United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 24, 2021

Case No: FL-2020-00006

American Oversight
Daniel McGrath
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. McGrath:

We refer to our letter dated January 7, 2021, regarding the release of certain Department of State material under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department identified an additional nine records responsive to your request. After reviewing these records, we have determined that seven records may be released in full 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 redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. The records withheld in full are exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 1 and 5, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(1) and (b)(5). All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. All released material is enclosed.

The processing of your request remains ongoing. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Trial Attorney, Josh Abbuhl at (202) 616-8366 or at Joshua.Abbuhl@usdoj.gov. Please refer to civil action number 19-cv-3058, and FOIA case number FL-2020-00006 in all correspondence regarding this case.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Miller

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

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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

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Page 01 to Page 03

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1) ; 1.4 (d)

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Page 04 to Page 08

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1) ; (b)(5) ; 1.4 (d)

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Released in Part

From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Kyiv, EXEC AMs <KyivEXECAMs@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Cable for Clearance: Offshore PSA Block
Date:	Tue, 30 Jul 2019 08:47:22 -0400

Clear with a few edits

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
Classified By: kvienka, DCM
Derived From: DSCG 11-01
Declassify On: 2044/07/30

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Kvien, Kristina A
Cc: Kyiv, EXEC AMs; (b)(6)
Subject: Cable for Clearance: Offshore PSA Block

Dear Kristina,

A cable on the recent recommendation of the PSA Interagency Commission to award the Dolphin PSA block to Trident is attached for your clearance. Please kindly let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
(b)(6)

Official
CONFIDENTIAL
Classified By: William Taylor - CDA, Office:U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 7/30/2044
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" < (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Kyiv, EXEC AMs <KyivEXECAMs@state.sgov.gov>;

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(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

(b)(5)

(b)(1)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

(b)(1)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

(b)(5)

(b)(1)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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Released in Part

From:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) ; Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Unbundling cable
Date:	Sun, 18 Aug 2019 13:20:41 +0000

All good, (b)(6) – sorry to bother you on the weekend, this one in particular! A discussion is just what we need. Many thanks

From (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) ; Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Unbundling cable

Sir - I think it may be best for us to gather all the substantive experts on Monday or Tuesday, including USAID and DOE, to answer your questions.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

I think having us do a considered briefing with all players present is probably a better way to answer your questions than me on a mobile and am very sorry for the confusing sentences.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(6) will be at morning huddle for ECON with (b)(6) having his first morning back in the office backbenching for a day coming off three weeks of leave.

I will task (b)(6) with writing specific responses researched with USAID and DOE and the EU to your questions. I will also ask [redacted] and (b)(6) to check in tomorrow to see what we can do tomorrow- paper or briefing - to quickly get you answers on this. We can also recall the cable and update based on clarifying these answers.

(b)(6)

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Kvien, Kristina A; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Unbundling cable

Not at all, Kristina – first, you explicitly asked and I explicitly agreed that you should sign this out while I was gone. Second, the cable (b) (5) [redacted] (b) (5) [redacted] I just want to be sure I understand.

(b)(6) thanks for your patient explanation. Let me be sure I have it right.

- (b)(5)
- (b)(5)
- (b)(5)

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- (b)(5)
-

From: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 11:52 AM
To: (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Unbundling cable

(b)(5)

GetOutlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 11:46:27 AM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6); Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Unbundling cable

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

BEGIN CABLE EXCERPT:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

END CABLE EXCERPT:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

I hope this is useful sir and we are happy to work on additional answers on paper, including bringing in USAID if you would like a verbal briefing as they and their project have (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Best regards,

(b)(6)

GetOutlook for iOS

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)

Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 9:49 AM

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To: (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A

Subject: Unbundling cable

(b)(5)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)

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Released in Part

From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Report on Ze & (previously denied) U.S. lobbying
Date:	Fri, 2 Aug 2019 04:59:09 +0000

(b)(6)

Thanks I am

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2019 1:51:51 AM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Fw: Report on Ze & (previously denied) U.S. lobbying

Double checking first thing that the two of you are on the Senior Staff collective.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2019 10:47 PM
To: Kyiv Senior Staff; Kyiv POL Core
Cc: Kyiv IOs; EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL; Kent, George P
Subject: Report on Ze & (previously denied) U.S. lobbying

VOA's Ukrainian-language service published an article about an hour ago, titled (rough translation) "Zelenskyy's lobbyists in the U.S., who allegedly didn't exist, reported on the cost of raising his profile"

The article notes that lobbying group Signal Group Consulting LLC filed a report with the DOJ on work it did for Zelenskyy/SoP between April 3 and May 21, 2019. The report shows a $60K fee plus $9,371.80 in services.

