

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are alarmed by a recent report that senior political appointees at the State Department continue to engage in prohibited personnel practices, including by vetting career State Department officials and American employees of international organizations to determine whether they are sufficiently loyal to President Donald Trump.

On June 13, 2018, *Foreign Policy* reported that Mari Stull, a former food and beverage lobbyist who was appointed as a Senior Adviser to the Bureau of International Organizational Affairs two months ago, “has been quietly vetting career diplomats and American employees of international institutions to determine whether they are loyal to President Donald Trump and his political agenda, according to nearly a dozen current and former U.S. officials.” According to this account, Ms. Stull “is actively making lists and gathering intel” and is asking career State Department employees “when they were hired and by whom.” She is also reportedly researching “the names of government officials to determine whether they signed off on Obama-era policies.”¹

These allegations track closely with the many reports our Committees have received over the past 18 months alleging political attacks on State Department career employees. We had hoped with your personal assurances, including during your testimony before the Foreign Affairs Committee on May 23, 2018, that these attacks on career employees would come to an end. During that hearing, you stated that retaliation against career employees had no place at the State Department:

ENGEL: This past March, Ranking Member Cummings, Senator Menendez and I wrote to the State Department expressing concern over allegations that senior officials, including the director of policy planning, retaliated against career State Department employees based on their national origin, or because they were not—they were perceived as not sufficiently loyal to the president. Do you believe officials who targeted career employees in this way should be working at the State Department?

¹ *Trump Appointee Compiles Loyalty List of U.S. Employees at U.N., State*, *Foreign Policy* (June 13, 2018) (online at <http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/06/13/trumps-vino-vixen-compiles-loyalty-list-of-u-s-employees-at-u-n-state-mari-stull-political-appointee-state-department-international-organization-united-nations-political-retribution-chaos-dysfunction/>).

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POMPEO: I do not.²

Yet, despite these assurances, it appears the Trump Administration continues to deploy ideological loyalty tests on State Department employees.

At the May 23, 2018, hearing, you also gave your “commitment” to Ranking Member Engel that you would work with us to produce the documents we requested about acts of political retaliation at the State Department:

ENGEL: Thank you. In the letter I sent with Ranking Member Cummings and Senator Menendez, we requested access to e-mails and other documents. ... So far we haven't heard anything. Can you give us an idea of when will we be granted access to those documents?

POMPEO: I can't, but I will get you an answer. You have my commitment. I'll have you an answer on the timeline by the end of this week.³

Despite your personal assurances, you have produced none of the documents we requested in our letter and have provided no firm timeline for production.

For these reasons, we request that you provide to our Committees the following documents by June 29, 2018:

- (1) all documents or communications referring or relating to State Department Senior Adviser Mari Stull's efforts to categorize, vet, or research career State Department employees and employees of international institutions, including searches on social media websites;
- (2) all documents or communications referring or relating to lists of career State Department employees and employees of international institutions created by Mari Stull or any other political appointee at the State Department; and
- (3) all documents or communications referring or relating to research conducted by political appointees relating to perceived political views of career employees.

In addition, we request that you preserve all documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. The term “records”

² House Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Hearing on Reviewing the State Department's Budget, Operations, and Policy Priorities* (May 23, 2018).

³ *Id.*

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is broad and includes log files and metadata. For purposes of this request, "preserve" means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, including emails, as well as negligent or intentional handling which would foreseeably make such records incomplete or inaccessible. Specifically, you should:

- (a) exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have access to such records that they are to be preserved;
- (b) exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve any records which have been deleted or marked for deletion but are still recoverable; and
- (c) if it is the routine practice of any employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production, if requested.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Sajit Gandhi with Ranking Member Engel's staff at (202) 226-8467, Janet Kim with Ranking Member Cummings' staff at (202) 225-5051, or Charlotte Oldham-Moore with Senator Menendez's staff at (202) 224-5235. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL

Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



ROBERT MENENDEZ

Ranking Member
Committee on
Foreign Relations

cc: The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform