



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

APR 17 2014

Case No. F-2012-38774

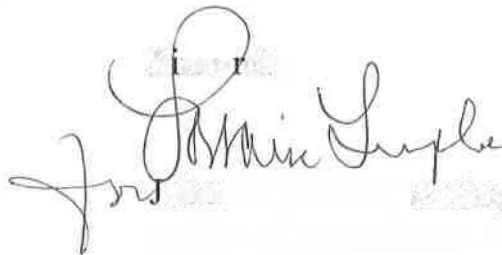
Ms. Kate Bailey  
Judicial Watch  
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Bailey:

I refer to our letter dated February 24, 2014, regarding the release of certain Department of State records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

We have identified 41 additional documents that are responsive to your request. Of these documents, we have determined that 25 may be released in full and 16 may be released with excisions pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(5) and (b)(6). Additionally, upon further consideration, we have determined that additional information may be released in 3 documents that were previously released in part. An enclosure explains Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. All released material is enclosed.

Review of records of the United States Mission to the United Nations is now complete. If you have any questions, you may contact Department of Justice attorney Robert Prince at (202) 305-3654. Please be sure to refer to the case number, F-2012-38774, and the civil action number, 13-951, in all correspondence about this case.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Minner".

John Minner  
; Director  
Programs and Services

Enclosures:  
As stated.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA  
**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

Obtained by Judicial Watch Inc. via FOIA

**Rangarajan, Taara A**

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, B5, 1.4(G), 1.4(D), 1.4(A)

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 10:25 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Pelton, Erin; Graff, Corinne; Catalano, Elisa; Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** [Redacted]

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

B5

[Redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 2-5-2014 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(A), 1.4(D), 1.4(G)  
~ Declassify on: 09/13/2037

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 9:45 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Pelton, Erin; Graff, Corinne; Catalano, Elisa; Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** (SBU) [Redacted]

B5

[Large Redacted Area]

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5



**TOPLINE POINTS***(NSS: 9/14/2012)***RELEASED IN FULL**

**Q: What are you guys doing today to monitor and mitigate the situation in the Middle East?**

We've obviously had our eyes on today since the unrest began, and we've been monitoring the situation very closely. You saw that following the incidents in response to this video, the President directed the Administration to take a number of steps to prepare for continued unrest.

First, we have significantly increased security at our diplomatic posts around the globe, with additional resources from across the government. The safety and security of our personnel is paramount and something we constantly review.

Second, we have reached out to governments in the region to make sure they are cooperating closely with us, and meeting their obligations to protect diplomatic facilities as best they can. So for instance the President had a good conversation with President Hadi of Yemen yesterday, who has deployed additional security forces around our Embassy.

Third, we've made our views on this video crystal clear to people around the world. I'd specifically point you to strong statements out of the White House and from Secretary Clinton yesterday. To reiterate what Secretary Clinton said, the United States government had nothing to do with this movie. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. America has a history of religious tolerance – and respect for religious beliefs – that goes back to our nation's founding. But there is absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. And we are working to make sure that Muslims around the globe hear that message.

Fourth, we've also encouraged leaders around the globe to speak out against the violence, and you've seen very important statements in the Muslim world by people like Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey, President Morsi and the Freedom and Justice Party in Egypt, and President Hadi condemning violence and calling for a peaceful response to this movie. The President has personally spoken to the leaders of Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, and also sent a personal message to Prime Minister Erdogan.

**Q: What's your response to the Independent story that says we have intelligence 48 hours in advance of the Benghazi attack that was ignored?**

This story is absolutely wrong. We are not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. Mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. We also see indications that this action was related to the video that has sparked protests in other countries.

**Q: What about the claim that documents were taken from the compound that may endanger our Libyan partners?**

I'd refer questions about what documents were in specific buildings to my State colleagues.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Q: Can you explain to us again the President's comment about why Egypt was not an ally?**

I think you heard me answer this yesterday. Egypt is a critical partner of the United States. As you know, the President had an important conversation with President Morsi very early yesterday morning about the need to protect our embassy and personnel in Cairo, and the need to denounce the violence.

President Morsi expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of American life in Libya and emphasized that Egypt would honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel.

This was not an effort to change our relationship with Egypt in any way. We have had a long-standing partnership with Egypt, and have supported their transition to democracy. We are now working to build our relationship with what is obviously a new government.

**Q: Are you concerned that our relationship with Egypt and other Muslim countries is quickly deteriorating? Is the Arab Spring now about hatred of America?**

I think we need to step back a bit. The Arab Spring was about people across the region rising up to demand their basic rights.

The protests we're seeing today were sparked by a disgusting and reprehensible video.

I would also remind everyone that though protests are what you see on the news, there are millions of Muslims around the world that are simply trying to go about their day and raise their families.

**VIDEO****(NSS: 9/14/2012)**

- Clearly, there are protests taking place in different countries around the world that are responding to the movie that has circulated on the Internet.
- As Secretary Clinton said yesterday, the United States government had nothing to do with this movie. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. America has a history of religious tolerance – and respect for religious beliefs – that goes back to our nation’s founding. We are stronger because we are the home to people of all religions – including millions of Muslims – and we reject the denigration of religion.
- We also believe that there is no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. Muslims in the United States and around the world have spoken out against violence, which has no place in religion and is no way to honor religion. Islam respects the fundamental dignity of human beings, and it violates that dignity to wage attacks on innocents.
- It is especially wrong for violence to be directed against diplomatic missions. These are places whose very purpose is peaceful -- to promote better understanding across countries and cultures. Governments everywhere have a responsibility to protect these places.
- It is hard for some people around the world to understand why the United States doesn’t prevent movies like this from seeing the light of day. That is impossible in today’s world. Furthermore, our country has a long tradition of free expression, which is protected by the law. Our government does not – and cannot – stop individual citizens from expressing their views.
- Those of us who care about religious tolerance – and who respect religious beliefs – must not allow a tiny minority of people to provoke conflict between different religions, cultures, and countries. All leaders must draw a stark line against violence.
- We have seen growing public condemnations of this week’s violence coming from all corners of the world. Muslim leaders, interfaith leaders, governments, private citizens, and organizations have made clear and unequivocal statements rejecting the content of this video, but echoing the message that there is no justification to respond to this video with violence.

PROTESTS

(9/14/2012)

- Clearly, there are protests taking place in different countries around the world that are responding to the movie that has circulated on the Internet. For instance, we saw protests get out of hand in Yemen yesterday.
- The United States is doing everything we can to protect our diplomats and facilities. We are in touch with foreign governments, underscoring the need for close cooperation and for nations to meet their responsibilities to protect diplomatic facilities and personnel. And we have increased our own security measures.
- We did anticipate that these protests may continue today. It is no secret that Friday is often a day on which demonstrations are larger in Muslim-majority countries. But we are continuing to make it clear that this video does not represent America, and we will continue to take additional precautions on our own and together with our partners.

