

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 14, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We remain concerned about ongoing allegations of politically-motivated retaliation against Department of State personnel and the Department's failure to provide documents and interviews that we, along with other members of Congress, have previously requested. On March 15, 2018 (see attachment A), in response to publicly reported allegations of prohibited personnel practices against career officials at the Department of State, then-Ranking Members Engel and Cummings of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, respectively, requested the State Department provide the records cited below to their respective Committees by March 28, 2018:

- (1) all documents and communications referring or relating to any reassignment or proposed reassignment that was considered or ordered since January 20, 2017, of career or civil service employees at the Department;
- (2) all documents and communications referring or relating to any proposed or actual reassignment or removal of career or civil service employees at the Department since January 20, 2017, based on alleged personal political beliefs, prior service with previous Administrations, or work on prior Administrations' foreign policy priorities, including any documents authored by, copying, involving, or referring to:
  - (a) Christine Ciccone;
  - (b) Makan Delrahim;
  - (c) Sean Doocey;
  - (d) Julia Haller;
  - (e) Brian Hook;
  - (f) Edward Lacey;

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- (g) Matthew Mowers; or
  - (h) Margaret Peterlin; and
- (3) all documents and communications referring or relating to proposed or actual personnel actions since January 20, 2017, against Sahar Nowrouzzadeh, including the curtailment of her detail to the Policy Planning staff.

In the March 2018 letter, then-Ranking Members Engel and Cummings also requested transcribed interviews of the officials listed in paragraph 2 above.

In the months that followed, our Committees continued to learn of a worsening track record of retaliation against career State Department employees. In a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 23, 2018, you committed to then-Ranking Member Engel to provide a timeline for providing documents previously requested on this matter. That the Department failed to provide either this timeline or any substantive response to address these ongoing allegations of prohibited personnel practices only added to our concern. On June 19, 2018 (see attachment B), in the wake of media reports that a political appointee had been “vetting career diplomats and American employees of international institutions to determine whether they are loyal to President Donald Trump and his political agenda,” we, along with then-Ranking Member Cummings, wrote the Department again to request that the Department produce the below 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.

The June 2018 letter also requested that the Department “preserve all documents, communications, and other data (‘records’) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties.”

On August 22, 2018, then-Ranking Members Engel and Cummings wrote to the Department once again (see attachment C). This time, it was because the Administration had not

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only repeatedly ignored oversight requests, but had chosen to promote Brian Hook, one of the individuals reportedly most closely associated with allegations of abuse of power and retaliation against career officials, rather than investigating and appropriately responding to his alleged actions. In the August 22 letter, then-Ranking Members Engel and Cummings reiterated the interview and document requests that had been made previously.

To date, despite three specific requests and multiple follow-up efforts by our offices, the Department has failed to respond to our requests for interviews or provide any responsive records. After nearly a year, it suggests the State Department is stonewalling a legitimate congressional request for information on matters that are squarely within our Committees' oversight jurisdiction. We are therefore restating our demand for a response to our prior queries on this matter, and are prepared to use appropriate tools at our disposal to prompt a substantive response.

Ignoring reports of political litmus tests and retaliation at the Department of State has not made the problem go away. Rather, continuing reports of retaliation suggest it has exacerbated it, while morale at the Department—not to mention the careers of several employees—has suffered.

We understand the State Department has at various times claimed that it cannot provide documents while a State Department Office of the Inspector General (IG) investigation regarding the same matter is ongoing (see Attachment D). This position is false and lacks a foundation in either law or the Department's own past practice. As a co-equal branch of government, Congress has the constitutional responsibility and authority to provide oversight and ensure that Executive Branch governance is effective, efficient, and ethical. While we appreciate the crucial role of inspectors general, Congress' oversight activities cannot be displaced or delayed simply because the Executive Branch is simultaneously in the process of investigating itself. Although the Executive may not wish to formally comment on or characterize the importance of documents and facts while an IG investigation is pending, this in no way provides a justification for withholding the documents and witnesses themselves from Congress to conduct its own investigation and reach its own conclusions. We remind you of the clear precedent that the State Department established when it produced large amounts of material to various House committee chairs who were involved in investigating issues related to the email practices of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This production occurred while numerous other investigations—including by inspectors general—were ongoing.

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The Department has already acknowledged in a court filing on March 1, 2019 that it lacks any legal argument to delay production of the same documents to private entities under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and that it has recently located more than 1,300 potentially responsive records in a FOIA case that overlaps substantially with the records we seek.<sup>1</sup> In that case, which was filed nearly eight months *after* the requests by Congress, the Department plans to begin rolling productions on April 17, 2019.<sup>2</sup> As you stated when you served alongside us in the House of Representatives, it is unacceptable for Congress to take a back seat to FOIA requesters when it comes to the crucial work of overseeing our national security apparatus.<sup>3</sup> You were right then, and we expect you do the right thing now.

To the extent that the Department may have been relying on a legal theory that our requests somehow lapsed at the end of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, we write today to dispense with that argument and hereby formally restate our prior requests. Therefore, we request that the Department provide the following no later than March 21, 2019:

- (1) Any and all documents responsive to the March 15, 2018 letter (Attachment A);
- (2) Any and all documents responsive to the June 19, 2018 letter (Attachment B);
- (3) A schedule of availability for the Committees to conduct transcribed interviews with each of the following individuals, with the first interview to be conducted no later than April 1, 2019, and with all interviews to be conducted no later than April 30, 2019:
  - (a) Christine Ciccone;
  - (b) Makan Delrahim;

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<sup>1</sup> See *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of State*, 1:18-cv-02565 (D.D.C). Joint Status Report filed 3/1/19, ECF No. 10, at para. 3. (online at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5755708-Joint-Status-Report-Mari-Stull-Emails.html>). A more precise estimate is not possible because the Department's filing also referred to "415 potentially responsive pages" of calendar entries, whereas the requests associated with case 1:18-cv-02565 referred to documents.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) (noting that the House Select Committee on Benghazi was formed, according to Mr. Pompeo, "because the State Department turned over information in a FOIA request that had not been turned over to the previous committees," and expressing concern that "the State Department and other government agencies may not have provided those other committees the information they need to do complete their task [sic].") *Full text: Clinton testifies before House committee on Benghazi* (online at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/10/22/transcript-clinton-testifies-before-house-committee-on-benghazi/?utm\\_term=.4557343e643e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/10/22/transcript-clinton-testifies-before-house-committee-on-benghazi/?utm_term=.4557343e643e)).

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- (c) Sean Doocey;
- (d) Julia Haller;
- (e) Brian Hook;
- (f) Edward Lacey;
- (g) Matthew Mowers;
- (h) Margaret Peterlin;
- (i) Andrew Veprek;
- (j) John Zadrozny; and
- (k) Kevin Moley

The Committees understand that certain of these individuals listed above are no longer employed by the Department of State. The Committees will also be contacting such individuals directly, but are amenable to the Department, consistent with its past practice, playing a coordinating role in arranging such transcribed interviews. The Committees also note that the individuals named in items (i), (j), and (k) on this list were previously requested by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee separate from the March 2018 and June 2018 letters referenced above.

Consistent with past practice by the Department, we also request that you produce, also by March 21, 2019:

- (4) Any and all documents that are in the possession, custody, and control, of the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of State<sup>4</sup> which relate in any way to allegations of prohibited personnel practices against career employees including or similar to those described in Attachments A and B;
- (5) Any and all documents, without redactions, that have been produced to any FOIA requester or plaintiff on any matter that is related to the subject of Committees' inquiry as detailed above and in the accompanying letters.
- (6) Any and all documents, without redactions, that have been identified as potentially responsive in *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of State*, 1:18-cv-02565 (D.D.C).

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<sup>4</sup> While there is no valid basis for withholding documents from Congress due simply to the pendency of an IG investigation, the State Department's Office of Inspector General has already affirmed in writing to committee staff that it has no objection to the provision of such documents, which it already has in a centralized location as the result of its investigation.

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Because these documents have already been collected and are either in the process of being reviewed or have already been produced, this should impose no additional burden on the Department.

