



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 10, 2022

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 29, 2022, 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 11 additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all 11 records may be released in part.

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

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, you may contact Trial Attorney Joshua C. Abbuhl at Joshua.Abbuhl@usdoj.gov or (202) 616-2531. Please refer to the case number, F-2019-06332/FL-2020-00018, and the civil action number, 19-cv-02934, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Diamonece Hickson
Acting Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
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:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Kenna, Lisa D (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch
Date:	2019/03/22 08:06:14
Type:	Note

S reviewed the one pager. No comments.

(b)(6)

Special Assistant
Office of the Secretary

(b)(6)

On Mar 21, 2019, at 9:42 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Attached!

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:39 PM
To: S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch

Home team – could someone format the issue background below and email? (b)(6) asked me to have on hand if S asks more about this.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kenna, Lisa D (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:37 PM

To: McKinley, P Michael (b)(6); S_SpecialAssistants
<S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6) SES_4
<SES_4@state.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch

The issue is obe. Amb Bolton no longer needs to speak to S.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 21, 2019 at 3:27:19 PM EDT
To: (b)(6) "Kenna, Lisa D" (b)(6)
S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>, "Enstrom, Karen L"
(b)(6)
Cc: EUR Ukraine Clearances <EURUkraineClearances@state.gov>, EUR-StaffAssistants
<EUR-StaffAssistants@state.gov>, (b)(6)
"Kent, George P" (b)(6), (b)(6) "McKinley,
P Michael" (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch
+ (b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:44 PM
To: Kenna, Lisa D (b)(6); S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>;
Enstrom, Karen L (b)(6)
Cc: EUR Ukraine Clearances <EURUkraineClearances@state.gov>; EUR-StaffAssistants <EUR-
StaffAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6); Kent, George P
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch
Importance: High

Per Karen Enstrom's urgent request:

The Story: The Hill published an op-ed by journalist John Solomon that said Ukraine's Prosecutor General, Yuriy Lutsenko, had opened an investigation into whether his country's law enforcement apparatus leaked information during the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign in an effort to help candidate Hillary Clinton. This came a report over the weekend on the website "ILoveMyFreedom.org" that quoted a Ukrainian parliamentarian saying he had a recording of a Ukrainian government official talking about leaking Paul Manafort's financial records during the 2016 election. Sean Hannity did a segment on the story on his TV show on

Wednesday night, and subsequently tweeted about it, calling for an investigation into Ukrainian interference into the U.S. election. President Trump tweeted about the story at 7:40pm Wednesday night. The Solomon article also accused the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv of asking the Prosecutor General's Office to shut down anti-corruption investigations, and published a May 2016 letter from Rep. Pete Sessions to you accusing our Ambassador in Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, of speaking with "disdain" about the current administration.

The Facts:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Director, EUR/EE (Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus)

U.S. Department of State

Tel: (b)(6)

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:33 PM

To: Enstrom, Karen L (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6); (b)(6); EUR-StaffAssistants <EUR-StaffAssistants@state.gov>; EUR Ukraine Clearances <EURUkraineClearances@state.gov>; Kent, George P (b)(6) EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>; (b)(6)

Subject: FW: Ukrainian Prosecutor's Allegations Against Ambassador Yovanovitch

Importance: High

Karen, I am forwarding Sean Hannity's remarks, the original piece from The Hill, the letter that was attached to The Hill piece (all below), and our cleared press guidance (attached). Please confirm receipt. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Director, EUR/EE (Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus)

U.S. Department of State

Tel: (b)(6)

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:02 AM
To: Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv); (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
(b)(6); (b)(6); Pennington,
Joseph S (Kyiv); (b)(6); Holmes, David A (Kyiv); (b)(6)
(b)(6); Tremont, Pamela M (Kyiv); (b)(6)
(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.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

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

<image001.jpg>

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UNCLASSIFIED

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: [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Date: March 21, 2019 at 6:37:21 AM GMT+2
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv)
[REDACTED] (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Holmes, David A (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)
[REDACTED] (b)(6) Tremont,
Pamela M (Kyiv) [REDACTED] (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); Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6); Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:17 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6); Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6); Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:09 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Holmes,
David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)
(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

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:04 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Holmes,
David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)
(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 – (b)(6) 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) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Holmes,
David A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)
(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>

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:44 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Holmes,
David A (Kyiv) (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) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv)
(b)(6) (b)(6) Holmes,
David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv)
(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) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6); Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:56 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6); Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6); Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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-cto-posol-ssha-v-ukraine-mari-yovanovich-dosrochno-pokidaet-svoy-post>

<https://www.politnavigator.net/posol-ssha-v-kieve-vlyapalas-v-grandioznyjj-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>

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6) Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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>

Official - SBU

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6) Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:39 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6) Pennington, Joseph S (Kyiv) (b)(6) Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6) Castillo, Raymond A (Kyiv) (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

UNCLASSIFIED

<Ukrainian Prosecutor.pdf>

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) S_SpecialAssistants /o=SBUSState/ou=Al-Hillah/cn=Recipients/cn=S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6) Kenna, Lisa D (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent Date: 2019/03/22 08:06:14

From:	Hale, David (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Ukraine statement
Date:	2019/03/24 19:33:09
Type:	Note

C is checking with S in general.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2019, at 3:27 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Sir,

EUR drafted the attached response to media queries related to Amb Y. Appreciate your thoughts in light of Masha's email to you and Phil Reeker.

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for iOS

Sender:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Recipient:	Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/24 19:33:09

From:	Hale, David (b)(6)
To:	Murphy, Michael J (b)(6)
CC:	Perez, Carol Z (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Kyiv - PER SENSITIVE
Date:	2019/04/25 17:36:16
Type:	Note

Ok. When does she leave Kyiv?

I am unfortunately traveling in EAP all next week

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Hale, David (b)(6)
Cc: Perez, Carol Z (b)(6); Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)
Subject: Kyiv - PER SENSITIVE
Importance: High

David –

Post cut orders this morning for Masha to return from Kyiv for consultations through the Friday after May 9, the day she will receive her distinguished graduate award from NDU. Masha should leave Ukraine tomorrow, and Phil may see her as early on Sunday night. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,
Michael

Sender:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Recipient:	Murphy, Michael J (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Perez, Carol Z (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent Date: 2019/04/25 17:36:16

From:	Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
To:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: For Your Consideration
Date:	2019/04/15 14:59:44
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Official**UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Hale, David (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
Subject: FW: For Your Consideration
Not sure what to do with this

From: John Herbst (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 12:39 PM
To: Hale, David (b)(6)
Cc: rpopadiuk (b)(6); spifer@ (b)(6); pascualce@ (b)(6); wtaylor@ (b)(6)
John and Mariella Tefft <(b)(6)>; tefftjm (b)(6)
Subject: For Your Consideration

Dear David,

Attached is a letter signed by five of our colleagues and myself regarding the ungrounded attack by the Ukrainian Prosecutor General on our Embassy in Kyiv and Ambassador Yovanovitch.

This attack was in fact prompted by the Ambassador and Embassy's strong advocacy of Washington policy on reform issues. Thank you for our attention to this this.

If you have any questions and would like further information, we are at your disposal.

Best,

John



NEW_AClogo_Blue.jpg

John Herbst | Director, Eurasia Center
Ambassador (Ret.)

1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor | Washington, DC 20005

T: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Email: jherbst@ (b)(6) |
www.facebook.com/AtlanticCouncil | @JohnEdHerbst | www.AtlanticCouncil.org

Sender:	Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
Recipient:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/04/15 14:59:44

From:	Hale, David / (b)(6)
To:	Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) / (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Departure Timing
Date:	2019/03/11 18:05:32
Type:	Note

Hi Masha,
I really enjoyed it. What a fascinating and vital place. You are doing great work.
I appreciate the below.

(b)(5)

Stay in touch. Best, David

From: Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:13 AM
To: Hale, David (b)(6)
Subject: Departure Timing

Dear David,

Thanks again for coming to Ukraine and passing important messages in advance of elections. I write on behalf of all of us at the Mission, when I say that we really appreciate it.

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Best, Masha
Marie L. Yovanovitch
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Kyiv
Office: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)

Official - Privacy/PII
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender: Hale, David / (b)(6)

	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) / (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/11 18:05:32

From:	Murphy, Michael J / (b)(6)
To:	Hale, David / (b)(6)
CC:	Perez, Carol Z / (b)(6)
BCC:	Reeker, Philip T / (b)(6)
Subject:	Kyiv - PER SENSITIVE
Date:	2019/04/25 16:44:21
Importance:	High
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

David –

Post cut orders this morning for Masha to return from Kyiv for consultations through the Friday after May 9, the day she will receive her distinguished graduate award from NDU. Masha should leave Ukraine tomorrow, and Phil may see her as early on Sunday night.

(b)(5)

Best,
Michael

Sender:	Murphy, Michael J / (b)(6)
Recipient:	Hale, David / (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/04/25 16:44:20

Delivered Date: 2019/04/25 16:44:21

From:	Ortagus, Morgan D / (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Brechbuhl, Thomas U / (b)(6)
Subject:	Fwd: Washington Post - Marie Yovanovitch
Date:	2019/05/06 18:25:49
Type:	Note

Hi Team— can we get working on a response to this? Thanks!