## US SECURITY FORCES/WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

(NSS: 9/14/2012)

- Today, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, the President notified Congress of the deployment of security forces to Libya and Yemen to protect U.S. personnel in Libya and Yemen. These deployments were made with the consent of the Governments of Libya and Yemen.
- Because our forces were equipped for combat, we have provided a report to Congress on their deployment. The War Powers Resolution calls for such a report within 48 hours of when U.S. Armed Forces equipped for combat are introduced into the territory of a foreign nation.
- The United States has reported similar deployments to protect U.S. personnel and diplomatic facilities abroad consistent with the War Powers Resolution, including the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. armed forces to Liberia in 1996, Sierra Leone in 1997, Liberia in 2003, and Lebanon in 2006.
- The most recent 48-hour War Powers Resolution report occurred in January 2012, following the rescue of an American citizen who had been kidnapped in Somalia.

### Background:

Given that a 48-hour War Powers Resolution (WPR) report will be filed this afternoon following the deployment of Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams (FAST) to Libya on Wednesday, and to Yemen on Thursday – we wanted to provide some background to assist in your communications efforts/products.

The WPR requires the President to submit a written report to Congress within 48 hours “in any case in which United States Armed Forces are introduced”:

- Into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances;
- Into the territory, airspace or waters of a foreign nation, while equipped for combat; or
- In numbers which substantially enlarge United States Armed Forces equipped for combat already in a foreign nation.

The Executive Branch, under Democratic and Republican administrations, has, on a number of occasions, filed WPR reports following the deployment of combat-equipped troops to protect U.S. personnel and augment security at diplomatic facilities overseas. For example, in 1996, President Clinton ordered approximately 140 U.S. military personnel to help conduct the evacuation from Liberia of U.S. citizens and third country nationals who had taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy compound. In 1997, President Clinton authorized the deployment of U.S. military personnel to Sierra Leone due to the uncertain security situation and possible threat to American citizens and the American Embassy. In 2003, President Bush ordered 35 U.S. military personnel to Monrovia to augment Embassy security forces. In 2006, President Bush authorized the

deployment of U.S. military personnel to Lebanon based on a deteriorating security situation and a potential threat to American citizens and the U.S. Embassy. I attached these WPR reports for your information and convenience.

Our most recent 48-hour WPR report occurred after the rescue of Ms. Buchanan in Somalia in January 2012 (also attached).

**RELEASED IN FULL****BENGAZI***(NSS: 9/15/2012)*

- The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. There are indications that extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.
- This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and as currently available information continues to be evaluated.
- The investigation is on-going, and the US Government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths US citizens.

**ORDERED DEPARTURE OF EMBASSIES***(State: 9/15/2012)***Q: How many embassies are on ordered departure?**

- Embassy Tunis and Embassy Khartoum are on order departure.
- Embassy Tripoli drew down to emergency personnel only and we of course evacuated Benghazi.

**YOUTUBE***(NSS: 9/15/2012)***Q: Did the Administration ask YouTube to take down the video?**

- White House staff reached out to YouTube to call the video to their attention and ask them to review whether it violates their terms of use.

*Note: We are not characterizing their response, though it is obviously still up.*

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Din, Susan W **RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Torsella, Joseph M (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Lillie, Katie (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan; Hughes, Alexandra S (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Lord, Peter W (USUN); Schrenell, Hillary (USUN); Whalen, Robert P COL (USUN); Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Hill, Steven (USUN); Benenson, Anya; Sabar, Aisha; USUN/W users-DL; USUN-MiddleEast-DL; USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** OHCHR Release / Pillay concerned by spreading violence in wake of "malicious and provocative" film

## Pillay concerned by spreading violence in wake of "malicious and provocative" film

GENEVA (14 September 2012) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on Friday urged religious and political leaders to do their utmost to restore calm in the wake of the "malicious and provocative" anti-Islam film that has led to street protests in some 15 or more countries across the world. She condemned the murders of US diplomats and Libyan embassy employees in Benghazi and the violence that has taken place there and elsewhere.

"The film is malicious and deliberately provocative and portrays a disgracefully distorted image of Muslims," Pillay said. "I fully understand why people wish to protest strongly against it, and it is their right to do so peacefully. However, I utterly condemn the killings in Benghazi, and other violent and destructive reactions to the film, and urge religious and political leaders to make a major effort to restore calm. I welcome the fact that the Libyan Government has vowed to bring those responsible to justice."

Noting that the film was the latest in a string of deliberately provocative acts or products targeting particular religions and their followers – several of which have led to similar violent reactions and killings – Pillay said that sometimes the best way to deal with such provocations was to ignore them. "Deliberate and obnoxious acts of this type should be deprived of the oxygen of publicity," she said.

"As the Secretary-General has stated, the fault line is not between Muslim and non-Muslim societies," she added, "but between a small number of extremists on different sides, with a vested interest in stirring hostility and conflict."

Recalling the murder of more than 20 people (including seven UN staff) in Afghanistan in April 2011, after another deeply provocative act by a pastor in Florida, Pillay said "It is deeply tragic and reprehensible that people who have nothing whatsoever to do with these disgraceful stunts should lose their lives to enraged mobs and extremists in countries such as Libya and Afghanistan."

The UN human rights chief noted that there is a legal framework – in particular Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – which offers strong protective measures to all forms of expression, while at the same time giving States the possibility to impose restrictions that are provided by law and which are necessary for the respect of the rights and reputations of others.

In March 2011, the Human Rights Council passed a unanimous resolution (Res 16/18) that provides a comprehensive road map for a coordinated national and international effort to ensure that certain rights and freedoms are not misused to undermine other rights and freedoms. In addition, over the years, a number of human rights mechanisms have contributed to efforts to clarify where the lines should be drawn between free speech and hate speech. Since October 2008, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been spearheading a global effort to promote a legal framework based on international human

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**



rights standards to discuss freedom of expression and the need to enforce the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred.

ENDS

UN Human Rights Country Page -

Link: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/LYIndex.aspx>

For more information about the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Navi Pillay**, go to:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HighCommissioner.aspx>

For more information about the **Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18**, go to:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/G11/127/27/PDF/G1112727.pdf?OpenElement>

For more information about the **Workshop on the Prohibition of Incitement to national, racial or religious hatred**, go to:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Articles19-20/Pages/Index.aspx>

For more information or media requests, please contact Rupert Colville (+41 22 917 9767 / [rcolville@ohchr.org](mailto:rcolville@ohchr.org)) or Ravina Shamdasani (+ 41 22 917 9310 / [rshamdasani@ohchr.org](mailto:rshamdasani@ohchr.org))

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**Ryu, Rexon Y**

**From:** Rhodes, Benjamin J. [Benjamin J. Rhodes@ ]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 8:09 PM  
**To:** Vega, Dag; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Plouffe, David; Pfeiffer, Dan; Carney, Jay; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Govashiri, Ferial; Ledbetter, Howli J.; Selak, Dawn; Brundage, Daniel; Pelton, Erin; Alhassani, Mehdi K.  
**Subject:** RE: PREP CALL with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 pm ET

B6

**RELEASED IN PART B6**

Goals:

- To convey that the United States is doing everything that we can to protect our people and facilities abroad;
- To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy;
- To show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice, and standing steadfast through these protests;
- To reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.