Staff for both of our Committees will be in contact with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs to provide instructions on how best to provide these documents to the Committees.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Chairman  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

**Attachments:**

- A. Engel, Cummings Letter to Pompeo dated March 15, 2018**
- B. Engel, Cummings, Menendez Letter to Pompeo dated June 19, 2018**
- C. Engel, Cummings Letter to Pompeo dated August 22, 2018**
- D. Email from State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs indicating the Department of State's unwillingness to furnish documents**

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2018

General John F. Kelly  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable John J. Sullivan  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear General Kelly and Deputy Secretary Sullivan:

We have obtained extremely disturbing new documents from a whistleblower indicating that high-level officials at the White House and State Department worked with a network of conservative activists to conduct a “cleaning” of employees they believed were not sufficiently “supportive” of President Trump’s agenda. They appear to have targeted these staffers despite being fully aware that they were career civil service employees and despite the career employees expressing willingness to support the policy priorities of the Trump Administration.

Over the past year, we have heard many reports of political attacks on career employees at the State Department, but we had not seen evidence of how extensive, blunt, and inappropriate these attacks were until now. In light of this new information, we now request that you produce additional documents regarding these staffing decisions and make several officials available for transcribed interviews with Committee staff.

If these documents are authentic, they appear to show that Deputy Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel Sean Doocey, Deputy White House Counsel Makan Delrahim, National Security Council Senior Director Derek Harvey, and other senior White House officials were communicating with high-level political appointees at the State Department, including:

- Margaret Peterlin, Chief of Staff;
- Christine Ciccone, Deputy Chief of Staff;
- Matthew Mowers, Senior White House Adviser;
- Brian Hook, Director of the Policy Planning Staff;
- Edward Lacey, Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff; and
- Julia Haller, White House Liaison.

The documents show that these political appointees characterized career State Department employees in derogatory terms, including as “a leaker and troublemaker”; “Turncoat”; “associated with previous policy”; and “Obama/Clinton loyalists not at all supportive of President Trump’s foreign policy agenda.”

The documents include communications with a network of conservative outside parties—including former Speaker Newt Gingrich, conservative activist Barbara Ledeen, and former Dick Cheney and John Bolton advisor David Wurmser.



In one email Mr. Gingrich forwarded to Trump appointees inside the State Department, Mr. Wurmser wrote:

Newt: I think a cleaning is in order here. I hear Tillerson actually has been reasonably good on stuff like this and cleaning house, but there are so many that it boggles the mind...

We are particularly concerned by documents relating to Sahar Nowrouzadeh, a career civil servant at the State Department. After being targeted by a conservative news outlet, she sent an email to her supervisor, Brian Hook, the Director of the Policy Planning Staff, to inform him about the article and seek his assistance to "correct the record." She wrote:

I am and have been a career civil servant for nearly 12 years now. I began government service in the Bush Administration at DOD/NSA. ... I've adapted my work to the policy priorities of every administration I have worked for. I'd welcome an opportunity to discuss this once you're back but in the meantime would welcome your thoughts on how to approach and potentially correct the record. The author of this piece has previously personally targeted me.

Instead of helping Ms. Nowrouzadeh, Mr. Hook forwarded her email to other political officials at the Department, who then forwarded it to officials at the White House and used it as the basis for a wide-ranging internal discussion that questioned her loyalty to President Trump:

- Referring to Ms. Nowrouzadeh's previous work on the Iran nuclear agreement, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Mr. Lacey, the Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff, wrote that "she did a stint with the NSC Staff in the Obama Administration and helped promote and defend the JCPOA—I would say, with enthusiasm."
- Ms. Haller, the White House Liaison, wrote, "As background, she worked on the Iran Deal, specifically works on Iran within S/P [the Policy Planning Staff], was born in Iran and upon my understanding cried when the President won."
- Ms. Haller also wrote to Mr. Doocey and others at the White House, "It is easy to get a detail suspended and because she's a conditional career, we just need to confirm the year she is in."
- Mr. Hook then wrote, "I've emailed friends who tracked the Iran deal for intel on her and waiting to hear back."

Ms. Nowrouzadeh was removed from her detail to the Policy Planning Staff three months early in a manner she characterized as "not in accordance with that which was explicitly stated in my MOU [Memorandum of Understanding]."