The article notes that the Ze team denied the existence of such a contract in the media back in April.

The VoA article goes into significant detail on the consultants involved, who the firm contacted, etc. The article is getting picked up by other Ukrainian media now.

Link to VoA article: https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/lobisty-zelenskogo-ameryka-zvit-u-zelenskogo-ne-vidpovily/5024890.html?fbclid=IwAR0n7b21EuuiNwM9_ukaFsUVK1Rk-IQe-0pgmGcX6KSz5pe5LHxbeI1S1Nk

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Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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Released in Part

From:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
To:	Kurt Volker (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure re: Ukraine
Date:	Sun, 11 Aug 2019 15:12:23 +0000

Sounds good

Get Outlook for Android

From: Kurt Volker (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2019 6:10:14 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure re: Ukraine

(b)(5)

Amb. Kurt Volker
Executive Director
McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona State University

ASU Barrett & O'Connor Center
1800 I Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
(b)(6)

www.McCainInstitute.org
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On Sun, Aug 11, 2019 at 12:54 AM Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 10, 2019 8:35:40 PM
To: Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6) ; Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) ; Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure re: Ukraine

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)
Director
Office of Eastern European Affairs
U.S. Department of State

From: (b)(6)
Date: August 10, 2019 at 5:56:15 AM EDT
To: Kyiv Senior Staff <KyivSeniorStaff@state.gov>, Kyiv POL Core <KyivPOLCore@state.gov>, Kyiv ECON FSOs <KYIVECONFSOs@state.gov>, EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL <EUR-UkraineDesk-DL@state.gov>, Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6) , Kyiv IOs <KyivIOs@state.gov>, Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>, EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure re: Ukraine

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President Trumps remarks on August 9 on the south lawn include answering a question about a potential meeting with President Zelensky. Thanks to David Hatch for his keen eye on finding this.

I have copied the relevant section just below. Cheers. (b)(6)

Q Mr. President, do you plan invite your Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House? And what would be your advice for him —

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you talking about?

Q The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do you plan to invite him to the White House? And what would be your advice for him on how to communicate with Vladimir Putin to stop the conflict in Eastern Ukraine?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he's going to make a deal with President Putin, and he will be invited to the White House. And we look forward to seeing him. He's already been invited to the White House, and he wants to come. And I think he will. He's a very reasonable guy. He wants to see peace in Ukraine. And I think he will be coming very soon, actually.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: David Hatch (b)(6)
Date: August 10, 2019 at 7:24:57 AM GMT+3
Subject: Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure re: Ukraine
To: Kutor, Susan (KYIV/DIR) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

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(b)(6)
(b)(6) Woronowycz, Roman (KYIV/PCS)
(b)(6)

Warm greetings. In case you hadn't seen. Note question and response re: Trump re: Ze. Highlighted in yellow.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-marine-one-departure-59/

South Lawn

9:49 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: So, we're doing very well with China. We're talking to China. We're not ready to make a deal, but we'll see what happens. But, you know, we've been hurt by China for 25, 30 years. Nobody has done anything about it. And we have no choice but to do what we're doing.

It's working out very well, as you know. We called them on manipulation and they brought their numbers back, and they brought them back rapidly. And they were able to do that because they manipulate. But that's — so it's called "monetary manipulation." Not good.

But what happened and what's happening with China now — we have an open dialogue. We'll see whether or not we keep our meeting in September. If we do, that's fine. If we don't, that's fine. But it's time that somebody does what we're doing.

And I said, the American taxpayer is not paying for it. We had a big day in stock market yesterday, but the American taxpayer is not paying for it.

What China is doing is, by depressing their currency and by pouring tremendous amounts of money into their system, they're paying for it. The prices have not gone up. So when

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the Amer- — in fact, in some cases, they've gone down because the devaluation, plus the money supply — the amount of money that they pour in, which is a form of manipulation — has more than compensated for an increase in price.

So, as I said — and everybody questioned it — in the case of China, the tariffs have been amazing. We're taking in billions and billions of dollars. Now, China has had their worst year in 35 years now. It was in 26 years, but now it's in 35 years. I want them to do well. But as of this moment, they're having the worst year that they've had in many, many years — in decades. And really, we're just bringing the system back into order.

We have all the cards. We're doing well. Our country is doing fantastically well. You look at Europe; they've got problems. In fact, the biggest problem we have is the fact that a lot of other — continents, frankly — but a lot of other countries are not doing well. But we're doing great, and we continue to do great. Our companies are poised. They have a lot of cash. Our system is beautiful.

Q Mr. President, the NRA has been a strong supporter and ally of yours, going all the way back to the campaign. Can you take a position at odds with the NRA on background checks?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I could, but I don't think I'll be there. I have a great relationship with the NRA. They supported me very early, and that's been a great decision they made. We have Justice Kavanaugh. We have Justice Gorsuch. And they feel very strongly about the Second Amendment.

The NRA has made a great decision in supporting me, and nobody else would have won, aside from everything else. I have a very good relationship. I'll change it: I have a great relationship with the NRA. I have a lot of respect for the

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people at the NRA. And I have already spoken to them on numerous occasions. Numerous occasions.

And, frankly, we need intelligent background checks, okay? This isn't a question of NRA, Republican, or Democrat. I will tell you, I spoke to Mitch McConnell yesterday. He's totally onboard. He said, "I've been waiting for your call." He is totally onboard. I spoke to senators that, in some cases, people — friends of mine — but pretty hardline senators. Hardline. And when I say that, I say that in a positive way. Hardline on the Second Amendment. And they understand.

We don't want insane people, mentally ill people, bad people, dangerous people — we don't want guns in the hands of the wrong people. I think that the Republicans are going to be great and lead the charge along with the Democrats.

I spoke yesterday to Nancy Pelosi. We had a great talk. I spoke to Chuck Schumer. We had a great talk. And Chuck Schumer, in particular, loves my China policy, as you probably know. I said, "I can't believe it. You actually like something that I'm doing." He said, "Not 'like.' Love."

So Chuck Schumer is — he's great on the China situation, which we are winning and winning big. And China wants to do something, but I'm not ready to do anything yet. Twenty-five years of abuse. I'm not ready so fast. So we'll see how that works out.

But on the background checks — on background checks, we have tremendous support for really commonsense, sensible, important background checks.

Q Mr. President, you expressed support for background checks after Parkland. Why is now different?

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THE PRESIDENT: Time goes by. I don't think I'm different, but I think the Senate is different. I think other people in the House are different. I think that people that maybe had their arm up a couple of years ago, maybe they feel differently. I don't think I feel any differently.

I think with a lot of success that we have, I think I have a greater influence now over the Senate and over the House.

Q Can it get done now? Can it get done now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we can get something really good done. I think we can have some really meaningful background checks. We don't want people that are mentally ill, people that are sick — we don't want them having guns. Who does?

Q Mr. President, but if the NRA does not support that effort, will you fight them on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll see where the NRA will be. But we have to have meaningful background checks. You know, in the case of — in both cases, it's possible they wouldn't have been caught.

But in the one case, we also have to talk about age, because he did things that were very, very bad in Ohio, in Dayton. He did some things that were really bad. His school knew about it. When he turned 18, everything was expunged. We're going to have to get rid of that because you can't have that barrier. If they would have had that barrier, they would have been able to see. But because he was a minor, it was expunged. We're going to have to get rid of that barrier.

I think this: I think a lot of really meaningful things on background checks will take place, including red flags, including a lot of other very, very important items. And the Republicans are looking at it very seriously. And I really

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believe that the NRA — I've spoken to them numerous times — they're really good people. They're great patriots. They love our country. They love our country so much. And, frankly, I really think they're going to get there also.

Q Mr. President, when you talked to Wayne LaPierre — you talked to him several times — did he warn you that background checks could cost you, politically? And did you say to him, "Forget politics, we have to do something now"?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I had a good talk with Wayne. And I like Wayne. And, you know — as you know, they supported me very early — far earlier than anybody thought possible, especially me not being a politician. And that support has paid off. We now have two Supreme Court justices that are phenomenal — Kavanaugh and Gorsuch. And, I mean, they're phenomenal people, and they're big believers in the Second Amendment, which Wayne is also and which I am.

I mean, there's been — there's been no President that feels more strongly about the Second Amendment than I do. However, we need meaningful background checks so that sick people don't get guns.

Q Will he support you? Will Wayne support you?

THE PRESIDENT: I think, in the end — I think, in the end, Wayne and the NRA will either be there or maybe will be a little bit more neutral, and that would be okay, too.

Look — look, the NRA has, over the years, taken a very, very tough stance on everything, and I understand it. You know, it's a slippery slope. They think you'll prove one thing, and that leads to a lot of bad things. I don't agree with that.

I think we can do meaningful — very meaningful background checks. I want to see it happen.

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So I've got a lot of support. And I also have the support of other people on the other side. And I think the Democrats and Republicans have a chance to really come together.

Q On Mississippi, why wasn't there a better plan in place to deal with the migrant children in Mississippi? Why was there family separation?