Top-lines:

- Since we began to see protests in response to this Internet video, the President has directed the Administration to take a number of steps. His top priority has been the safety and security of all Americans serving abroad.
- First, we have significantly increased security at our diplomatic posts around the globe, with additional resources from across the government. The safety and security of our personnel is paramount and under constant review.
- Second, we have reached out to governments in the region to make sure they are cooperating closely with us, and meeting their obligations to protect diplomatic facilities as best they can. For instance, we've seen cooperation from Yemen and Egypt cooperate significantly after President Obama called those leaders.
- Third, we've made our views on this video crystal clear. The United States government had nothing to do with it. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. But there is absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. And we are working to make sure that people around the globe hear that message.
- Fourth, we've encouraged leaders around the globe to speak out against the violence, and you've seen very important statements in the Muslim world by people like Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey, President Morsi of Egypt, and others who have condemned the violence and called for a peaceful response.
- I think that people have come to trust that President Obama provides leadership that is steady and statesmanlike. There are always going to be challenges that emerge around the world, and time and again he's shown that we can meet them.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Q: Are you concerned that our relationship with Egypt and other Muslim countries is quickly deteriorating? Is the Arab Spring now about hatred of America? Did President Obama lose the Arab World?**

I think we need to step back a bit. The Arab Spring was about people across the region rising up to demand their basic rights. The protests we've seen these last few days were sparked by a disgusting and reprehensible video.

The fact is, this is a time of extraordinary change in the Arab World. But we've been able to build cooperative relationships with these new governments.

You saw that in Libya, where there's been full cooperation with the United States and an outpouring of support for Chris Stevens and the work that he did.

You saw that in Egypt, where President Obama was able to call President Morsi directly, which led to the Egyptians calling for calm and providing much more security at our Embassy.

So this part of the world has been faced with unrest many times in recent decade. But we're going to keep moving forward, and we believe that strong U.S. leadership can lead to a region that is more stable and more responsive to the people.

**Q: Have you failed to articulate a policy for dealing with the Arab Spring?**

You have heard the President articulate a very consistent set of principles and support for universal rights as the Arab Spring has unfolded. We support the process of nonviolent political and economic change and reform in the region. Of course, that process will look different in different countries.

There are countries where that transition has occurred, like Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia, and we're working to help them consolidate their democracies, deal with security needs, and stabilize their economies.

In other places like Syria that are still in throes of revolution, we have opposed the brutality of the regime and are supporting the aspirations of the people.

While this process unfolds, this President has left no doubt that he will continue to protect our other interests – destroying al Qaeda, bringing our men and women in uniform home from Afghanistan, and strengthening our leadership in the world.

But the Arab Spring is going to take time to play out. This is an enormous change. And that is why we need to stay focused and firm on behalf of our principles, as the President has done.

**Q: What's your response to the Independent story that says we have intelligence 48 hours in advance of the Benghazi attack that was ignored? Was this an intelligence failure?**

We are not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. Mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex.

**Q: Can you explain to us again the President's comment about why Egypt was not an ally?**

Egypt is a critical partner of the United States. As you know, the President had an important conversation with President Morsi about the need to protect our embassy and personnel in Cairo, and the need to denounce the violence.

President Morsi expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of American life in Libya and emphasized that Egypt would honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. The President is very appreciative for the statement President Morsi made and for the actions he's taken to date to secure our Embassy.

This was not an effort to change our relationship with Egypt in any way. We have had a long-standing partnership with Egypt, and have supported their transition to democracy. We are now working to build our relationship with what is obviously a new government.

**If Pressed:** I'm not here to get into a long exchange about diplomatic terminology. The President has made it clear that Egypt is a close partner of the United States, and that we have expectations that the Egyptian government will meet its obligations to protect our facilities.

**Q: Romney's advisor said that these protests wouldn't have happened under President Romney?**

Well I'm not here to talk politics. Events abroad are unpredictable. Foreign policy challenges emerge no matter who is President. And I think that people have come to expect steady, statesmanlike leadership from this President on national security, and his response to these protests is no different.

**Israel / Iran**

### IRAN

**Q: Is there a split between the United States and Israel on redlines? What are the U.S. redlines with Iran?**

The President has been clear that he is determined to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and that all options are on the table in pursuit of that goal. We share the same objective as the Israelis, and there is no daylight between us on that matter of stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The question of when we would consider a resort to military action involves multiple variables and would be shaped by conditions on the ground. We will continue our unprecedented security consultation and cooperation with the Israelis as we move forward.

This President is not going to take military action unless it is absolutely necessary. But I think the Iranians know full well that he is committed to preventing them from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

**Q: Did the President rebuff Prime Minister Netanyahu's request for a red line?**

The President has always been clear about his red line. He is determined to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and that all options are on the table in pursuit of that goal. We share the same objective as the Israelis, and there is no daylight between us on that matter of stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

**Q: Why did the President refuse to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu at UNGA?**

President Obama is in frequent contact with the Prime Minister, as you would expect given his commitment to Israel's security and the range of challenges in the region. And when they need to speak to each other – they do so. We also talk regularly to our Israeli counterparts at all levels of government.

Just the other day, when reports of tension came up in the press, the President was able to pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister and speak to him for an hour. They agreed on their commitment to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. And they agreed to stay in close contact in the days to come.

They did look at whether it would be possible to meet. But the fact is, they're just not going to be in New York at the same time – the President will be there at the beginning of the week, Bibi will be there at the end of the week. So their schedules just don't match up.

**If pressed: Did he seek a meeting in Washington?**

My understanding is there wasn't a request to meet in Washington. What I know is that they're not in New York at the same time during UNGA. I don't have any other scheduling updates, but I am certain that they'll remain in close contact.

**From:** Vega, Dag

**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 7:11 PM

**To:** Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Vietor, Tommy; Plouffe, David; Pfeiffer, Dan; Carney, Jay; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Govashiri, Ferial; Ledbetter, Howli J.; Selak, Dawn; Brundage, Daniel; PeltonE@state.gov; Alhassani, Mehdi K.

