 2019 - that there is a list of people that was passed to the Prosecutor General during the first meeting with the new ambassador, who are better not to be investigated. Well, at least this is what all looks like for an average man, who does not have access to sensitive data.

Yevhen Buderatsky, Ukrainska Pravda:

"I did not say anything like that about the Ambassador, and I do not understand where it came from." (c) Ihor Kononenko, commenting on the fact that Poroshenko asked Biden to dismiss U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt because of criticism of Prosecutor General's Shokin, October 9, 2015

Oleg Polomar, blogger:

Regarding the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

Despite the fact that I know everything about the situation and even a little more, I do not see the point and benefit of giving a detailed and essentially commentary.

For two reasons.

1. According to a long-established plan of regular diplomatic rotation and not connected with the elections in the United States or with elections in Ukraine, the U.S. ambassador must complete her term in Ukraine in the coming months.

Therefore, I see no reason to create additional tension and make unnecessary sprays if this can be avoided.

2. Today in Ukraine the main thing is to preserve the independence and statehood on March 31, not to allow the Russian and Malorussian revenge. And, as I have written more than once, we must go through the remaining week and a half with dignity and win. Thereby - to preserve the Euro-Atlantic course of Ukraine and - this is the main thing today. Trumps come and go, and Ukraine and the United States are allies and partners for a long time.

Good luck everyone.

Official - SBU

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DeControlled

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:19 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Based on a review of media coverage in significant Ukrainian outlets:

The following outlets have reported on the State Department's expanded commentary provided by EUR-Press to 1+1 :

TSN Program on 1+1

- UNIAN (also associated with TSN/1+1)
- Interfax (major wire service)
- 112 (includes some of the expanded commentary, but overall the report is relatively short and does not include all details)

The following outlets picked up The Hill report, including the State Department commentary that was provided to the Hill (but was not as expansive as the later-approved guidance):

- Ukrainska Pravda / Yevropeiska Pravda
<https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2019/03/20/7209773/> (Wed, 21:30)
<https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/03/21/7094209/> (Thu, 08:37)
 - Liga.net
<https://news.liga.net/politics/news/lutsenko-dal-intervyu-the-hill-obvinil-yovanovich-gosdep-otvetil>
(Wed, 19:23)
 - BBC Ukrainian
<https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-47642452> (Wed)
 - Censor.net
https://censor.net.ua/news/3117732/lutsenko_posol_ssha_yiovanovich_peredala_mne_perechen_lyudeyi_kotoryh_prosila_ne_privlekat_k_otvetstvennosti (Wed, 19:05)
 - Gordon
<https://gordonua.com/news/politics/lucenko-zayavil-chto-yovanovich-peredala-emu-spisok-lic-kotoryh-nelzya-privlekat-k-otvetstvennosti-824758.html> (Wed, 20:03)
 - Strana.ua
<https://strana.ua/news/191837-kto-i-zachem-atakuet-mari-jovanovich-posla-ssha-v-ukraine.html> (Wed., 21:45)
 - Interfax (in addition to publishing the expanded State commentary, they also reported on the initial State commentary reflected in the Hill article)
<https://interfax.com.ua/news/political/574200.html> (Thu, 09:37)
- We do not see any significant Ukrainian media outlets reporting on the Lutsenko story without a U.S. reaction (either from the original statement EUR/Press provided to the Hill or the later statement EUR/Press provided to 1+1).

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:02 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

(b)(6)

Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Here's a rough transcript of what was said on Hannity's show last night. Video footage is available at

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6016314120001/#sp=show-clips>

Very Top of the Program:

Breaking Tonight according to The Hill's John Solomon, we now have major evidence of election collusion in 2016. Real evidence to back it up. This collusion surrounds Hillary Clinton and a top Ukrainian government official that wanted her elected. We're going to have all the details coming up with John Solomon.

Other stories covered, then the report closed with ...

[Transition] into this damning new story which we now get to tonight from John Solomon. We know tonight that a high-ranking government official in Ukraine actively tried to benefit the Clinton campaign in 2016. This is breaking tonight according to Solomon. Ukraine's top prosecutor has opened a criminal probe into whether senior law enforcement officials in that country tried to sway the U.S. election – influence our election - to help Hillary Clinton win. Now a tape recording released by a member of the Ukrainian parliament captured an official talking about leaking Manafort financial records in the middle of the 2016 election for the stated purpose to help Hillary Clinton. The Ukrainian court even ruled the leak was an improper effort to influence the American election. That's not all. According to this report by John Solomon, Ukraine's top prosecutor accused the U.S. Embassy of interfering in corruption prosecutions inside the country, including one probe into the alleged misuse of American aid. And a letter surfaced from a senior member of Congress to Secretary Pompeo accusing the current U.S. Ambassador in Kyiv of badmouthing the Trump administration. Now this is exactly what Mark Meadows was talking about Tuesday on this show. So where's the Mueller investigation into these matters? After all, it's already under investigation in the country of Ukraine, there's a tape recording that has all this information? Where's equal justice under our laws? There's single application of our laws. There's no Trump-Russia collusion as we now know – well, the FBI told us after 9 months, then of course the House Intel Committee told us, then the Senate Intel Committee told us, and as Congressman Nunes pointed out, many years ago – by the way, 2014 – he was among many people, by the way, to do this – Russian interference he told us in 2014 is a real threat. He warned us in 2014. And not to the Trump campaign, by the way, it's power-obsessed Clintons who may have been the most susceptible. That's where the real collusion ends up being. And this week we learn that former White House Council Craig may soon be facing charges linked to Mueller's probe. Oh, maybe a little [inaudible – bit?] of justice.

