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One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Brian J. Bulatao
Under Secretary of State for Management
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

I am deeply concerned by recently revealed information indicating that two American citizens, Robert F. Hyde and Lev Parnas, were engaged in efforts to surveil and possibly threaten the safety of the United States Ambassador to Ukraine in at least the spring of 2019. Documents received by the Foreign Affairs Committee show that in late March 2019, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Parnas were exchanging apparently highly sensitive information regarding the whereabouts of and security protocols for U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch via a series of WhatsApp messages.

Mr. Hyde claimed in one message to have “a person inside,” possibly in the U.S. embassy in Kyiv, who is “willing to help if we/you would like a price.” The strong implication from these messages is that someone with detailed knowledge of the Ambassador’s whereabouts and security protocols was providing that information in real time to Mr. Hyde and Mr. Parnas. I cannot overstate the profound security risk that this poses to the U.S. mission and our interests in Ukraine.

I appreciate the personal commitment that Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Michael Evanoff provided to my staff on the night this information came to light that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security would open an investigation into this matter immediately and would share relevant investigative information with partners at the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I share the Department’s deep resolve that the safety and security of our diplomats is of

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paramount importance. Given the profound risks that these new revelations expose, it is imperative that Congress be fully informed about the threats against Ambassador Yovanovitch and the Department's response to them, in order to perform its Constitutionally mandated oversight function and to determine any legislative responses necessary to mitigate such threats in the future.

Accordingly, I seek the following, which should be produced **no later than Thursday, January 23 at 5 PM:**

Any and all documents in the possession, custody, and control of the United States Department of State referring, or relating in any way to:

- Lev Parnas
- Robert F. Hyde
- From January 1, 2019 to the present, any risks to, potential compromise of, and/or any concerns regarding the security of personnel at Embassy Kyiv, including but not limited to Ambassador Yovanovitch. This should include specifically, but is not limited to, any documents relating or referring to conversations between Ambassador Yovanovitch and Director General Carol Perez in late March regarding the former's departure from post.
- Any additional person or persons who might have been involved in this matter.¹

Relevant bureaus and offices that should be searched for potentially responsive documents include, but are not limited to: the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Bureau of Human Resources, the Office of the Undersecretary for Management, the Office of the Secretary, the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and the Office of the Legal Adviser.² The Committee believes that there must be accountability for, and a swift, effective response to, any threats against U.S. personnel overseas. Accordingly, the Committee stands ready to discuss with you the appropriate handling of any documents that may be related to an ongoing law enforcement investigation or contain non-public information related to security protocols.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman

Enclosure.

¹ This request is without prejudice to the September 27, 2019 subpoena to the State Department that was issued as part of the House Impeachment Inquiry. That September 27, 2019 subpoena remains in effect.

² Please see enclosure for instructions on responding to these requests.