**Subject:** PREP CALL with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 pm ET

We plan to hold a call on Saturday at 4:00 PM ET to help prepare Susan for her interviews on the Sunday shows. She will appear on all of them.

Here are the numbers:

**Phone Number: 202-395-6392**

**asscode: 498-3561**

Here are the promos.

**NBC MEET THE PRESS**

**Obama's Foreign Policy Test**

The race between President Obama and Governor Romney has entered new territory as the deadly attack on a U.S. consulate and the continuing anti-American protests overseas have forced foreign policy back into the spotlight. How does the Obama administration plan to respond? Plus, is the U.S. still a reliable ally to Israel against Iran? U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice will join us.

**ABC THIS WEEK**

After four Americans were killed Tuesday, including U.S. ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, in an assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, questions remain about what sparked the violence – a controversial anti-Islamic film, or a planned attack by Al Qaeda militants? As American embassies throughout the region remain under fire, did the U.S. do enough to prevent attacks in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen? How will the ongoing protests and violence across the region impact U.S. relations and standing in the Middle East?

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice speaks to ABC News senior White House correspondent Jake Tapper, Sunday on "This Week."

**CBS FACE THE NATION**

**U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice**

The latest on what's happening abroad and what it means for the region and the international community with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice.

FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Anti-US protests are spreading across the Arab world days after a deadly attack on the consulate in Libya. What should the US involvement be in the trouble region? Chris Wallace discusses the situation with Susan Rice, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

**Din, Susan W**

**From:** Pelton, Erin  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Subject:** Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

Please do--I have not reached out.

Best,  
Erin

**RELEASED IN PART  
B1,B5,1.4(G),1.4(D)**

---

**From:** Ryu, Rexon Y  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 02:15 PM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Pelton, Erin  
**Subject:** Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

I'm going to email Jake on the libya points eric references below unless either of you are linked in to this effort. Pls let me know.

**Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 4-17-2014 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), 1.4(G), B1 ~ Declassify on: 09/15/2027**

---

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 01:23 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Pelton, Erin  
**Cc:** Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

B5

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

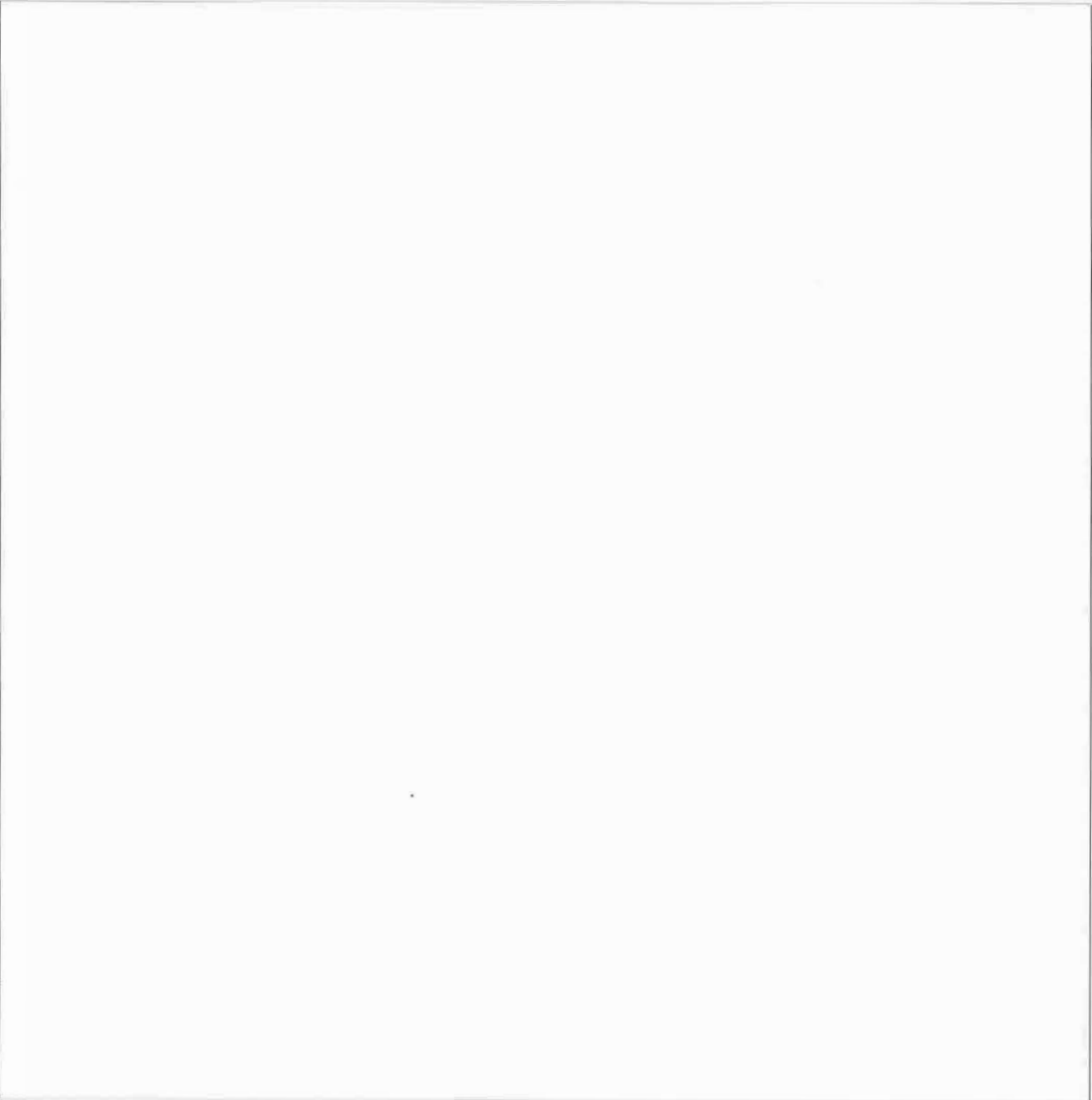
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

Libya:

1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5



HPSCI request. Late this week, CIA Director Petraeus gave the HPSCI a nots spots briefing and was asked for unclassified talking points that its members could use about incident in Benghazi. (Apparently NCTC Director Matt Olson received a similar committee from a congressional committee.) The first draft apparently seemed unsuitable (based on conversations on the SVTS and afterwards) because they seemed to encourage the reader to infer incorrectly that the CIA had warned about a specific attack on our embassy. On the SVTS, Morell noted that these points were not good and he had taken a heavy editing hand to them. He noted that he would be happy to work with Jake Sullivan and Rhodes to develop appropriate talking points. McDonough, on Rhodes's behalf, deferred to Sullivan. It was agreed that Jake would work closely with the intelligence community (within a small group) to finalize points on Saturday that could be shared with HPSCI. I spoke to Jake immediately after the SVTS and noted that you were doing the Sunday morning shows and would need to be aware of the final posture that these points took. He committed to ensure that we were updated in advance of the Sunday shows. I specifically mentioned Erin Pelton as the one coordinating your preparations for the shows and also strongly encouraged him to loop in Rexon during the process.