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From: Josh Rogin <(b)(6)>

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:23:41 PM

To: Ortagus, Morgan D

Subject: Washington Post - Marie Yovanovitch

Dear Ms. Ortagus,

This is Josh Rogin, columnist with the Washington Post. I'm writing to request a comment on the dismissal of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch.

I have in my possession a notice that " Ambassador Yovanovitch will return to Kyiv on Saturday, May 11. She will then depart post permanently on Monday, May 20."

As you may know, Ambassador Yovanovitch has been the target of attacks by some media outlets, who have repeated accusations including one by the Ukraine Prosecutor General that she provided a "do not prosecute list." The State Department has previously called that accusation "an outright fabrication."

<https://thehill.com/hilltv/rising/434875-top-ukrainian-justice-official-says-us-ambassador-gave-him-a-do-not-prosecute>

Could I please have a comment by my 5PM deadline as to why Ambassador Yovanovitch is being removed?

Here's some more background, just FYI:

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

Best,

Josh

Josh Rogin

Columnist - Washington Post

Political Analyst - CNN

(b)(6) Mobile

This message and any related attachments are hereby designated as confidential communications between the sender and named recipient.

Sender:	Ortagus, Morgan D (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/05/06 18:25:48
Delivered Date:	2019/05/06 18:25:49

From:	Hale, David (b)(6)
To:	Perez, Carol Z / (b)(6)
Subject:	Fwd: EMB Kyiv transition - in the English language media (RFE/RL)
Date:	2019/05/06 20:02:07
Type:	Note

Mystifying

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pratt, Jonathan G" (b)(6)
Date: May 6, 2019 at 3:58:17 PM EDT
To: "Hale, David" (b)(6)
Subject: RE: EMB Kyiv transition - in the English language media (RFE/RL)

I've asked.

Official

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From: Hale, David (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
Subject: Re: EMB Kyiv transition - in the English language media (RFE/RL)

Why was there a mgmt. notice? Idea was keep it quiet till she got back and had a dignified internal farewell.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2019, at 3:40 PM, Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6) wrote:

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:31 PM

To: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)

Cc: Murphy, Michael J (b)(6) Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: EMB Kyiv transition - in the English language media (RFE/RL)

Dropping principals - the Ukrainian press story pulling off the MGT notice of her departure is now in the English language media.

U.S. Ambassador To Ukraine, Openly Criticized By Top Ukrainian Prosecutor, Departing Early

May 06, 2019 18:04 GMT

By Christopher Miller

The U.S. ambassador to Ukraine is departing her position by the middle of May, two months ahead of schedule, according to four people familiar with the decision.

The four people, which include embassy employees and others, told RFE/RL on May 6 that Marie Yovanovitch was leaving but gave no indication exactly why she was departing.

The individuals spoke on condition of anonymity, ahead of an expected formal announcement by the U.S. State Department.

Sections of an e-mail shared with RFE/RL but not yet made public said Yovanovitch's last day would be May 20, and a charge d'affaires -- basically an embassy's chief operating officer -- would then be appointed long-term until a new ambassador is nominated and confirmed.

The State Department referred questions to the Kyiv embassy, which didn't immediately respond to queries.

Sworn in as ambassador to Kyiv in August 2016, Yovanovitch has been at the forefront of U.S. efforts to help stabilize Ukraine's shaky economy and push reforms to root out endemic corruption.

She's also been at the forefront of U.S. backing for Ukraine in its ongoing fight with Moscow over Russia-backed fighters battling Ukrainian government forces in eastern regions since 2014.

Yovanovitch drew attention in early March when, just weeks before Ukraine's presidential election, she called on Kyiv to fire the country's special anti-corruption prosecutor. The speech was notable not only for its timing but also its bluntness from a foreign diplomat.

President Petro Poroshenko, who has been accused of not doing enough to tackle corruption, went on to lose reelection in the April 21 runoff vote to Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Yovanovitch was also the target of an explosive claim in March by Prosecutor-General Yuriy Lutsenko, who alleged she had given him "a list of people whom we should not prosecute" during their first in-person meeting.

The claim, made in an interview by the Washington-based newspaper The Hill, prompted an unusual rebuke by the State Department, which said: "The allegations by the Ukrainian prosecutor-general are not true and are intended to tarnish the reputation of Ambassador Yovanovitch."

Lutsenko's claim got further attention later when a tweet about the story was re-tweeted by President Donald Trump's son.

