



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 31, 2023

Case No. FL-2020-00018

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

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated February 17, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State ("Department") has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined one record may be released in full and seven records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

This concludes the processing of your request. 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, 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



Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

Kyiv, Ukraine
May 6, 2019

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine during this historic moment in Ukraine's history and our bilateral relationship has been both an honor and a privilege.

As my tenure comes to a close, I would like to offer my resignation as Ambassador to Ukraine effective May 20, 2019.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Marie L. Yovanovitch
Ambassador

From:	Hale, David <(b)(6)>
To:	Taylor, Mary Elizabeth <(b)(6)>
Subject:	Foreign Service Caucus Follow Up
Date:	2019/05/14 14:39:19
Type:	Note

Mary Elizabeth -

Thank you to Colleen and the team for putting on a successful Foreign Service Caucus event this morning. It was good to connect with Senators Sullivan and Van Hollen and to reiterate the Secretary's focus on developing our people, including through the Ethos Initiative. During a Q&A with the State fellows and congressional staffers there, I got a couple trickier questions:

On Ambassador Yovanovitch's departure, I said she was leaving at the end of her assignment with her head held high and the support of State leadership. I was also asked about accusation of politically-motivated retribution of career officers. I said we took those very seriously, some of the allegations pointed to possible violations of the law, and therefore were under OIG investigation. I pointed to the ethos initiative as one of our tools to prevent this kind of behavior.

On my recent visit to Burma, I said I gained a better understanding of the country's complicated challenges but the Rohingya crisis still had to be effectively addressed. U.S. actions should aim at driving constructive outcomes, I noted. On a drawdown of Embassy Kabul, I said Embassy staffing was being adjusted to match our current operational demands and explained our diplomatic strategy and goals. I said we will reevaluate our posture for a post-reconciliation Afghanistan if we reach an agreement.

David

Sender:	Hale, David <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Taylor, Mary Elizabeth <(b)(6)>
Sent Date:	2019/05/14 14:39:19

From:	(b)(6) /O=CLASSSTATE/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=(b)(6)
To:	D_Specials /O=CLASSSTATE/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D_Specials91f <D_Specials@state.sgov.gov>
Subject:	D Outbox: Fri, Oct 11 PM
Date:	2019/10/11 18:02:39
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

DAR

Thurs, Oct. 10 Afternoon – D noted with no edits

Thurs, Oct 10 Afternoon – D noted with no edits

Info

- Special Envoy for Arms Control – D noted and wrote “Please share with C” (Brett)
- DRL Working with F on \$40 Million in Unobligated FY-18 Funds – D noted with no comments
- Opening Statement of Marie L. Yovanovich – D noted with no remarks
- Press release: POTUS announces intent to nominate and appoint individuals to key Administration Posts – D noted with no remarks
- SFRC letter to S re. former Ambassador Yovanovich – D noted with no comments

Paper filed in 10/11 chron file for review

Official - Sensitive

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: HANNA TEZERA - STAFF ASSISTANT, Office:D, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 10/11/2044

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender:	(b)(6) /O=CLASSSTATE/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=(b)(6)
Recipient:	D_Specials /O=CLASSSTATE/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D_Specials91f <D_Specials@state.sgov.gov>
Sent Date:	2019/10/11 18:02:39

**(SBU) Checklist for Under Secretary Hale's (P) Dinner with
Ambassador Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch, Embassy Kyiv**

LAST INTERACTION: You last met with Yovanovitch July 24 in Washington.