THE PRESIDENT: The reason is because you have to go in; you can't let anybody know. Otherwise, when you get there, nobody will be there. But a big factor is to let people outside of the country that want to come in legally — illegally into our country, where they come in in caravans where they surge the border — which, by the way, we have the numbers way down right now, if you see, because Mexico has done a fantastic job.

Mexico has 26,000 soldiers, right now, on the border. They have been fantastic — because of tariffs. But I don't care what it is, because Mexico — in fact, I'll be calling the President at a certain point. I just hope they keep it up. Because if the Democrats will change the laws — which I was thinking about putting together, as you know, with the gun situation. So we have immigration and we have, let's say, some of the things we're talking about right now — you have them together.

But I want people to know that if they come into the United States illegally, they're getting out; they're going to be brought out. And this serves as a very good deterrent. If people come into our country illegally, they're going out. They're not coming in illegally and staying. We have bad laws. They may get in — although we're being very tough — but they may get in, but it doesn't matter because they're going out. And when people see what they saw yesterday, and like they will see for a long time, they know that they're not staying here.

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Q (Inaudible) black Americans give you another chance in 2020?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think they really like — you know, it's really amazing because African American unemployment just came out very recently — the lowest in history. It's the best — the best numbers in history. African American employment — and Hispanic and Asian, too — have more people working today than ever worked in the history of our country.
Plus, I did criminal justice reform, which President Obama could not get approved — which the media never talks about. If President Obama got criminal justice reform done, it would be front-page stories all over the place. I got it done. I think that African Americans appreciate it.

So I got that. I have the best unemployment numbers. I have the best employment numbers for a lot of people. But for African Americans: number one that we've ever had.

One other thing we did, aside from criminal justice reform: Opportunity Zones. And they are doing unbelievably well. And you'll see that, and you've already seen it. But Opportunity Zones. And the biggest beneficiary there is African Americans.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Yeah. I do.

Q Mr. President, do you plan invite your Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House? And what would be your advice for him —

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you talking about?

Q The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky.

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THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do you plan to invite him to the White House? And what would be your advice for him on how to communicate with Vladimir Putin to stop the conflict in Eastern Ukraine?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he's going to make a deal with President Putin, and he will be invited to the White House. And we look forward to seeing him. He's already been invited to the White House, and he wants to come. And I think he will. He's a very reasonable guy. He wants to see peace in Ukraine. And I think he will be coming very soon, actually.

Q Did you watch Mr. Biden's comments overnight? And does it make you want to change your own rhetoric?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, he comments — look. Look, Joe is not playing with a full deck. He made that comment. I said, "Whoa." I saw it because I was on — something; I had a television. I saw his comment. Joe Biden is not playing with a full deck. This is not somebody you can have as your President. But if he got the nomination, I'd be thrilled.

Q What are you going to do, Mr. President, to keep conservatives from being banned on Twitter?

THE PRESIDENT: We're looking at that right now. We have a lot of these companies coming in a little while, as you know.

Q What are you going to say to them?

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to be very tough with them. They're treating conservatives very unfairly.

Hollywood — I don't call them the "elites"; I think the elites are people they go after, in many cases. But Hollywood is

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really terrible. You talk about racist — Hollywood is racist. What they're doing, with the kind of movies they're putting out — it's actually very dangerous for our country. What Hollywood is doing is a tremendous disturbance to our country.

We have now, in a little while, all of the heads of the biggest companies coming in, and we're going to talk to them. They treat conservatives and Republicans totally different than they treat others. And they can't do that.

Q Will the Trump administration devalue the U.S. dollar?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We don't have to. We have such a strong dollar. The problem is, our dollar is at a level that it makes it hard. But the advantage to doing what we have is money is pouring in because we have the safest currency in the world. We have the standard of the world.

But because it's so strong — it's gotten so strong because other countries have problems — it makes it harder for our manufacturers.

So if we lowered the interest rate by the Federal Reserve, that would automatically bring down the dollar a little bit, and it would make it easier for Caterpillar and these companies.

But we have the greatest currency in the world. No, I wouldn't do that.

Q Are you thinking of cancelling the trade talk next month with China?

THE PRESIDENT: So, China wants to settle this deal. They've had the worst year that they've had in many, many decades. And it's getting only worse. Thousands of companies are leaving China. They would like to make a deal. I'm not ready to make a deal.

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Q But are you willing to cancel the talks next month?

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe. We'll see what happens. Right now — right now the talks are scheduled in September. Whether or not we're talking about China, whether or not they're cancelled, we'll see.

Look, as I said, our people are not paying for these billions and billions of dollars that came in, $16 billion of which I gave to the farmers because they were targeted by China. And that's just a small fraction of what we've taken in.

So they are not — because what China has been doing — they're a currency manipulator — they've manipulated the value of their currency, and that's where the money comes. And also, they put tremendous money into the system.

So if you look, prices have not risen. Our people have not paid. So all of these guys that say, "Oh, Trump, Trump, Trump..." — they don't know what they're talking about.

Now, China is unique. That doesn't mean it happens with other countries. It probably doesn't. But the prices have not gone up. In fact, we have virtually no inflation in our country. If the Federal Reserve would bring down interest rates over a period of time —

Q How much?

THE PRESIDENT: I would love to see a point or even a little bit more than that. If they would stop quantitative tightening, we have a rocket ship.

I mean, we're doing well without it, but we're being handcuffed by the Federal Reserve. If they would stop that, it would be incredible.

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Q Mr. President, do you want to expand South Korea and Japan Military Information Agreement? Will you support them?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope that South Korea and I hope that Japan start getting along with each other. You know, they're supposed to be allies. And it puts us in a very difficult position. South Korea and Japan are fighting all the time. They've got to get along because it puts us in a very bad position.

With that being said, I got a very beautiful letter from Kim Jong Un yesterday. It was delivered — hand-delivered from —

Q What did it say?

THE PRESIDENT: It was a very positive letter.

Q What did it say?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd love to give it to you. I really would. Maybe — maybe sometime I will.

Q Kim Jong Un mention of a next meeting and a summit talk?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we'll have another meeting. He really wrote a beautiful, three-page — I mean, right from top to bottom — a really beautiful letter. And maybe I'll release the results of the letter, but it was a very positive letter.

Q Any decision on Huawei?

THE PRESIDENT: We're not going to do business with Huawei. We're not doing business with them. And I really made the decision. It's much simpler not to do any business with Huawei. So we're not doing business with

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Huawei. That doesn't mean we won't agree to something if and when we make a trade deal, but we're not going to be doing business with Huawei.

Q When will you nominate someone to replace Coats? Are you looking at Maguire, Hoekstra?

THE PRESIDENT: Maguire is excellent. Admiral. Highly respected. A great leader. He's Acting right now. Sue did a great job. I like Sue Gordon very much.

I think that, over a period of time — I'm in no rush because we have a great Acting.

Q Have you interviewed Hoekstra?

THE PRESIDENT: I like Hoekstra a lot. I spoke to Senator Burr about different people. He's head of intelligence. And we're — I'm working together with Senator Burr and the whole committee. I want to get somebody that everybody can really come together with. I like Pete Hoekstra a lot. He's great. He's doing a fantastic job in the Netherlands right now.

Q You had mentioned it was down to three. Is it more than two?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I will tell you: That's a job that everybody wants. DNI. Everybody. But I'm dealing — I'm dealing with the committee. I'm dealing with, really, Senator Burr a lot. And we'll come up with somebody that's great. We have a lot of choice. A lot of people want the job.

Q Tension between Japan and South Korea, are you concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I'm concerned that they're not getting along with each other. They have to get along with

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each other. If they don't get along, what are we doing? They have to get along with each other. It's very important.

South Korea and Japan have to sit down and get along with each other. Otherwise, what are we all doing?

Q Are you considering moving troops from Germany to Poland?

THE PRESIDENT: So, Poland has been a great, great friend of ours. They've offered to build a military base at the cost of many billions of dollars. No money put up by the United States whatsoever. They've offered to fund our troops and lots of other things — the way it should be. Not the stupid deals that we made with all these other countries that take advantage of us.

So, Poland has been terrific. And we're going to be going to Poland very soon. I'm sure you're going to be going with us. I had a great experience in Poland the last time I went. In fact, some of you actually said the speech was one of the best ever made in Europe by an American President. Hard to believe that you actually said that. When you said that, I was, like, in a state of shock.

Q On the fundraiser tonight, did Stephen Ross say anything about potentially cancelling, given the controversy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Stephen Ross is a great friend of mine. He's a very successful guy. We were competitors but friends in real estate, in New York, in the old days. He's a great guy. He is — by the way, I think he's probably more inclined to be a liberal, if you want to know the truth. But he likes me, he respects me. We're doing a fundraiser there. We're doing another fundraiser with another friend of mine. And I understand the fundraiser was totally sold out, and it's very successful.

Q Your reaction to the controversy, people boycotting?

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THE PRESIDENT: I don't think — I think it makes Steve much hotter. I explained — I didn't speak to him yet; I'll see him in a little while. The controversy makes Steve Ross hotter. He'll figure that out in about a week. But he's very happy. He's got a very successful — a lot of people are going.