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:08 AM

To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

(b)(6)

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

(b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P

(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

From looking through the English language press a bit more this morning:

- The Lutsenko story does not appear to have been picked up by other significant U.S. outlets beyond what has already been detailed in the chain below. It does appear, however, to have been not only on Hannity's social media feeds and website, but also on his show about 6-7 hours ago. (I'll look for the tape of that.)

- The story was discussed on Twitter in the U.S. (seemingly around the time of Hannity's show). Hannity's tweets alone received about 1.5K comments, and President Trump's received over 8K comments. (Not all comments are on topic, obviously.) There are some tweets (perhaps a couple dozen) discussing Ambassador Yovanovitch by name, some of which call for her to be fired or face treason charges.

Looking through Ukrainian media in more depth now...

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From: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:32 AM

To: (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Roraff, Brian R (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6)

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

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

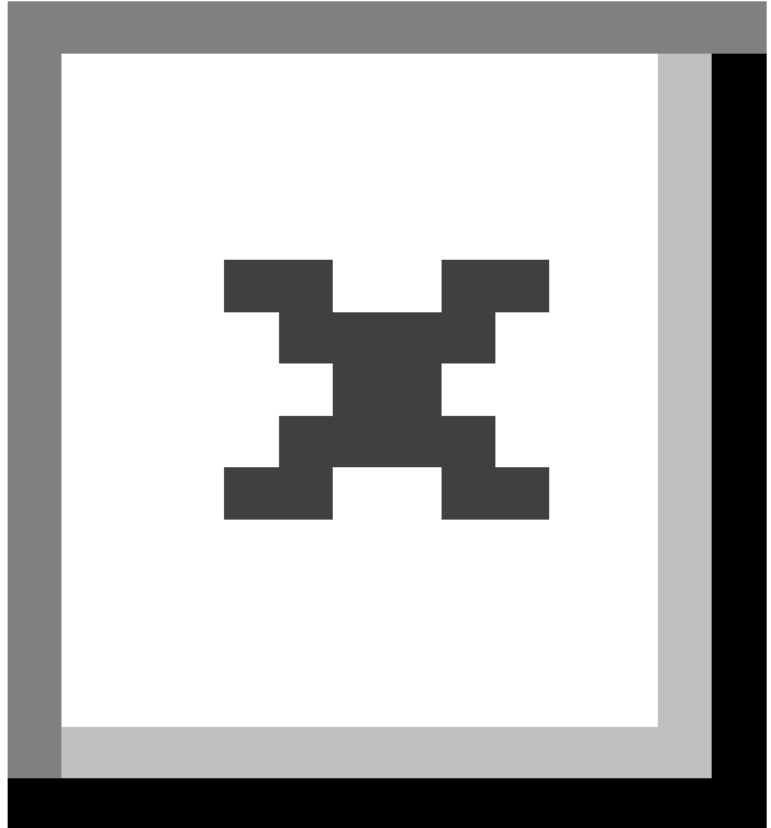
+ EUR Press

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 21, 2019 at 8:36:16 AM GMT+2
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6) Roraff,
Brian R (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P
(b)(6)