1. **(SBU) Russian Aggression:** Since 2014, more than 10,400 people have been killed in fighting resulting from Russia's aggression in Eastern Ukraine, though Russia disingenuously claims it is not a party to the conflict. Russia occupied and purportedly annexed Crimea following an illegal sham referendum in 2014. Russia has been harassing international shipping headed to Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov since April, but the November 25 attack on Ukrainian vessels in the Sea of Azov near the Kerch Strait demonstrated a willingness on the part of Russia to overtly attack Ukrainian forces. Russia has targeted Ukraine with cyberattacks, including the 2017 NotPetya attack, which the United States has called the most destructive in history.
2. **(SBU) IMF/Reforms:** The IMF Board is scheduled to meet December 18 to approve the release of the first \$1.9 billion tranche of Ukraine's new Stand-By Arrangement (SBA). Ukraine has a \$6.3 billion spike in external debt coming due in 2019, which absent easy access to financial markets, could pose a threat to Ukraine's macro-economic stability. Ukraine has asked the G7 countries for additional financial support in meeting these debt payments. We continue to push for additional reforms, such as energy unbundling, the de-monopolization of key economic sectors, and an end to the moratorium on the sale of agricultural land. However, little progress is expected until after the March 2019 presidential elections. We are urging the Ukrainians to establish an investment screening mechanism (similar to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)) to prevent the transfer of national security sensitive technology to foreign countries and have offered technical consultations to assist in the process.
3. **(SBU) Democratic Development:** Ukraine's Western credentials have been damaged by the government's failure to adequately respond to increasing violent attacks on activists, including an acid attack that led to the death of anti-corruption activist Kateryna Handzyuk November 4. Members of Poroshenko's party have threatened the newly created anti-corruption institutions (which are supported by U.S. investment). On November 26, Poroshenko declared martial law in border regions – both in response to public demands for action after Russia's attack in the Black Sea and to bolster his own election chances. Martial law empowers, but does not require, the government to temporarily restrict rights, including those related to expression and assembly. Poroshenko promised there would be no restriction on civil liberties and no impact on the presidential elections.

~~(SBU)~~ The Mission is staffed by ~~(b)(7)(E)~~ U.S. direct hires and ~~(b)(7)(F)~~ locally employed staff and eligible family members. There is broad interagency representation, with ~~(b)(7)(E)~~ ~~(b)(7)(E)~~ More than ~~(b)(7)~~ Peace Corps volunteers and ~~(b)(7)(D)~~ TDY military trainers are in country at any given time.

Attachment:

Biographic Information

Approved: EUR: Elisabeth I. Millard, SBO [EIM]

Drafted: EUR/EE: (b)(6)

Cleared: EUR/FO: BFreden, Acting (ok)
EUR/EE: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/RUS: (b)(6) (ok)
D: (b)(6) (ok)
P: (b)(6) (ok)
S/P: (b)(6) (ok)
M: (b)(6) (ok)
DGHR: (b)(6) (ok)
DS: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (ok)
EUR/IO/EX: (b)(6) (ok)
EB/OMA: (b)(6) (ok)
DRL/EUR: (b)(6) (ok)

**Marie L. Yovanovitch****[Marie Yo-VAN-a-vitch]****U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine
Department of State**

~~(SBU)~~ Marie Yovanovitch was sworn in as the ambassador to Ukraine in August 2017. Previously, she was the FSI Dean of the School of Language Studies. Earlier, Yovanovitch was the international advisor and deputy commandant at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University. She also served as the EUR PDAS and before that as the EUR DAS responsible for issues related to the Nordic, Baltic, and Central European countries. Yovanovitch served as ambassador to the Republic of Armenia (2008-2011) and the Kyrgyz Republic (2005-2008).

~~(SBU)~~ In 2003-2004, Yovanovitch was the senior advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Prior to that, she was the DCM in Kyiv, Ukraine. Within the Department, Yovanovitch has worked on the Russia desk, the Office of European Security Affairs, and the Operations Center. She has also worked overseas at the embassies in Moscow, London, Ottawa, and Mogadishu. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Yovanovitch has been granted the Senior Foreign Service performance award six times and the 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. 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 Secretary's Meeting with Ambassador Taylor, Kyiv (TBC) **DeControlled**
Date and Time TBD, 30 minutes

LAST INTERACTION: This will be your first meeting with Taylor in connection with his potential appointment as Chargé d'Affaires in Ukraine. He has previously briefed you several times together with former NSA Steve Hadley.

(b)(1)

1. ~~(C)~~ **Political Transition:** Volodymyr Zelenskyy's presidential inauguration is set to take place May 20.