We have two fundraisers. One is Steve; one is another gentleman. And I guess they're going to raise 11 or 12 billion — million dollars. Not billion. Million.

I'm getting used to saying "billion." We're talking about a lot of money.

Q When you talked about age restrictions to buy guns, 18 months ago you supported buying long guns at the age of 25, raising the age. Are you considering bringing that back now?

THE PRESIDENT: We're not talking about anything specific. I can tell you there's tremendous goodwill for meaningful — I'm talking about "meaningful"; add that word — meaningful background checks so that sick and demented people don't carry around guns.

You have to remember — and I've said it — it's a big mental illness problem. And the gun doesn't pull a trigger. A mind — a sick mind pulls a trigger. So we want to take that out of the equation.

Q Do you support the Toomey-Manchin bill or the House bill? Will you lift your veto threat?

THE PRESIDENT: We're looking at Toomey-Manchin. Actually, if you look, there are many bills that have been put in over a period of four, five years. They went nowhere. But there's never been a President like President Trump.

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Q Mr. President, will you call Congress back into session to pass (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we'll need to. I may. Leadership is dealing along with me right now. By the time you call them back, they're going to be back anyway. I don't think we'll need to call them back. I think we'll have a very good package by the time they come back and they can start debating and voting on it then. So I really don't think, for the extra little time, it matters.

Leadership is doing a really good job — Mitch McConnell, Kevin, Nancy. I spoke with Nancy Pelosi yesterday. I spoke with Chuck Schumer yesterday. There's a lot of goodwill about this issue.

Q And do you think that — I mean, do you need to give a speech to do something to marshal support for this?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. No. No.

Q Will you lead the charge?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have a lot of support. I mean, I'm very fortunate. In the Republican Party, I'm at 94 percent approval rating, so that helps. But I have a great relationship with the Republican senators. And I really think they're looking for me to make — give them a signal. And we're going to have great support, and I think we'll have the support from the Democrats also.

Q Mr. President, you also said this after Parkland. Why should Americans believe you now?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. I never said what I'm saying now.

Q (Inaudible) background checks after Parkland.

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THE PRESIDENT: What I'm saying — what I said, though: You have tremendous opposition from many people on both sides. I see a better feeling right now towards getting something meaningful done. Meaningful. And we did do things after Parkland, but it wasn't to the same level that I'm talking about now.

You know, we did do the Fix NICS and various other things. So we did do a lot of work after Parkland. But I think we have now a chance to do something, really, much more meaningful —

Q Support among Republicans or —

THE PRESIDENT: — having to do — having to do, as you know, with background checks.

Q Mr. President, it's almost back-to-school season. What is your message to young children and teenagers who are anxious or nervous about going back to school after these mass shootings?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, my message to young children going back to school is: Go and really study hard, and someday you'll grow up and maybe be President of the United States or do something else that's fantastic.

They have nothing to fear. They have nothing to worry about. In addition, we're in constant contact with states, with state governments. And they are really doing a great job. We have this so much better than it was two and a half years ago. Two and a half years ago, when I came in, it was really not a good situation. I think we have a very, very good system right now. That doesn't mean that there's not going to be some crazy person, but that's what we want to do. We want to take the guns out of the hands of crazy, demented, sick people.

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Q (Inaudible) assault weapons ban — will you be telling the NRA to stand down?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we're not looking at that right now. We're really looking at very meaningful background checks. I think it's going to happen. There's great, great support. But we're looking at very, very meaningful background checks.

Q What is the advantage to having Maguire as the head of DNI versus Gordon?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Admiral — as you know, Maguire — Admiral Maguire is a very talented man. He's a great leader. As an Admiral, was always a great leader. He is a man who is respected by everybody, and he's going to be there for a period of time. Who knows? Maybe he gets the job. But he'll be there for a period of time — maybe a longer period of time than we think. We'll see.

We're dealing with Senator Burr. We're dealing with the committee. We're dealing with probably 9 or 10 people that want the job very much. You know the name of almost every one of them. They're truly outstanding. Everybody wants DNI. Everybody wants it.

And I will say that the Admiral is such a great choice from the standpoint of now. And maybe he goes further. We'll see what happens. But we're dealing with the committee and Senator Burr. We have people, all of whom you know — highly respected people. We'll be making a decision in the not-too-distant future.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Are you still committed to naming Eugene Scalia Secretary of Labor? And when will you send a nomination to the Senate?

THE PRESIDENT: So, Eugene Scalia is a highly respected lawyer in Washington. His father, as you know, was the

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great, great, great Supreme Court Justice. Even the people with not his views would say he was a great gentleman, a great man.

