United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 17, 2023

Case No. FL-2020-00021

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

Dear Mr. McGrath:

As we noted in our letter dated September 30, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State ("Department") has identified an additional one responsive record subject to the FOIA. We have determined that the record 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 the record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing the record and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

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This concludes the processing of your request. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Trial Attorney Joshua Abbuhl at Joshua.Abbuhl@usdoj.gov or at (202) 616-8366. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00021, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03387, in all correspondence about this request.

Sincerely,



Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals 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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From:	"Sondland, Gordon D" <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
To:	Taylor, William B <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) state.sgov.gov>; @state.sgov.gov>; @state.sgov.gov>
CC:	Volker, Kurt D (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject:	RE: Heads up: plan
Date:	Mon, 16 Sep 2019 04:36:17 -0400

(b)(1); (b)(6)

Got it. Thanks.

Official
~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
Classified By: sondland - amb, Office:useu, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 9/16/2044
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Taylor, William B
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 7:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Volker, Kurt D; (b)(6)
Subject: Heads up: plan (b)(1); (b)(6)

At dinner on Saturday with Kurt and me, (b)(1); (b)(6)

- (b)(1); (b)(6)
-
-
-
-

We will elaborate more formally, but wanted you to have this right away.
Bill

Official
~~SECRET~~
Classified By: William Taylor - CDA, Office:Kyiv, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 9/16/2029

Portions declassified by A/GIS/IPS Senior Reviewer David Pierce on August 30, 2023.

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Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender:	"Sondland, Gordon D" (b)(6) state.sgov.gov>
Recipient:	Taylor, William B <(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) tate.sgov.gov>; @state.sgov.gov>; @state.sgov.gov>; Volker, Kurt D <(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>

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