(b)(1)

2. ~~(C)~~ (b)(1)

(b)(1)

3. ~~(C)~~ (b)(1)

(b)(1)

President Putin has announced Russia would provide passports on an expedited basis to some Ukrainian citizens, including those in Russia-controlled eastern Ukraine. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

Zelenskyy has voiced support for the Minsk agreements, proposed an "information war" to win hearts and minds in the Donbas, and called for renewed negotiations to achieve a ceasefire.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ **Energy:** The 10-year gas transit contract between Russia and Ukraine expires on December 31, and renewal negotiations are at a standstill. Russia has threatened to cut off or interrupt gas transit this winter, and Ukraine's stockpiles are dangerously low. Naftohaz needs to raise \$2 billion to buy sufficient gas to get Ukraine through the winter. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

4. ~~(SBU)~~ **Post Management:** Embassy Kyiv has approximately (b)(7)(E) staff and oversees more than \$700 million in assistance programming annually. There are more than (b)(7) Peace Corps volunteers, the (b)(7)(E) and DoD personnel on TDY in country at any given time. Kyiv has significant interagency representation with

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: EUR Acting Assistant Secretary Phillip T. Reeker

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

Declassify on: May 15, 2044



Marie Yovanovitch

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine

Marie 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 the dean of the School of Language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State. 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 the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and, before that, as the bureau's Deputy Assistant Secretary responsible for issues related to the Nordic, Baltic, and Central European countries.

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

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 the recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award and the Secretary's Diplomacy in Human Rights Award.

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.

**DeControlled**

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

October 1, 2018

INVITATION FOR UNDER SECRETARY HALE (P)~~—(SBU) **Event:** Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie “Masha” Yovanovitch~~**(U) Role:** Host**(U) Date/Time:** October 5, 2018, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (30 minutes)
Alternate time: After 3:00 p.m.**(U) Possible Conflicts:****(U) Host:** U/S Hale**(U) Location:** U/S Hale’s Office**(U) Date Received:** September 27, 2018**(U) Date Response Required:** October 4, 2018. This memo is submitted with less than five business days for a decision due to Yovanovitch’s schedule.**(U) Spouse Invited:** No~~—(SBU) **Details:** Yovanovitch will be in Washington October 5 and has expressed interest in meeting with U/S Hale. She would like to discuss developments in Ukraine and would be interested in the view from Washington.~~**(U) Media/Press:** Closed press~~—(SBU) **Recommendation:** EUR recommends U/S Hale accept this meeting to hear directly from Yovanovitch about developments in Ukraine.~~**(U) Decision (Action Required):**

- ☐ **Accept the invitation**
- ☐ **Decline the invitation**
- ☐ **Delegate the invitation to:** N/A

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Ambassador Checklist

Tab 2 – Biographic Information

Drafted: EUR/EE –(b)(6)

Cleared: EUR/FO: EMillard (ok)
EUR/FO: GKent (ok)
EUR/EE: (b)(6) (ok)
S/P: (b)(6) (ok)
D: (b)(6) (ok)
P: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/PD: LWahl-Tuco (ok)
DRL: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/RUS: (b)(6) (ok)



DeControlled

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

July 19, 2018

~~(SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED)~~ when separated from attachments)**INVITATION FOR ACTING UNDER SECRETARY MULL (P)****Event:** Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie “Masha” Yovanovitch**Role:** Host**Date/Time:** Tuesday, July 24, 12:00pm (30 minutes)**Possible Conflicts:****Host:** Acting Under Secretary Mull**Location:** Acting Under Secretary Mull’s Office**Date Received:** 7/18/18**Date Response Required:** 7/23/18**Spouse Invited:** No

— **(SBU) Details:** The Secretary has delegated this meeting to you. Yovanovitch will be in Washington July 23-27 and expressed interest in meeting with you. She would like to discuss developments in Ukraine and would be interested in the view from Washington, including on our Russia policy post-Helsinki.

(U) Media/Press: Closed press

— **(SBU) Recommendation:** EUR recommends that you accept this meeting in order to hear directly from Yovanovitch about developments in Ukraine.

Decision (Action Required):

- ☐ **Accept the invitation**
- ☐ **Decline the invitation**
- ☐ **Delegate the invitation to:**

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Ambassador Checklist

Tab 2 – Biographic Information

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~~~(SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED)~~ when separated from attachments)

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: (b)(6) (ok)
S/P: (b)(6) (ok)
D: (b)(6) (ok)
P: (b)(6) (ok)
M: (b)(6) (ok)
DS: (b)(6); (b)(6) (ok)
DGHR: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/PRA: (b)(6) (ok)
EUR/ACE: (b)(6) (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)