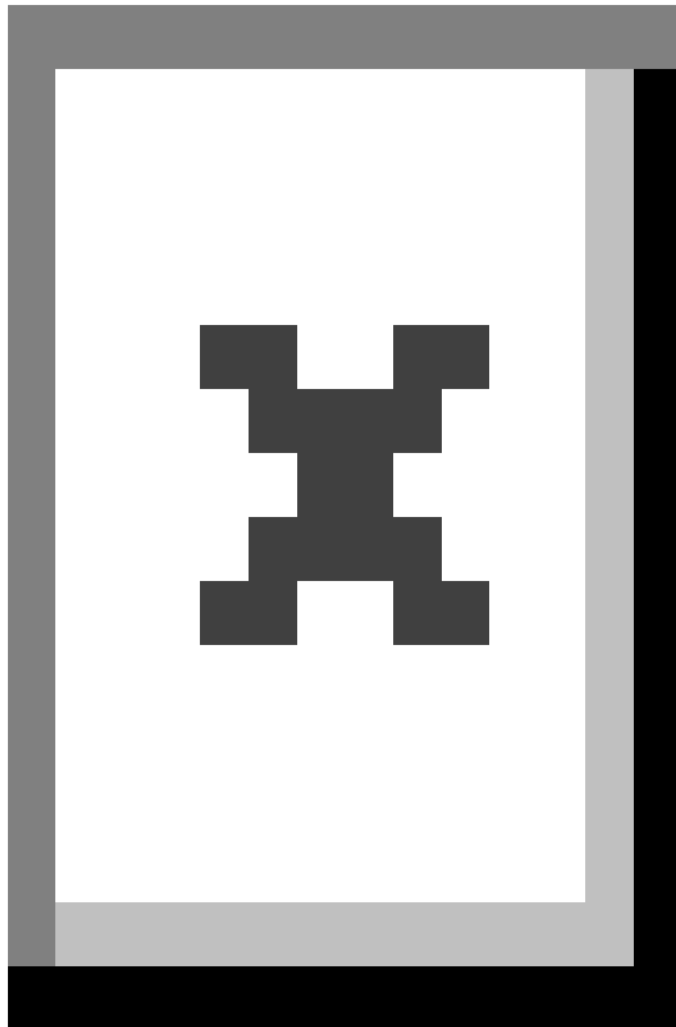
Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

+George, Brian (b)(6) (DC colleagues -- please scroll down a bit if you haven't seen the latest developments, which occurred overnight in Kyiv – publication of a Hill column about the Lutsenko situation which refers to the Embassy and George, as well as a tweet by POTUS).

Per AMB's latest question – here is a screenshot of the letter seemingly signed by George to the Deputy PG included in The Hill's column, saying (broadly generalizing) we see no need for the PGO to investigate the U.S. assistance package to the PGO, and raising concerns about an investigation into ANTAC.

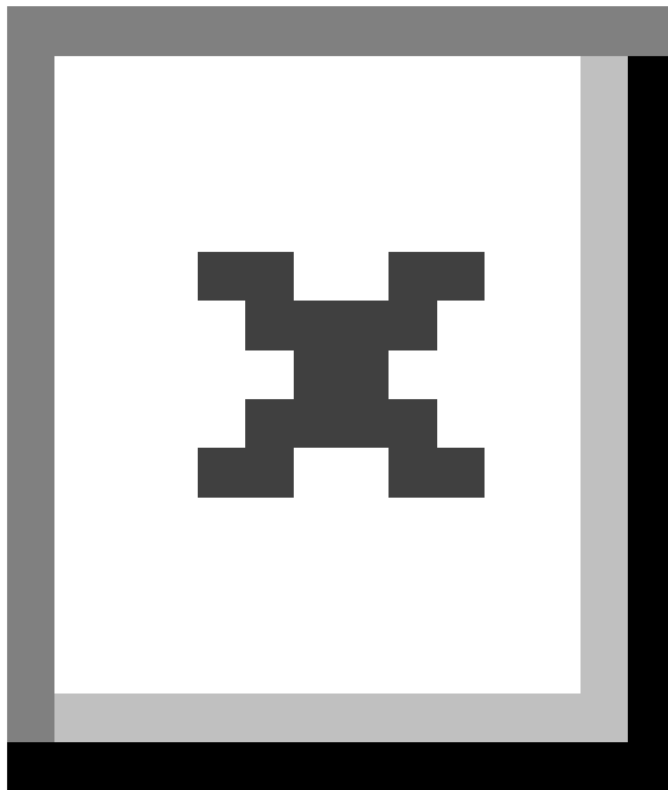


cid:image003.jpg@01D4DFC1.1C1AAF20



cid:image004.jpg@01D4DFC1.1C1AAF20

And The Hill column also included an image of the full letter from Pete Sessions to Secretary Pompeo (pasting that below too).



cid:image005.jpg@01D4DFC1.1C1AAF20

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:29 AM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); (b)(6);
(b)(6); (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6);
(b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article
There is a copy of the letter in the Hill piece. Couldn't copy and paste on my phone, but at my desk now – I'll send the screenshots momentarily (and loop in George, Brian, (b)(6))

Official

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From: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:25 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6);
(b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6); (b)(6);
(b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Reactions to Hill Article
Stephanie— do you know what the letter that George allegedly signed is about?
Kristin—we need to make sure George, Brian and (b)(6) get all this in real-time.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:30 AM
To: (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); (b)(6);
(b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Thanks, (b)(6) A couple initial updates from overnight:

The Hill reporter published an opinion column about the whole Lutsenko story (which concludes that it is important to investigate what's going on at US Embassy Kyiv). I'm pasting that text below.

Sean Hannity retweeted that about 4 hours ago. President Trump then tweeted the same headline, with Hannity and Fox tags, about 2 hours ago.

The top story on Hannity's website is now "Ukraine Bombshell" which quotes the Hill report about the Ukr government opening a probe into election interference. (No Embassy related content in that one.)

There's likely more coverage - I'll check more thoroughly when I'm in the office soon.

The Hill: As Russia collusion fades, Ukrainian plot to help Clinton emerges

After nearly three years and millions of tax dollars, the Trump-Russia collusion probe is about to be resolved. Emerging in its place is newly unearthed evidence suggesting another foreign effort to influence the 2016 election — this time, in favor of the Democrats.

Ukraine's top prosecutor divulged in an interview aired Wednesday on Hill.TV that he has opened an investigation into whether his country's law enforcement apparatus intentionally leaked financial records during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign about then-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort in an effort to sway the election in favor of Hillary Clinton.

The leak of the so-called "black ledger" files to U.S. media prompted Manafort's resignation from the Trump campaign and gave rise to one of the key allegations in the Russia collusion probe that has dogged Trump for the last two and a half years.

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Ukraine Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko's probe was prompted by a Ukrainian parliamentarian's release of a tape recording purporting to quote a top law enforcement official as saying his agency leaked the Manafort financial records to help Clinton's campaign.

The parliamentarian also secured a court ruling that the leak amounted to "an illegal intrusion into the American election campaign," Lutsenko told me. Lutsenko said the tape recording is a serious enough allegation to warrant opening a probe, and one of his concerns is that the Ukrainian law enforcement agency involved had frequent contact with the Obama administration's U.S. embassy in Kiev at the time. "Today we will launch a criminal investigation about this and we will give legal assessment of this information," Lutsenko told me.

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Lutsenko, before becoming prosecutor general, was a major activist against Russia's influence in his country during the tenure of Moscow-allied former president Viktor Yanukovich. He became chief prosecutor in 2016 as part of anti-corruption reforms instituted by current President Petro Poroshenko, an ally of the U.S. and Western countries.

Unlike the breathless start to the Russia collusion allegations — in which politicians and news media alike declared a Watergate-sized crisis before the evidence was fully investigated — the Ukraine revelations deserve to be investigated before being accepted.

After all, Ukraine is dogged by rampant corruption. It is a frequent target of Russian President Vladimir Putin's dirty tricks. And it is a country that, just last year, faked a journalist's death for one day, reportedly to thwart an assassination plot.

But the chief prosecutor, a member of parliament and a court seemingly have enough weight to warrant serious scrutiny of their allegations and an analysis of the audio tape.

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Furthermore, the mystery of how the Manafort "black ledger" files got leaked to American media has never been solved. They surfaced two years after the FBI investigated Manafort over his Ukraine business activities but declined to move forward in 2014 for lack of evidence.

We now have strong evidence that retired British spy Christopher Steele began his quest in what ultimately became the infamous Russia collusion dossier with a series of conversations with top Department of Justice (DOJ) official Bruce Ohr between December 2015 and February 2016, about securing evidence against Manafort.

We know the FBI set up shop in the U.S. embassy in Kiev to assist its Ukraine/Manafort inquiry — a common practice on foreign-based probes — while using Steele as an informant at the start of its Russia probe. And we know Clinton's campaign was using a law firm to pay an opposition research firm for Steele's work in an effort to stop Trump from winning the presidency, at the same time Steele was aiding the FBI.

Those intersections, coupled with the new allegations by Ukraine's top prosecutor, are reason enough to warrant a serious, thorough investigation.

If Ukraine law enforcement figures who worked frequently with the U.S. embassy did leak the Manafort documents in an effort to influence the American election for Clinton, the public deserves to know who knew what, and when.

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Lutsenko's interview with Hill.TV raises another troubling dynamic: The U.S. embassy and the chief Ukrainian prosecutor, who America entrusts with fighting corruption inside an allied country, currently have a dysfunctional relationship.

In our interview, Lutsenko accused the Obama-era U.S. embassy in 2016 of interfering in his ability to prosecute corruption cases, saying the U.S. ambassador gave him a list of defendants that he would not be allowed to pursue and then refused to cooperate in an early investigation into the alleged misappropriation of U.S. aid in Ukraine.

Lutsenko provided me with a letter from the embassy, supporting part of his story by showing that a U.S. official did in fact ask him to stand down on the misappropriation-of-funds case. "We are gravely concerned about this investigation for which we see no basis," an embassy official named George Kent wrote to the prosecutor's office.

The State Department on Wednesday issued a statement declaring that it no longer financially supports Lutsenko's office in its corruption-fighting mission and considers his allegation about the do-not-prosecute list "an outright fabrication."

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My reporting, however, indicates Lutsenko isn't the only person complaining about the U.S. embassy in Kiev.

Last year, when he served as House Rules Committee chairman, Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) wrote a private letter asking Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to recall the current U.S. ambassador, alleging that she made disparaging statements about President Trump.

The ambassador "has spoken privately and repeatedly about her disdain for the current administration in a way that might call for the expulsion" of America's top diplomat in Ukraine, Sessions wrote.

Such dysfunction does not benefit either country, especially when Russia is lurking around the corner, hoping to regain its influence in the former Soviet republic.

Investigating what's going on in the U.S. embassy in Kiev, and whether elements in Ukraine tried to influence the 2016 U.S. election to help Clinton, are essential steps to rebooting a key relationship.

John Solomon is an award-winning investigative journalist whose work over the years has exposed U.S. and FBI intelligence failures before the Sept. 11 attacks, federal scientists' misuse of foster children and veterans in drug experiments, and numerous cases of political corruption. He serves as an investigative columnist and executive vice president for video at The Hill.

From: (b)(6)

Date: March 21, 2019 at 6:37:21 AM GMT+2

To: (b)(6), Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)

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

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

It looks like the President tweeted about this an hour ago:

"John Solomon: as Russia collusion fades, Ukrainian plot to help Clinton emerges." @seanhannity @FoxNews

It's been retweeted 7,322 times.

Apologies, I can't copy the link on my iPhone.

From: (b)(6)

Date: March 20, 2019 at 7:56:03 PM GMT+2

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

The Hill article about Lutsenko opening an investigation into a plot to aid Clinton has also been picked up by Fox News correspondent Sara Carter.

The Hill story about the list of people not to prosecute is also starting to get more actively picked up in Ukrainian media within the past half hour or so. It's been reported by Censor, Liga, Radio Svoboda, LB, etc. Liga contacted the press service of the PGO to confirm that Lutsenko did indeed give an interview to Hill TV. Larisa Sargan from the PGO office responded, "She [Amb Y] at the meeting voiced a list of people who should not be prosecuted." When Liga asked why Lutsenko only now reported this, Sargan answered: "Because now they asked him about it." Sargan also said the list included "not two or three names, but more," and among them are representatives of the legislative branch.

Official - SBU

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:17 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Samopomich MP Olena Sotnyk posted on Facebook:

Well, I think it's not even worth commenting ... #epicfail [link to BBC Ukrainian article about The Hill's article about a list of people to not prosecute]

Official - SBU

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:09 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Post from Volodymyr Oliinyk, another fugitive MP, from Yanukovych's team – rough translation. (From 3 hours ago, so likely not a reaction specifically to the Hill article)

EVERYTHING IS JUST STARTING

After Manafort we assumed that the testimony of Sytnik and other actors would drag a whole group of Ukrainian politicians, and not only Ukrainian ones, into responsibility for the events during the US presidential election in 2016. The United States Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch has already been suspected. She is already preparing to leave Kyiv. I do not rule out that even Petro Poroshenko can easily become a figure of the interference with Democratic elections in favor of Hillary Clinton. This is stretched out into the light of God with the help of one of the deputy heads of the head of the SBU, who was engaged in this on the initiative of Petro Poroshenko. Americans are slowly finishing with the main curator, this is Manafort, they begin to figure out who was transferring money, who revealed the fictitious data of discrediting the head of Donald Trump's election headquarters. Trump will never forgive that. He began to take steps [against] many politicians and Ukrainians in particular. And these will not be the latest findings

of the American Justice regarding the presence of the crime of interference with the US electoral process. It is just beginning. Revenge is always a dish best served cold.

Official - SBU

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:04 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Bloomberg and RFE/RL are seeking comment on today's issues, FYI – Ray is directing them to Washington (due to Washington's preference to handle U.S. media inquiries).

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:50 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Here's a new article from The Hill about their Lutsenko interview (no U.S. connection in this one, but just for awareness). This was published about 10 minutes ago:

Top Ukrainian official accuses Putin of 'blackmail' ahead of country's election

Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko told Hill.TV that Russian President Vladimir Putin is forcing Ukrainian voters to choose between further conflict with Russia or electing a presidential candidate preferred by Putin.

Lutsenko, when asked by Hill.TV's John Solomon last week if there has been any evidence of Russian interference in the upcoming elections, said, "This question was raised by Mr. Putin. Whether we go together with [President Petro] Poroshenko and we continue to wage war, or we go with anybody besides Mr. Poroshenko, and he works with anybody besides him."

"The question has been complicated not only because of direct blackmail of Putin of the Ukrainian people but also of his influence on media resources in the country," Lutsenko added.

Hill.TV has reached out to the Russian Embassy in Washington for comment.

Voters in Ukraine head to the polls on March 31 for presidential elections, where Poroshenko is seeking reelection. The first round of elections began Dec. 31. There are 39 candidates on the ballot.

Ukraine's security services are gearing up for potential Russian cyberattacks during the election amid tensions between the countries.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, prompting significant international backlash and sanctions against Moscow. The international community has not formally recognized Russia's seizure of the territory, and military tensions have been heightened ever since.