Eugene Scalia — Gene Scalia — has had a fantastic career. As you know, he's our appointment for Labor Secretary. I think — so far, it's been received very well. He is a very — he's one of the finest minds and lawyers in Washington. And I will say, so far, that's been received very well.

Q On North Korea, this letter to you, did Kim Jong Un make any promises about stopping the ballistic missile testing that he's been carrying out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, he gave me a great letter. I would love to give you, but, I don't know, I don't think it would be appropriate. But it was a very personal letter.

Q Talked about missile testing?

THE PRESIDENT: It was a great letter. He talked about what he's doing. He's not happy with the testing. It's a very small testing that we did. But he wasn't happy with the testing; he put that in the letter. But he also sees a great future for North Korea. And so we'll see how it all works out.

In the meantime, I say it again: There have been no nuclear tests. The missile tests have all been short-range. No ballistic missile tests. No long-range missiles. We got back, and we're getting back — as we speak, we're getting back a lot of our fallen heroes. You know that. They're coming back into and through Hawaii. And we got back our hostages.

So I thought the letter — I just got it yesterday. It was hand-delivered and it wasn't touched by anybody. They literally take it from North Korea to my office. We have a system.

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It's the old-fashioned system. You don't have to worry about leaks. Something nice about that system.

Q Mr. President, what do you mean that he wasn't happy with the missile tests? He carried them out. He ordered them.

THE PRESIDENT: No, he wasn't. He wasn't happy with the tests — the war games. The war games on the other side, with the United States. And as you know, I've never liked it either. I've never liked it. I've never been a fan. You know why? I don't like paying for it. We should be reimbursed for it, and I've told that to South Korea. But I don't like it either. But I said, "Do this," because this was a big test. This was a turnover of various areas to South Korea. I like that because that's what should happen.

Q Several countries issued travel warnings to United States. And Japan specifically said gunfire is potentially everywhere in the U.S. What is your reaction to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can't imagine that. But if they did that, we'd just reciprocate. We are a very reciprocal nation, with me as the head. When somebody does something negative to us in terms of a country, we do it to them.

Look, our country has been taken advantage of by foreign countries, even allies — including allies, and in many cases, more than anybody else. We've been taken advantage of for many, many years, and it stops. It stopped.

Q In your view, Mr. President, should Colin Kaepernick get an opportunity to play in the NFL?

THE PRESIDENT: Only if he's good enough. Yeah, if he's good enough. Why would he play? If he's good enough. And I think if he was good enough — I know the owners. I know Bob Kraft. I know so many of the owners. If he's good enough, they'd sign him. So, if he's good enough — I

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know these people — they would sign him in a heartbeat. They will do anything they can to win games.

So I'd like to see it. Frankly, I'd love to see Kaepernick come in if he's good enough. But I don't want to see him come in because somebody thinks it's a good PR move. If he's good enough, he will be in.

Q Are you worried about global markets pulling back at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the global markets are not as good as our market. Our market has been really good.

Q Are you worried about the effect — the (inaudible) effect to the U.S.?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it always — it's never positive. Although, you could say it puts us in an even better position. I view it differently. I mean, most people would say that's a bad thing. I would say the fact that other countries aren't doing really well — China, in particular. China is doing horribly. Horribly. First time that anyone can remember. They are having a year like they never had. Almost — you know, go back, 30, 40 years. They're having one of the worst years ever. The numbers are phony. They're not doing 6.2; they're doing a totally different number.

Q What do you think they're doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe neutral. Maybe even —

Q Does Democrats calling you and your supporters a white nationalist, a white supremacist, help you?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it helps. First of all, I don't like it when they do it because I am not any of those things.

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I think it's a disgrace. And I think it shows how desperate the Democrats are. Look, right now, I'm working with the Democrats on meaningful background checks. That's a big thing. Hopefully, we can do something. But — so I don't want to focus too much on that.

I will say this: For them to throw out the race word again — "racist, racist, racist." That's all they use — to anybody. They called Nancy Pelosi a racist. She's not a racist. They call anybody a "racist" when they run out of cards.

I'm winning in the polls. They're desperate. They've got lousy candidates. They've got bad candidates. I mean, I watched the debates. I mean, I look —

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: I look — well, I mean, Joe Biden can't answer a simple question. Something is going wrong with him. I mean, the only — the only thing is — I mean, a lot of people think that he was the one that wanted Bob Mueller to testify because it made Joe look intelligent. Okay?

Q Is your base supporting background checks?