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From: Reeker, Philip T

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:53:10 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: Murphy, Michael J; Kent, George P; Pratt, Jonathan G;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: EMB Kyiv transition

D, C, P and DG --

Following up our various meetings and discussions last week, I wanted to recap transition plan at EMB Kyiv.

Further to the consultations w/AMB Masha Yovanovitch, she is still scheduled to return to Kyiv May10, following the award/honor at NDU on May 9. She will focus on packing out and farewell with Embassy team. Masha has now confirmed that she will relinquish Charge and depart Kyiv on May 20. This will allow Post to transition as the Ukr Presidency is transitioning, rather than waiting until July 7 when Masha had been planning to complete her tour.

(b)(6)

A/DCM Joe Pennington will become CDA, until arrival of new DCM Kristina Kvien (o/a May 28), who would take over as CDA (for a few days). Joe is currently CDA while Masha has been back on consultation.

Amb. Bill Taylor has been approved to be long term CDA; he just notified me that he will sign the IPAA tomorrow; he has asked to meet with the Secretary (and will of course met with all addressees as part of his predeparture consultations). Lisa Kenna confirmed to me that will happen after May 16 (when S returns from travel).

Bill's exact start date can be flexible. We have been looking at June 4, but he could be available to go to Kyiv for the Zelenskyy Inauguration (he just needs to be back for his son's wedding June

1). Inauguration date is still TBD (pending vote in Rada). It would be great if Bill can join the Delegation for the inauguration.

Since staff were aware of packout/travel arrangements, Embassy Kyiv Issued an Admin Notice this morning, announcing Amb. Yovanovitch's departure date; that she will hold a Town Hall meeting on May 13; and that "We expect the Department to appoint a long-term Charge d'Affaires to lead the Mission until a new Chief of Mission is nominated and confirmed."

Press Guidance is circulating for clearance (there are already inquiries), and I just spoke with

(b)(6)

Could we go ahead and say that Bill Taylor, "another experienced Ukraine hand, will serve as CDA while the selection/nomination/confirmation process continues?"

(b)(6)

had suggested we do that at the same as Masha announced her departure, which she has.

Phil

Sender:	Hale, David (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/05/06 20:02:07

From:	Hale, David (b)(6)
To:	Pratt, Jonathan G / (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Ukraine
Date:	2019/03/25 12:35:44
Type:	Note

Ask (b)(6) when/how I should update D.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hale, David

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:35 AM

To: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6); Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Ukraine

(b)(5) and I briefed Phil. I'll be sure D is up to speed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 7:40 AM

To: Brechbuhl, Thomas U (b)(6); Hale, David (b)(6); Reeker, Philip T

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Ukraine

TUB,

Many thanks. Will huddle, and Masha is standing by for guidance, after conversations w/P and w/me yesterday.

PTR

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Brechbuhl, Thomas U

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 7:20 AM

To: Hale, David; Reeker, Philip T

Subject: Ukraine

Gentlemen,

(b)(5)

TUB

T. Ulrich Brechbühl

Counselor, U.S. Department of State

Sender:	Hale, (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

Recipient:	Pratt, Jonathan G (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/25 12:35:44

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

From: (b)(6)

To: Hale, David / (b)(6)

Subject: FW: Kyiv/Tbilisi Double Absences

Date: 2019/04/23 21:19:41

Type: Note

(b)(5)

Official

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From: Murphy, Michael J (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:11 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: Reeker, Philip T (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Kyiv/Tbilisi Double Absences

(b)(6)

We have several looming short-term double absence requests in May/June in Kyiv and Tbilisi. The former Kyiv DCM, Pam Tremont, left today to Stockholm, where she will immediately become DCM/CDA. And as you know, we have had to rely on CDAs in Tbilisi (b)(6) Here are the windows, and post/our suggestions for coverage.

Kyiv, Ukraine

- (b)(5)

- (b)(5)

Note: the next Kyiv DCM, Kristina Kvien, arrives at post May 27.

Tbilisi, Georgia

- (b)(5) [Redacted]
- (b)(5) (b)(6) [Redacted]
(b)(6) [Redacted]

Unless your boss has any concerns, we plan to allow posts to submit these requests. Please let us know.

Michael

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Hale, David / (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/04/23 21:19:40
Delivered Date:	2019/04/23 21:19:41

From:	Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)
To:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Subject:	Departure Timing
Date:	2019/03/11 10:13:06
Type:	Note

Dear David,

Thanks again for coming to Ukraine and passing important messages in advance of elections. I write on behalf of all of us at the Mission, when I say that we really appreciate it.

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Best, Masha
Marie L. Yovanovitch
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Kyiv
Office: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)

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Sender:	Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Recipient:	Hale, David (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2019/03/11 10:13:06