— Hill.TV Staff

<https://thehill.com/hilltv/rising/434910-putin-has-blackmailed-ukrainian-people-ahead-of-election-says-top-ukrainian>

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:44 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

BBC-Ukrainian has picked up The Hill report with Lutsenko claiming AMB gave him a list of people not to prosecute. <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-47642452>

A Zik TV reporter Natasha Vlaschenko has also tweeted the following – likely not in response to the Hill pieces but the other rumors Stephanie circulated earlier today (rough translation):

“There are serious rumors that Marie Yovanovitch is packing her suitcases. Recalled. Too much wonderful happened in the past months. Trump got tired of tweeting :) “

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:27 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Sean Hannity of Fox News just retweeted one of the Hill articles. His tweet says:

Senior Ukrainian official says he's opened probe into US election interference [with a link to the Hill piece]

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:59 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Chris Miller tweets about the Hill article:

Wild claim by Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, who President Poroshenko appointed & had his party in parliament push thru law allowing person with no legal experience to hold the PG position. Seems Lutsenko is bitter about US \$ pulled from PGO

The AMB Y early departure narrative is also being promoted on Facebook by fugitive MP Aleksandr Onyshenko.

Official - SBU

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Hawkins, Kristin K (Kyiv)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:56 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Not directly related to the Hill article ... but the Volodymyr Bokyo Facebook post that Stephanie flagged earlier (about Karen Greenaway, etc.) is being picked up by some propaganda-style outlets, some of which are reporting as of 5ish hours ago that AMB Y may leave her post early and return to Washington.

<http://news24ua.com/poyavilas-informaciya-cho-posol-ssha-v-ukraine-mari-yovanovich-dosrochno-pokidaet-svoy-post>

<https://www.politnavigator.net/posol-ssha-v-kieve-vlyapalas-v-grandioznyj-skandal.html>

Back on the subject of The Hill – the article has been picked up by RIA Novosti in Russian.

<https://ria.ru/20190320/1551968770.html>

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:52 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Kyiv Post has reprinted the first Hill article (Top Ukrainian Justice Official Says U.S. AMB Gave Him a Do Not Prosecute List)

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/the-hill-top-ukrainian-justice-official-says-us-ambassador-gave-him-a-do-not-prosecute-list.html>

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:44 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Reactions to Hill Article

Nick Short – Security Studies Group (only about 5K followers, but has a verified account, @PoliticalShort)

Lutsenko is probing a claim from a member of the Ukrainian parliament, saying the director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), Artem Sytnyk, attempted to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election on behalf of Hillary Clinton.

Yossi Gestetner – has about 20K followers and a verified Twitter account:

Ukrainian Prosecutor Yuriy Lutsenko told [@jsolomonReports](#) that he has opened a probe into alleged attempts by Ukrainians to interfere in the US 2016 POTUS election. Story of the collusion between DNC and Ukraine was first reported in Jan 2017 by Politico, but then buried.

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:39 PM

To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Subject: Reactions to Hill Article

Starting an email chain to share traditional and social media reactions to the Hill story. This is a small distro; if Front Office wants it expanded, just let me know. I'll reply to this group with further updates as they come in.

Tweets from Oleksiy Kuzmenko, a DC-based journalist focusing on Ukraine, associated with Bellingcat:

Big! Shots fired re the US Ambassador Yovanovitch by Ukraine's Pros. Gen. Lutsenko [@thehill](#)

"From the first meeting, with the U.S. Ambassador in Kiev, [Yovanovitch] gave me a list of people whom we should not prosecute," Lutsenko tells [@jsolomonReports](#)

No need to guess if Lutsenko is happy with the US support for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine

"At that time, [Yovanovitch] thought that our interviews of the Ukrainian citizens of the Ukrainian civil servants who were frequent visitors in the U.S. embassy put a shadow on that anti-corruption policy." Lutsenko told [@jsolomonReports](#)

Official - SBU**DeControlled****UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) (b)(6) C_Schedulers /o=SBUSState/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=C_Schedulerse8b <C_Schedulers@state.gov>
Sent Date:	2019/03/22 21:44:42

FL-2020-00018

A-00000338234

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/27/2021

71

Тоги урсгала.

STATE-19-0625-G-000071

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT



From:	Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: Latest Hill article on US Embassy Kyiv by John Solomon
Date:	2019/03/27 03:14:21
Type:	Note

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:52 PM
To:	Kent, George P; Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); (b)(6) Reeker, Philip T
Cc:	Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6) Murphy, Michael J; EUR-Press; (b)(6) Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); Roraff, Brian R; (b)(6)
Subject:	Latest Hill article on US Embassy Kyiv by John Solomon

US embassy pressed Ukraine to drop probe of George Soros group during 2016 election 
 Loading video BY JOHN SOLOMON, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR The views expressed by contributors are their own and not the view of

While the 2016 presidential race was raging in America, Ukrainian prosecutors ran into some unexpectedly strong headwinds as they pursued an investigation into the activities of a nonprofit in their homeland known as the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC).

The focus on AntAC - whose youthful street activists famously wore "Ukraine F*&k Corruption" T-shirts - was part of a larger probe by Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office into whether \$4.4 million in U.S. funds to fight corruption inside the former Soviet republic had been improperly diverted.