THE PRESIDENT: I think my base relies very much on common sense and they rely on me, in terms of telling them what's happening. I think meaningful background checks — I don't just say "background checks." Because we passed background checks a number of times, meaning the Democr- — but everybody knew they weren't that strong.

Q Do you want to expand the law?

THE PRESIDENT: I think meaningful background checks are a real positive. Politically, I can't tell you. You know, I don't know — good, bad, or indifferent. I don't care, politically. I don't want to have crazy people having guns.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

END

10:22 A.M. EDT

Best -

(b)(6)
Director, Office of Program Coordination and Strategy
USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine and Belarus
4 Igor Sikorsky St., Kyiv 04112
(b)(6)
http://www.usaid.gov/ukraine

Sender:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Kurt Volker (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Tyler Brace <Tyler_Brace@portman.senate.gov>; (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A < (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6) (b)(6)

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From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?
Date:	Thu, 15 Aug 2019 07:30:18 +0000

Ambassador, spoke with (b)(6) POL is on it.

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:15 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

Tracking? Need further guidance?

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From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 7:55 AM
Subject: Re: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?
To (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

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From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 7:30 AM
Subject: Re: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?
To: (b)(6) Kent, George P, (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A, (b)(6)

(b)(5)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 12:45 AM
Subject: RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?
To: (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv), Kent, George P
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A, (b)(6)

Colleagues:

(b)(5)

All the best – (b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 10:32 AM
To: (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6); Kent, George P (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Vindman, Alexander S. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 5:23 PM
To: (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Cooper, Laura (Skopje Items) (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6) Cipoletti, Thomas J (mail.mil)
(b)(6) Erath, John F. EOP/NSC
(b)(6); Wilde Gavin (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

V/R,
Alexander S. Vindman
Director for Eastern Europe and Russia
National Security Council
Desk (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 10:17 AM
To: Vindman, Alexander S. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6); Cooper, Laura (Skopje Items) (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) Cipoletti, Thomas J (mail.mil) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

(b)(5)

(b)(6)
Director, EUR/EE (Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus)
U.S. Department of State
Tel: (b)(6)

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From: Vindman, Alexander S. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Cooper, Laura (Skopje Items) (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6); Cipoletti, Thomas J (mail.mil) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

Gentlemen,

(b)(5)

V/R,
Alexander S. Vindman
Director for Eastern Europe and Russia
National Security Council
Desk: (b)(6)

From: Wilde, Gavin B. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 2:44 PM
To: Glazer, Josh S. EOP/OMB (b)(6)
Cc: Vindman, Alexander S. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Ryan, Erika H. EOP/OMB (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

Apologies, Josh –
I'd refer you and Mike to (b)(6) and George Kent at State Department for a quick turn on the below info. Happy to provide POCs for them if need be, in Alex's absence.

Best regards,
Gavin Wilde

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Director for Russia/Baltics/Caucasus
National Security Council
(b)(6)

From: Glazer, Josh S. EOP/OMB (b)(6)
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To: Wilde, Gavin B. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
Cc: Vindman, Alexander S. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Ryan, Erika H. EOP/OMB (b)(6)
Subject: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

Gavin, I'm reaching out to you because Alex Vindman's out of office message lists you as his backup. Our PAD, Mike Duffey, is working on the Ukraine issue—let me know if you don't have the background. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Feel free to give me a call if you have questions.

Thanks,
Josh

Joshua S. Glazer
OMB National Security Division
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (SIPR)
(b)(6) (JWICS)

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Trident
Date:	Wed, 31 Jul 2019 16:07:17 +0000

AMB – FYI – sounds like Sondland is (b) (5)

From: Putney, Barton J (USEU) <PutneyBJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 6:56 PM
To: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Trident

Kristina, (b)(6)
Just a quick update. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,
Bart

Bart Putney
Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs
United States Mission to the European Union
(b)(6)

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)

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From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?
Date:	Thu, 15 Aug 2019 07:31:05 +0000

DeControlled

FYI, I think AMB is looking for something today (see yellow below). If not clear what he wants, let's ask him.

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:15 AM
To (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Quick summary of Ukraine reforms?

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To: (b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

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(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A, (b)(6)

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To: (b)(6) Taylor, William B (Kyiv), Kent, George P
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Colleagues:

(b)(5)

All the best – (b)(6)

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National Security Council
Desk: (b)(6)

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U.S. Department of State
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(b)(5)

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National Security Council
(b)(6)

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Thanks,
Josh

Joshua S. Glazer
OMB National Security Division
Office: (202) 395-4830 / BB: (202) 881-7699
(b)(6) (SIPR)
(b)(6) (JWICS)

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

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