**Request for Documents and Transcribed Interviews**


In order to evaluate the extent of these personnel actions, and whether any were prohibited under the law, we request that you provide, by March 29, 2018, the following documents and information:

- (1) all documents and communications referring or relating to any reassignment or proposed reassignment that was considered or ordered since January 20, 2017, of career or civil service employees at the Department;
- (2) all documents and communications referring or relating to any proposed or actual reassignment or removal of career or civil service employees at the Department since January 20, 2017, based on alleged personal political beliefs, prior service with previous Administrations, or work on prior Administrations' foreign policy priorities, including any documents authored by, copying, involving, or referring to:
  - (a) Christine Ciccone;
  - (b) Makan Delrahim;
  - (c) Sean Doocey;
  - (d) Julia Haller;
  - (e) Brian Hook;
  - (f) Edward Lacey;
  - (g) Matthew Mowers; or
  - (h) Margaret Peterlin; and
- (3) all documents and communications referring or relating to proposed or actual personnel actions since January 20, 2017, against Sahar Nowrouzadeh, including the curtailment of her detail to the Policy Planning staff.

We also request transcribed interviews with the officials listed above in (2). To arrange these interviews, or if you have any questions about this request, please contact Janet Kim of the Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5051 or Sajit Gandhi of the Foreign Affairs Committee staff at (202) 226-8467. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

General John F. Kelly, White House Chief of Staff  
The Honorable John J. Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State  
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cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

**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.”<sup>1</sup>

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?

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<sup>1</sup> *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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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”

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

<sup>3</sup> *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



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

August 22, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We are writing to express our concern with your recent appointment of Brian Hook to lead the State Department's Iran Action Group as Special Representative for Iran, particularly in light of internal documents that show him engaging in significant acts of political retaliation against career State Department employees. We are also troubled that you have refused to produce any documents in response to multiple requests from Congress relating to Mr. Hook's retaliatory actions.

In remarks introducing Mr. Hook in his new role, you asserted that he "has worked tirelessly to advance President Trump's foreign policy priorities across multiple domains."<sup>1</sup> However, internal documents show that he engaged in gross acts of retaliation against career State Department employees.

For example, documents show that Mr. Hook failed to respond to a direct request for help from Sahar Nowrouzzadeh, a career State Department employee, after she was targeted on false and inaccurate grounds by conservative news outlets. Instead of defending his employee, Mr. Hook used Ms. Nowrouzzadeh's request for assistance to start a wide-ranging and factually inaccurate internal discussion that included the questioning of Ms. Nowrouzzadeh's loyalty to President Trump and her national origin.

Ultimately, the State Department failed to defend Ms. Nowrouzzadeh from the false and misleading charges. Ms. Nowrouzzadeh's assignment to the Policy Planning office was cut short by three months, counter to the terms of her Memorandum of Understanding with the office.

In addition, documents obtained by our Committees show that Mr. Hook, in consultation with National Security Council official Derek Harvey, drafted a list characterizing specific career State Department employees in derogatory terms, including as a "leaker and troublemaker";

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<sup>1</sup> *Remarks on the Creation of the Iran Action Group*, Department of State (Aug. 16, 2018) (online at [www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/08/285183.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/08/285183.htm)).

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“Turncoat”; “associated with previous policy”; and “Fully political.” One document shows Mr. Hook and his deputy referring to staffers in the Policy Planning staff as “Obama/Clinton loyalists not at all supportive of President Trump’s foreign policy agenda.”

On March 15, 2018, we wrote to the State Department expressing concern over Mr. Hook’s involvement in political retaliation against State Department employees. In our letter, we requested several categories of documents relating to Mr. Hook’s actions, and we asked for several State Department officials, including Mr. Hook, to be made available for interviews with our staff.<sup>2</sup>

However, the State Department has refused to provide any of the documents we requested and has declined to make available Mr. Hook or any of other officials we requested for interviews. In addition, the State Department has not responded to any of our subsequent letters requesting information about other individuals accused of acts of retaliation against career State Department employees.<sup>3</sup>

During your appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 23, 2018, you testified that you believe retaliation against career employees—including retaliation by Mr. Hook—had no place at the State Department:

RANKING MEMBER 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 [Brian Hook] 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?