The prosecutors soon would learn the resistance they faced was blowing directly from the U.S. embassy in Kiev, where the Obama administration took the rare step of trying to press the Ukrainian government to back off its investigation of both the U.S. aid and the group.

"The investigation into the Anti-Corruption Action Center (sic), based on the assistance they have received from us, is similarly misplaced," then-embassy Charge d' Affaires George Kent

wrote the prosecutor's office in April 2016 in a letter that also argued U.S. officials had no concerns about how the U.S. aid had been spent.

At the time, the nation's prosecutor general had just been fired, under pressure from the United States, and a permanent replacement had not been named.

A few months later, Yuri Lutsenko, widely regarded as a hero in the West for spending two years in prison after fighting Russian aggression in his country, was named prosecutor general and invited to meet new U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.

Lutsenko told me he was stunned when the ambassador "gave me a list of people whom we should not prosecute." The list included a founder of the AntAC group and two members of Parliament who vocally supported the group's anti-corruption reform agenda, according to a source directly familiar with the meeting.

It turns out the group that Ukrainian law enforcement was probing was co-funded by the Obama administration and liberal mega-donor George Soros. And it was collaborating with the FBI agents investigating then-Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort's business activities with pro-Russian figures in Ukraine.

The implied message to Ukraine's prosecutors was clear: Don't target AntAC in the middle of an America presidential election in which Soros was backing Hillary Clinton to succeed another Soros favorite, Barack Obama, Ukrainian officials said.

"We ran right into a buzzsaw and we got bloodied," a senior Ukrainian official told me.

Lutsenko suggested the embassy applied pressure because it did not want Americans to see who was being funded with its tax dollars. "At the time, Ms. Ambassador thought our interviews of the Ukrainian citizens, of the Ukrainian civil servants who were frequent visitors in the U.S. embassy, could cast a shadow on that anti-corruption policy," he said.

State officials told me privately they wanted Ukraine prosecutors to back off AntAC because they feared the investigation was simply retribution for the group's high-profile efforts to force anticorruption reforms inside Ukraine, some of which took authorities and prestige from the Prosecutor General's Office.

But it was an unusual intervention, the officials acknowledged. "We're not normally in the business of telling a country's police force who they can and can't pursue, unless it involves an American citizen we think is wrongly accused," one official said.

In the end, no action was taken against AntAC and it remains thriving today. Nonetheless, the anecdote is taking on new significance.

First, it conflicts with the State Department's official statement last week after Lutsenko first mentioned the do-not-prosecute list. The embassy responded that the claim was a fabrication and a sign that corruption is alive and well inside Ukraine.

But Kent's letter unequivocally shows the embassy did press Ukrainian prosecutors to back off what normally would be considered an internal law enforcement matter inside a sovereign country. And more than a half-dozen U.S. and Ukrainian sources confirmed to me the AntAC case wasn't the only one in which American officials exerted pressure on Ukrainian investigators in 2016.

When I asked State to explain the letter and inclusion of the Soros-connected names during the meeting, it demurred. "As a general rule, we don't read out private diplomatic meetings," it responded. "Ambassador Yovanovitch represents the President of the United States in Ukraine, and America stands behind her and her statements."

Second, the AntAC anecdote highlights a little-known fact that the pursuit of foreign corruption has resulted in an unusual alliance between the U.S. government and a political mega-donor.

After the Obama Justice Department launched its Kleptocracy Initiative a decade ago to prosecute corruption in other countries, the State Department, Justice Department and FBI outsourced some of its work in Ukraine to groups funded by Soros.

The Hungarian-American businessman is one of the largest donors to American liberal causes, a champion of the U.S. kleptocracy crackdown and a man with extensive business interests in Ukraine.

One key U.S. partner was AntAC, which received 59 percent (or \$1 million) of its nearly \$1.7 million budget since 2012 from U.S. budgets tied to State and Justice, and nearly \$290,000 from Soros's International Renaissance Foundation, according to the group's donor disclosure records.

The U.S.-Soros collaboration was visible in Kiev. Several senior Department of Justice (DOJ) officials and FBI agents appeared in pictures as participants or attendees at Soros-sponsored events and conferences.

One attendee was Karen Greenaway, then the FBI supervisor in charge of international fraud cases and one of the lead agents in the Manafort investigation in Ukraine. She attended multiple such events and won glowing praise in a social post from AntAC's executive director.

In one event during 2016, Greenaway and Ambassador Yovanovitch participated alongside AntAC's executive director Daria Kaleniuk, and Lutsenko was present. The message was clear: the embassy supported AntAC.

The FBI confirmed Greenaway's contacts with the Soros group, saying they were part of her investigative work: "In furtherance of the FBI's mission and in the course of their duties, FBI employees routinely travel and participated in public forums in an official capacity. At a minimum, all such travel and speaking engagements are authorized by the employee's direct supervisor and can receive further authorization all the way up to the relevant division head, along with an ethics official determination."

Greenaway recently retired, and Soros's AntAC soon after announced she was joining its supervisory board.