B5

RELEASED IN FULL

**Pelofsky, Eric J**

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:44 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Libya - Unclass IC pts

Coming your way.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Ryu, Rexion Y  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 02:33 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Pelton, Erin  
**Subject:** Libya - Unclass IC pts

Jake - understand from Eric that you're working a set of unclass IC pts on libya for the Hill. If these are going to be finalized by Sunday am (or COB today), can we get a copy for Susan to ensure we're on the same msg? Happy to have Eric/Erin work with whomever on the State team is handling this, unless it's you - in which case happy to get them directly. Whatever is easiest.

Many thx.

Rexion

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

RELEASED IN PART B3 NSA, B6

Ryu, Rexon Y

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Ryu, Rexon Y
Subject: Fw:

Check out the below. You and Erin should confirm w Ben that Susan can deploy tomorrow.

----- Original Message -----
From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:26 AM
To: 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.' <Benjamin J. Rhodes>; 'michaej@m...' <michaej@m...>; Robert Cardillo <Robert.Cardillo@...>; alanrp@... <alanrp@dni.gov>; matt.olsen <matt.olsen@...>; mark.giuliano <mark.giuliano@...>; jcingli@... <jcingli@...>; lisa.monaco <lisa.monaco@...>; GEORGJW2 <GEORGJW2@...>; cynthlr@... <cynthlr@...>; christrm@... <christrm@...>; RODNEYAS <RODNEYAS@...>

This looks good. Two small edits:

- 1. We call it "the US mission" or the "US diplomatic post" because it is not actually a Consulate.
2. There is a missing "of" in the third tic.

-----Original Message-----
From: Rhodes, Benjamin J. [mailto:Benjamin J. Rhodes]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:12 AM
To: 'michaej@m...' <michaej@m...>; Robert Cardillo <Robert.Cardillo@...>; alanrp@... <alanrp@dni.gov>; matt.olsen <matt.olsen@...>; Sullivan, Jacob J; mark.giuliano <mark.giuliano@...>; jcingli@... <jcingli@...>; lisa.monaco <lisa.monaco@...>; GEORGJW2 <GEORGJW2@...>; cynthlr@... <cynthlr@...>; christrm@... <christrm@...>; RODNEYAS <RODNEYAS@...>

This is good by me.

-----Original Message-----
From: michaej@m... [mailto:michaej@m...]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Robert Cardillo <Robert.Cardillo@...>; alanrp@... <alanrp@dni.gov>; matt.olsen <matt.olsen@...>; sullivanjj@state.gov; mark.giuliano <mark.giuliano@...>; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; jcingli@... <jcingli@...>; lisa.monaco <lisa.monaco@...>; GEORGJW2 <GEORGJW2@...>; cynthlr@... <cynthlr@...>; christrm@... <christrm@...>; RODNEYAS <RODNEYAS@...>

Per the discussion at Deputies, here are the revised TPs for HPSCI. Let me know what you think.

--The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. There are indications that extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.

--This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and as currently available information continues to be evaluated.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

--The investigation is on-going, and the US Government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths US citizens.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(G),1.4(D),1.4(A)**

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 16, 2012 1:19 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Pelton, Erin  
**Cc:** Rangarajan, Taara A

**Subject:**

**Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 2-5-2014~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(A), 1.4(D), 1.4(G), B5 ~ Declassify on: 09/15/2037**

B5

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

anks,  
ic

3U  
his email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

**Randall, James W**

---

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E; Pelton, Erin  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; Ahmed, Salman  
**Subject:** SER INFO: Olsen at HSGAC (Benghazi Attack)

Matt Olsen, NCTC, is testifying at a regularly scheduled Senate Homeland Security Committee Hearing on global threats. As expected, Senators are asking about the Benghazi attack.

In response to a question from Lieberman, Olsen said the following on the Benghazi attack:

- This was an opportunistic attack.
- It began to evolve and escalate over several hours.
- Well armed individuals seized on an opportunity.
- There are a number of well armed individuals in this area.
- There was no specific intelligence of significant, advanced planning or coordination ahead of the attack. We're still looking for this, but we haven't seen it yet.

After a follow-up question from Lieberman, Olsen said:

- The most important question is who's responsible and which groups they are connected to.
- There are indications of connections to Al Qaeda and AQIM.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5,B3 NSA,B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG,B6

B5

**Randall, James W**

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted]

**From:** Ryu, Rexion Y  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Pelton, Erin; Tess, Caroline  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

B6

B6

B3 NSA  
B6

**From:** Rhodes, Benjamin J. [mailto:Benjamin\_J\_Rhodes@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** 'matt.olsen@state.gov'; McDonough, Denis R.; Robert Cardillo@state.gov; michaejmc@state.gov  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichoir@state.gov; Shawn.Turner@state.gov; Ryu, Rexion Y  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] B5 B6

B3 NSA  
B6  
B3 NSA  
B6

[redacted]

**From:** matt.olsen@state.gov [mailto:matt.olsen@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** McDonough, Denis R.; Cardillo, Robert; michaejmc@state.gov  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichoir@state.gov; Shawn.Turner@state.gov  
**Subject:** [redacted] B5 B6

-B6-

B3 NSA  
B6

B3 NSA  
B6  
B3 NSA  
B6

All - FYI.

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer



B5

[Redacted]

**From:** McDonough, Denis R. [mailto:Denis.R. McDonough@ ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:09 PM  
**To:** Matthew G. Olsen; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Robert Cardillo; MICHAELJM  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; Nicholas J Rasmussen; Shawn S Turner; ryury@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

B6

[Redacted]

B6

B3 NSA  
B6

**From:** matt.olsen@ [mailto:matt.olsen@ ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:33 PM  
**To:** Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Robert Cardillo@ McDonough, Denis R.; michaeljm@  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichojr@ Shawn.Turner@ ryury@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm  
B6

B6  
B3 NSA  
B6  
B3 NSA  
B6

[Redacted]

**From:** Rhodes, Benjamin J. [mailto:Benjamin.J. Rhodes@ ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:15 PM  
**To:** Robert Cardillo; McDonough, Denis R.; Matthew G. Olsen; MICHAELJM  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; Nicholas J Rasmussen; Shawn S Turner; 'ryury@state.gov'  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

B6

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** Robert.Cardillo([mailto:Robert.Cardillo@]) B3 NSA B6 B3 NSA B6 B3 NSA  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 08:03 PM B6 B6 B6  
**To:** Rhodes, Benjamin J.; McDonough, Denis R.; matt.olsen([mailto:matt.olsen@]); michaejm([mailto:michaejm@]) B6 B6  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichojr([mailto:nichojr@]); Shawn.Turner([mailto:Shawn.Turner@]); B3 NSA  
ryury@state.gov <ryury@state.gov> B6  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm B3 NSA B6 B3 NSA B6

[Redacted]

**From:** Rhodes, Benjamin J. [mailto:Benjamin.J.Rhodes@] B6  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 07:56 PM  
**To:** McDonough, Denis R. <Denis.R.McDonough@>; Robert Cardillo; Matthew G. Olsen; MICHAELM B6  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O. <John.O.Brennan@>; Nicholas J Rasmussen; Shawn S Turner; 'ryury@state.gov' B6  
<ryury@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

[Redacted]

**From:** McDonough, Denis R. B3 NSA B6 B3 NSA  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 7:52 PM B6 B6  
**To:** McDonough, Denis R.; 'Robert.Cardillo([mailto:Robert.Cardillo@])'; 'matt.olsen([mailto:matt.olsen@])'; 'michaejm([mailto:michaejm@])' Rhodes, Benjamin J.  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; 'nichojr([mailto:nichojr@])'; 'Shawn.Turner([mailto:Shawn.Turner@])'; 'ryury@state.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm B3 NSA B6

[Redacted]

**From:** McDonough, Denis R. B3 NSA B6  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 7:49 PM B6 B3 NSA  
**To:** 'Robert.Cardillo([mailto:Robert.Cardillo@])'; matt.olsen([mailto:matt.olsen@]) michaejm([mailto:michaejm@]) B6  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichojr([mailto:nichojr@]) Shawn.Turner([mailto:Shawn.Turner@]) ryury@state.gov B3 NSA  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm B6

[Redacted]

B5

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/09/some-administration-officials-were-concerned-about-initial-white-house-push-blaming-benghazi-attack-on-mob-video/>

Sep 27, 2012 6:13pm

### **Some Administration Officials Were Concerned About Initial White House Push Blaming Benghazi Attack on Mob, Video**

Even before Defense Secretary Leon Panetta contradicted the initial story about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, today, Obama administration officials told ABC News they were concerned after the White House began pushing the line that the attack was spontaneous and not the work of terrorists.

Events were too uncertain, and suspicions had been aroused, officials said.

Panetta today said that the attack that killed four Americans on the anniversary of 9/11 was not only carried out by terrorists — it was pre-meditated.

“As we determined the details of what took place there and how that attack took place,” Panetta told reporters, “it became clear that there were terrorists who had planned that attack.”

The White House first suggested the attack was spontaneous — the result of an anti-Muslim video that incited mobs throughout the region.

“Let’s be clear, these protests were in reaction to a video that had spread to the region,” White House press secretary Jay Carney said on September 14.

When ABC News pressed Carney on whether that included the Benghazi attack, in which U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other American men were killed, Carney said, “we certainly don’t know. We don’t know otherwise. We have no information to suggest that it was a preplanned attack.”

On THIS WEEK on September 16, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said, “our current best assessment, based on the information that we have at present, is that, in fact, what this began as, it was a spontaneous – not a premeditated – response to what had transpired in Cairo. In Cairo, as you know, a few hours earlier, there was a violent protest that was undertaken in reaction to this very offensive video that was disseminated. We believe that folks in Benghazi, a small number of people came to the embassy to – or to the consulate, rather, to replicate the sort of challenge that was posed in Cairo. And then as that unfolded, it seems to have been hijacked, let us say, by some individual clusters of extremists who came with heavier weapons... And it then evolved from there.”

White House officials acknowledge that assessments have changed over time as intelligence has been confirmed, but they insist that no information was given in bad faith and there was no attempt to downplay the attack.

But sources told ABC News that intelligence officials on the ground immediately suspected the attack was not tied to the movie at all. The attackers knew where to get Ambassador Stevens after he’d fled to a so-called safe house half a mile away. That building was hit with insurgent mortars — suggesting the terrorists knew what they were doing.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

As of Thursday afternoon, officials from the Obama administration were not even 100 percent certain that the protest of the anti-Muslim film in Benghazi occurred outside the U.S. diplomatic post.

In a closed-door briefing with top officials, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper described the mortar attack on the safe house as suggesting that the terrorist attack was one of opportunity, not pre-meditation, since the mortars were not used to attack the consulate earlier in the day.

Campaigning in Virginia Beach today, President Obama seemed eager to paint the terrorist threat as waning. "Al Qaeda's on the path to defeat," he said. "Bin Laden is dead."

But the Daily Beast's Eli Lake on Wednesday reported that intelligence officials said "the early information was enough to show that the attack was planned and the work of al Qaeda affiliates operating in Eastern Libya." "There was very good information on this in the first 24 hours," one of the officials told Lake. "These guys have a return address. There are camps of people and a wide variety of things we could do."

It's certainly possible that intelligence officials wouldn't want the terrorists to know that the U.S. knew about them, but that does beg the question as to why White House officials seemed to strongly suggest the attack was merely the work of an unruly mob.

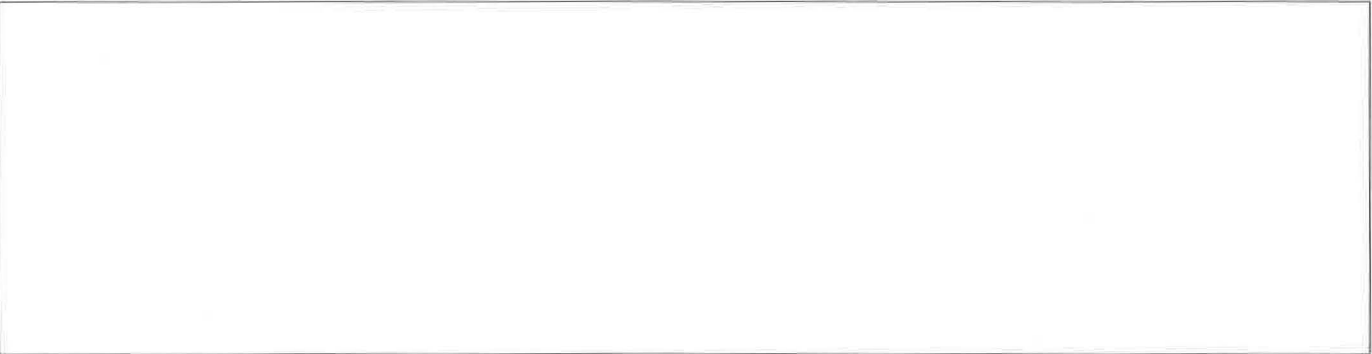
President Obama has repeatedly said the investigation is on to find the killers and bring them to justice. But as first reported by CNN, ABC news has learned that the FBI — which has been dispatched to Libya to take the lead in the investigation — has not even reached Benghazi yet.