MR. POMPEO: I do not.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Eliot L. Engel, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, to General John F. Kelly, White House Chief of Staff, and Deputy Secretary John J. Sullivan, Department of State (Mar. 15, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/2018-03-15.EEC%20Engel%20to%20WH%20%26%20State.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Letter from Ranking Member Eliot L. Engel, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Robert Menendez, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, to Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State (June 19, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-foreignaffairs.house.gov/sites/democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/files/06-18-18%20Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Pompeo%20on%20Prohibited%20Personnel%20Practices%20at%20State%20Department.pdf>).

<sup>4</sup> House Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Hearing on Reviewing the State Department’s Budget, Operations, and Policy Priorities* (May 23, 2018).



### Request for Information and Documents

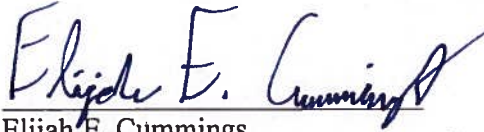
Given your decision to promote Mr. Hook and to disregard requests from Congress about his abuses, we request an immediate briefing about the measures the State Department has taken to investigate and stop retaliation against career State Department officials, as well as measures the State Department has taken in response to Mr. Hook's reported role in engaging in prohibited personnel practices. We also request that you provide all previously requested documents by September 4, 2018, including:

- (1) all documents and communications referring or relating to any reassignment or proposed reassignment that was considered or ordered since January 20, 2017, of career or civil service employees at the Department;
- (2) all documents and communications referring or relating to any proposed or actual reassignment or removal of career or civil service employees at the Department since January 20, 2017, based on alleged personal political beliefs, prior service with previous Administrations, or work on prior Administrations' foreign policy priorities, including any documents authored by, copying, involving, or referring to:
  - (a) Christine Ciccone;
  - (b) Makan Delrahim;
  - (c) Sean Doocey;
  - (d) Julia Haller;
  - (e) Brian Hook;
  - (f) Edward Lacey;
  - (g) Matthew Mowers; or
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- (3) all documents and communications referring or relating to proposed or actual personnel actions since January 20, 2017, against Sahar Nowrouzzadeh, including the curtailment of her detail to the Policy Planning staff;
- (4) 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;
- (5) all documents 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
- (6) all documents or communications referring or relating to research conducted by political appointees relating to perceived political views of career employees.

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If you have any questions about this request, please contact Janet Kim of the Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5051 or Sajit Gandhi of the Foreign Affairs Committee staff at (202) 226-8467. Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and



Eliot L. Engel  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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**Subject:** FW: Can you chat this afternoon early evening?

**From:** [redacted]@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2018 1:05 PM  
**To:** [redacted]@mail.house.gov>;

**Subject:** RE: Can you chat this afternoon early evening?

The Secretary was clear about getting you a timeline and upon examination of this matter it became clear that the case was referred to OIG and OSC that we can't comment on an ongoing investigation or take any action that would jeopardize its review. In order to allow OSC and OIG to effectively manage this matter independently, we await completion of their review. I think you know this, but OSC -- Office of Special Counsel -is an independent investigative body that protects personnel from prohibited practices.

**Official**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

**From:** [redacted]@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** [redacted]@state.gov>;

**Subject:** RE: Can you chat this afternoon early evening?

Thanks. We were aware of the referral for internal investigations. I wanted to follow up on Secretary Pompeo's commitment to the Ranking Member to provide a timeline of when we can expect to receive and review documents related to the issue of retaliation against career employees. Secretary Pompeo committed to providing this by the end of last week.

**From:** [redacted]@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:24 AM  
**To:** [redacted]@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** [redacted]@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Can you chat this afternoon early evening?

I wanted to respond to you and Mr. Engel following the Secretary's testimony about the letter concerning emails where there was concerns raised by Mr. Engel about reports of possible discrimination based on national origin. He wanted us to respond by end of the week. As you know, we take this issue very seriously and for that reason the matter was immediately to OIG and the Office of Civil Rights. That's where the matter stands pending their review. I'm happy to discuss when you return from Europe.

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