Internal memos from Soros's umbrella charity organization, Open Society Foundations, describe a concerted strategy of creating friendships inside key government agencies such as State, DOJ and the FBI that can be leveraged inside the countries Soros was targeting for anti-corruption activism.

"We have broadly recognized the importance of developing supportive constituencies in order to make headway in tightening the global web of anti-corruption accountability," a Feb. 21, 2014 memostates. "We first conceived of this in terms of fostering and helping to build a political environment favorable to high-level anti-corruption cases."

That same memo shows Soros's organization wanted to make Ukraine a top priority, starting in 2014, and planned to use the Anti-Corruption Action Centre as its lead.

"Ukraine: Behind the scenes advice and support to Ukrainian partner Anti-Corruption Action Centre's efforts to generate corruption litigation in Europe and the U.S. respecting state assets stolen by senior Ukrainian leaders," the memo states.

The memo included a chart of Ukrainians the Soros team wanted to have pursued, including some with ties to Manafort.

Senior U.S. law enforcement officials confirmed to me that the early kleptocracy collaborations inside Ukraine led to highly visible U.S. actions against the oligarch Dmitri Firtash, a major target of the Soros group, and Manafort. Firtash is now represented by former Hillary Clinton lawyer Lanny Davis and former U.S. Attorney Dan Webb.

Documents posted online by Open Society Foundations show that after U.S. officials scored some early successes in corruption cases in Ukraine, such as asset forfeitures, AntAC requested to receive some of the seized money.

"Ukrainian NGO Anticorruption Action Centre (AntAC) petitioned the United States Justice Department on behalf of Ukrainian civil society to dedicate the nearly \$3 million in forfeited and seized assets allegedly laundered by former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, to creating an anti-corruption training facility," a 2015 foundation document stated.

Spokespersons for AntAC and Open Society Foundations did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Michael Vachon, a spokesman for Soros, deferred any comment about AntAC to the group. But he did he confirm his boss supported the continued investigation of Russia collusion allegations against Trump well past 2016.

Vachon said Soros wrote a sizable check from his personal funds in fall 2017 to a new group, Democracy Integrity Project, started by a former FBI agent and Senate staffer Daniel Jones to continue "investigation and research into foreign interference in American elections and European elections."

Vachon said the group asked Soros not to divulge the size of his contribution and Soros later learned the group hired Fusion GPS, the same firm that was paid by Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic Party to create the infamous "Steele dossier" alleging Trump-Russia collusion.

The he said-she said battle playing out between Ukraine's chief prosecutor and the American ambassador doesn't benefit either side, but an honest, complete and transparent account of what the embassy communicated to Ukraine's law enforcement does.

And the tale of AntAC raises some cogent questions:

- • Why would the U.S. embassy intervene on a Ukrainian internal investigation and later deny it exerted such pressure?
- • Did Soros's role as a major political funder have any impact?
- • Do Americans want U.S. tax dollars commingled with activists' private funds when it comes to anti-corruption probes?

Someone in State and Congress should try to get the answers

Sender:	Reeker, Philip T	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	
	Hale, David	(b)(6)
(b)(6)		
Sent Date:	2019/03/27 03:14:20	
Delivered Date:	2019/03/27 03:14:21	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)
CC:	EUR-Press /o=SBUSState/ou=Al-Hillah/cn=Recipients/cn=EUR-Press-DL <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>; C_Special Assistants /o=SBUSState/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=C_Special Assistantsafe <C_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
Subject:	FW: For C's clearance today: Response to FP to refute Lutsenko "do not prosecute" allegations
Date:	2019/03/30 22:27:53
Importance:	High
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Hello Mr. Brechbuhl,

We received an inquiry from Foreign Policy as they finish up their scene setter story for Sunday's elections. They're looking for our response to the Lutsenko allegation of a "do not prosecute" list, which is something we've previously refuted to other outlets. Please clear the following lines to respond to this and any other inquiries on this specific allegation. P requested that we send this guidance to you, C, for final approval.

The Ukrainian Prosecutor General's office accused Ambassador Yovanovitch of interfering in the functioning of his office and says the United States gave him a "do not prosecute list." How do you respond?

(b)(5)

Original inquiry from FP:

I'm going to include the allegations Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko made about the American ambassador giving him a do not Prosecute list. I'm wondering what the embassy's side of the story is, and wondering if there's a way to chat with someone on background or not for attribution at the embassy before Thursday.

Clearances:

EUR/EE: (b)(5)

EUR/Press: (b)(5)

S/P: (b)(5); (b)(6)

P: (b)(5); (b)(6)
D: (b)(5); (b)(6)
EUR/FO: (b)(5); (b)(6)
EUR/FO: (b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6) (b)(6) EUR-Press /o=SBUState/ou=Al-Hillah/cn=Recipients/cn=EUR-Press-DL <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>; C_Special Assistants /o=SBUState/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=C_Special Assistantsafe <C_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
Sent Date:	2019/03/30 22:27:53