This is largely due to safety concerns. Indeed, as of Thursday, senior State Department officials said that the diplomatic presence in Libya — which was already down to emergency-level staffing — would be further reduced.

B6 B3 NSA B6 B3 NSA B6

**From:** Robert Cardillo [redacted] [mailto:Robert.Cardillo@[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 7:47 PM B6  
**To:** matt.olsen@[redacted]; McDonough, Denis R.; michaeim@[redacted]  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O.; nichoir@[redacted]; Shawn.Turner@[redacted]; ryury@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

B3 NSA  
B6  
B3 NSA  
B6



**From:** Matthew G. Olsen B6  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** Robert Cardillo; 'Denis\_R. McDonough@[redacted]'; <Denis\_R. McDonough@[redacted]>; MICHAELJM  
**Cc:** 'John\_O. Brennan@[redacted]'; <John\_O. Brennan@[redacted]>; Nicholas J Rasmussen

B6  
B6

B5

**Subject:** RE: [redacted]

All -

[redacted]

**From:** Robert Cardillo  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 11:23 AM  
**To:** 'Denis\_R.\_McDonough@ [redacted] MICHAEJM  
**Cc:** 'John\_O.\_Brennan@ [redacted] Matthew G. Olsen; Nicholas J Rasmussen  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

B6

[redacted]

**From:** McDonough, Denis R. [mailto:Denis\_R.\_McDonough@ [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Robert Cardillo; MICHAEJM  
**Cc:** Brennan, John O. <John\_O.\_Brennan@ [redacted]>  
**Subject:** FW: FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

B6

Hey, guys,

[redacted]

**From:** Velz, Peter  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:15 AM  
**To:** DL-WHO-Press; Alhassani, Mehdi K.; Arguelles, Adam; Barkoff, Kendra; Bartoloni, Kristen; Bates, Andrew J.; Beechem, Stephanie; [redacted] Borrin, Danielle; Bradsher, Tanya; Buffa, Nikki; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Carney, Jay; Chen, Hillary; Childress, Mark; Cloud, Donald; Cloud, Rosye B.; [redacted] Dean, Laura; Earnest, Joshua R.; Evans, Bess; Favreau, Jon; Finer, Jonathan J.; Gelman, Jeffrey D.; Gottlieb, Mike; Govashiri, Ferial; Hankins, Hannah R.; Hayden, Caitlin; Holzer, Benjamin; Hughes, Caroline; Inouye, Shin; Jenkins, Brad; Kahan, Alex; Keenan, Cody; Kolachalam, Namrata; Lee, Jesse C.; Lepow, Brandon D.; Lundeberg, Greta; McDonough, Denis R.; McKeon, Brian P.; O'Connor, Kyle; Ortiz, Michael; Papas, Nick; Pfeiffer, Dan; Phillips, Macon; Platkin, Alex; Prescott, Jeffrey; Rakestraw, London; Rangel, Antoinette N.; Ratner, Stephen (Intern); Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Richardson, Karen E.; Rodriguez, Miguel; MacFarquhar, Rory; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Ruiz, Ria; Sahgal, Rishi R.; Selak, Dawn; [redacted]; Sheehy, Kathleen; Smith, Jamie; Szuplat, Terry; Traber, Alexandra; Updegrove, Laura; Velz, Peter; [redacted] rietor, Tommy; Vinograd, Samantha; Wozniak, Natalie S.; [redacted] Abizaid, Christine; Bernstein, Jarrod; [redacted] i, Rob; Chadda, Nitin; Citrin, Ruth; Lehigh, Matt; Lowry, Keri M.; Matusiak, Ari; Moussavian, Roxana; [redacted] Power, Samantha J.; Rand, Dafna; Samuels,

B3 CIA PERS/ORG

Jonathan D.; Simon, Steven; Smith, Jamie; Withers, Anne; August, Hannah; [redacted]; Blake, Randy; Brennan, John O.; Burke, Jordan; Carroll, Bradley; Curtis, Colleen; Espinel, Zulima; Gorsky, Rachel; Haines, Avril; Jones, Corey; Jones, Nate; [redacted]; McCullough, Victoria; Plouffe, David; Ricchetti, Steven; Stevens, Clark; Wiktorowicz, Quintan  
**Subject:** FOX News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/27/us-officials-knew-libya-attack-was-terrorism-within-24-hours-sources-confirm/>

## US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm

*Published September 27, 2012*  
FoxNews.com

**URGENT:** U.S. intelligence officials knew from Day One that the assault on the U.S. Consulate in Libya was a terrorist attack and suspected Al Qaeda-tied elements were involved, sources told Fox News -- though it took the administration a week to acknowledge it.

The account conflicts with claims on the Sunday after the attack by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice that the administration believed the strike was a "spontaneous" event triggered by protests in Egypt over an anti-Islam film.

Sources said the administration internally labeled the attack terrorism from the first day to enable a certain type of policy response, and that officials were looking for one specific suspect.

In addition, sources confirm that FBI agents have not yet arrived in Benghazi in the aftermath of the attack.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/27/us-officials-knew-libya-attack-was-terrorism-within-24-hours-sources-confirm/#ixzz27gBxysDz>

Din, Susan W

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:46 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Torsella, Joseph M (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Lillie, Katie (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan; Hughes, Alexandra S (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Schrenell, Hillary (USUN); Whalen, Robert P COL (USUN); Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Hill, Steven (USUN); Benenson, Anya; Sabar, Aisha; Robl, Terri L; Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN); Razzouk, Kelly L; USUN/W users-DL; USUN-Libya-DL; USUN-MiddleEast-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** AJE / US embassies targeted in Cairo and Benghazi

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer****US embassies targeted in Cairo and Benghazi**

An amateur film deemed offensive to Prophet Muhammad provokes angry demonstrations in the Egyptian and Libyan capitals.

Last Modified: 11 Sep 2012 21:27

[Al-Jazeera](#)

Witnesses say an armed mob has attacked the US consulate in the Libyan city of Benghazi and set fire to the building in what they say was a protest at a film deemed offensive to Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Just hours earlier on Tuesday, thousands of Egyptian demonstrators apparently angry over the same film - an amateur film produced by expatriate members of Egypt's Christian minority resident in the US - tore down the Stars and Stripes at the US embassy in Cairo and replaced it with an Islamic flag.

The two incidents came on the 11th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks in the US.

Wanis al-Shari, Libya's deputy interior minister, said the crowd in Benghazi attacked the building and that the information was confirmed by the US embassy in the capital, Tripoli, on Tuesday.

In the day's first such incident, nearly 3,000 demonstrators, most of them Islamist supporters of the Salafist movement or football fans, gathered at the embassy in protest over the amateur film.

