



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 2, 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 July 22, 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 four additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that one record may be released in full, one record may be released in part, and two records must be withheld in their entirety.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on the record. The records withheld in full are exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 1, 5, 6, and 7, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(1), (b)(5), (b)(6), and (b)(7)(E). 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
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

DeControlled



Marie Yovanovitch

[ma-ree yo-vahn-no-vich]

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine
U.S. Department of State

~~(SBU)~~ Yovanovitch was appointed as Ambassador to Ukraine in August 2016. She previously served as Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia (2008-2011) and the Kyrgyz Republic (2005-2008). She most recently served as dean of the School of Language Studies at FSI. Previously, she was the international advisor and deputy commandant at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University. Earlier she served as the principal deputy assistant secretary for EUR and before that as the bureau's deputy assistant secretary responsible for issues related to the Nordic, Baltic, and Central European countries.

~~(SBU)~~ In 2003-2004, Yovanovitch was the senior advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Prior to that, she was DCM of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine. Within the Department of State, Yovanovitch has worked on the Russia desk, in the Office of European Security Affairs, and in the Operations Center. She has also worked overseas at the U.S. embassies in Moscow, London, Ottawa, and Mogadishu.

~~(SBU)~~ A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Yovanovitch has been granted the Senior Foreign Service Performance Award six times and the State Department's Superior Honor Award on five occasions. She is also the recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award and the Secretary's Diplomacy in Human Rights Award.

(U) Yovanovitch is a graduate of Princeton University, where she earned a BA in history and Russian studies. She studied at the Pushkin Institute and received an MS from the National Defense University.

~~(SBU)~~ **Checklist for the Acting Under Secretary's Meeting with
Ambassador Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch, Embassy Kyiv
Tuesday, July 24, 2018, 12:00p.m., 30 minutes**

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LAST INTERACTION: ~~(SBU)~~ This is your first meeting with Ambassador Yovanovitch in your role as Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **U.S. Support for Ukraine Against Russian Aggression:** Violence in eastern Ukraine continues, though it is somewhat diminished following the July 1 "harvest ceasefire." None of the dozens of prior ceasefires have held, however, and Ukraine continues to suffer daily casualties. Ukraine is also Russia's hybrid war testing ground, subjected to cyber-attacks, disinformation, and other forms of malign influence – a particular concern ahead of Ukraine's 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections. Russia consolidated its occupation of Crimea, and is expanding control over the Sea of Azov. Our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity remains steadfast; however, the July 16 POTUS-Putin meeting raised significant concerns in Ukraine. Relaunching the Strategic Partnership Commission, as the Ukrainians have requested, could send a strong message of U.S. support, as would the release of the proposed Crimea Declaration. You may wish to ask Yovanovitch about Ukrainian impressions of the July 16 Helsinki meeting.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ **Reforms:** Over the past year, Ukraine made real progress on reforms in education, health care, pensions, privatization, defense, and anti-corruption. Now it must address entrenched oligarchic corruption and kleptocracy, including de-monopolizing key business sectors. We welcomed Ukraine's recent legislation establishing an anti-corruption court, as required by the IMF to receive the next \$1.9 billion tranche. On July 5, Ukraine passed a Law on National Security consistent with NATO standards, which requires a new parliamentary oversight committee for Ukraine's Security Service. Passage of this law released \$100 million dollars of DoD's Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative funds. Implementing both laws, fulfilling remaining IMF requirements, and preventing back-sliding on anti-corruption in a pre-election year are key challenges.

Portions of Para 4 declassified
Senior REviewer, Barbara Nielsen
7/8/22

4. ~~(S/NF)~~ **Elections:** Ukraine holds presidential elections in March and parliamentary elections in October 2019. President Poroshenko faces a tough reelection battle against a diverse cast of potential candidates. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

4. ~~(SBU)~~ **Embassy Kyiv:** The mission is staffed with (b)(7) U.S. direct hires and (b)(7) locally employed staff and eligible family members). There are more than (b)(7) Peace Corps volunteers and (b)(7) TDY U.S. military trainers in country at any given time. Kyiv has significant interagency representation with (b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified by: EUR Assistant Secretary A. Wess Mitchell

E.O. 13526, Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

Declassify on: July 18, 2028

Attachment:
Biographic Information

Approved: EUR: A. Wess Mitchell [AWM]

Drafted: EUR/EE – (b)(6)

Cleared: EUR/FO: EMillard (ok)
EUR/FO: JAndrews, Acting (ok)
EUR/EE: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/EE: (ok)
S/P: (b)(6) (ok)
D: (b)(6) (ok)
P: (ok)
M: (b)(6) (ok)
DS: (b)(6): (ok)
DGHR: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/PRA: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/ACE: (ok)
EUR/PD: ECrane (ok)
EUR/IO-EX: (b)(6) (ok)
S/CCI: (b)(6) (ok)
DRL: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/RUS: (b)(6) (ok)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)