A dozen men scaled the embassy walls and one of them tore down the US flag, replacing it with a black one inscribed with the Muslim profession of faith: "There is no God but God and Mohammed is the prophet of God."

Demonstrators also daubed part of that slogan - "There is no God but God" - on the walls of the embassy compound.

"So far, we haven't had any statements coming from authorities in Egypt," Al Jazeera's Adam Makary reported from Cairo.

He quoted sources as saying that the US embassy was working with Egyptian security forces in trying to calm the situation.

**Police intervention**

Egyptian police intervened without resort to force and persuaded the trespassers to come down.

The crowd then largely dispersed, leaving just a few hundred protesters outside the US mission.

Asked whether the flag the protesters hoisted on the anniversary of the killing of nearly 3,000 people in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania was an al-Qaeda flag, a US state department official said she thought not.

"We had some people breach the wall, take the flag down and replace it. What I heard was that it was replaced with a plain black flag. But I maybe not be correct in that," she said.

Egyptian activist Wael Ghoneim wrote on his Facebook page that "attacking the US embassy on September 11 and raising flags linked to Al-Qaeda will not be understood by the American public as a protest over the film about the prophet.

"Instead, it will be received as a celebration of the crime that took place on September 11," he said.

Americans on Tuesday marked the 11th anniversary of the September 11, attacks in which nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijacked airliners slammed into the Pentagon and New York's World Trade Centre and another was brought down in Pennsylvania.



**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:42 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Cc:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Benghazi

I should have mentioned that NEA conveyed to me that all of this is closehold.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:41 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Cc:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN)  
**Subject:** URGENT - Benghazi

As reported, the Benghazi compound came under attack and it took a bit of time for the "Annex" colleagues and Libyan February 17 Brigade to secure it. One of our colleagues was killed – IMO Sean Smith. Amb. Chris Stevens, who was visiting Benghazi this week, is missing. U.S. and Libyan colleagues are looking for him. RSO colleagues have been accounted for.

I will update you as I hear more.

Eric

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART  
B5

**From:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:02 PM  
**To:** 'Ried, Curtis R (USUN)'; Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Horak, Gail R (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Clashes at U.S. consulate in eastern Libyan city (Reuters) B5

Terrible. [REDACTED]

**From:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:45 PM  
**To:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Horak, Gail R (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Clashes at U.S. consulate in eastern Libyan city (Reuters)

Update from NEA. Please protect as very few people in the Department have this information yet. I understand Eric is passing to Amb. Rice.

The compound came under attack and it took a bit of time for the Annex colleagues and Libyan Feb 17 brigade to secure it; unfortunately one of our colleagues was killed – IMO Sean Smith. (Amb) Chris Stevens is still missing, and U.S. and Libyan colleagues are looking for him. RSO colleagues have been accounted for.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Horak, Gail R (USUN)  
**Subject:** FW: UPDATE: Clashes at U.S. consulate in eastern Libyan city (Reuters)

Ambassador,

FYI, below is the latest news report on the attack on our consulate in Benghazi. NEA won't tell me more yet, but I understand that our people at the consulate "are not ok," thus this likely to turn into a significant episode. I wonder if, once we have more details, we would want to do a press statement on the obligations under VCDR, although that could expose the shortcomings of the Libyan government in protecting diplomatic installations.

Curtis

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Rangarajan, Taara A

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

God forbid.

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 09:06 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Yes – I'm very, very worried. In particular, that he is either dead or this was a concerted effort to kidnap him.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 9:05 PM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Thanks. Stressing this big time.

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 08:51 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Susan,

I talked to the Operations Center just now. They told me two additional details:

- Security forces from Tripoli arrived in Benghazi.
- Post received a call from a person using a RSO phone that Chris was given saying that the caller was with a person matching Chris's description at a hospital and that he was alive and well. Of course, if he were alive and well, one could ask why he didn't he make the call himself.

1.4(D)  
B1

(No confirmation on whether they have completed the search of the consulate compound.)

As I hear more, I will pass it along.

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 04-09-2014, Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: B1  
1.4(B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 09/11/2019

Thanks,

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:18 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** FW: Libya update from Beth Jones

Here is the very latest that I've heard from NEA. See yellow highlights in particular.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Jones, Beth E  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Greg Hicks just provided the following update about the three Embassy buildings in Tripoli:

- All 33 COM (State) personnel in Tripoli are accounted for and currently they are all at the Residential Compound.  
[Redacted]
- No one is currently at the Embassy itself.

1.4(D)  
B1

I passed on U/S Kennedy's recommendation that the personnel all move together to one compound in Tripoli; Greg said that suggestion made good sense and that he would discuss with the COS as to which compound is the most secure.

Other points:

- Greg said he has closed the Embassy tomorrow, and no one will travel from the residential compound into town except, as necessary, for him, the RSO and the DATT.
- Greg and the RSO held a Town Hall meeting in the last half hour to reassure the Embassy staff; they remain calm and are responding well.
- Greg has requested police protection for the [Redacted] at the moment, the police are protecting the Embassy. He is checking now on what the extra protection situation is with the [Redacted]

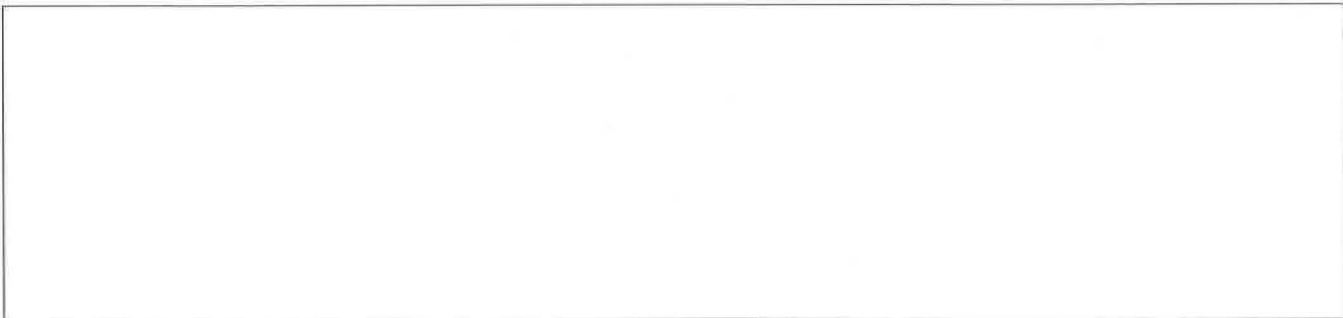
In Benghazi:

- [Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:55 PM

**To:** Fogarty, Daniel J; Nuland, Victoria J; Randolph, Lawrence M; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Toiv, Nora F; NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-AS-DL; Sidereas, Evyenia; Gordon, Philip H; Nolan, Edwin R  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

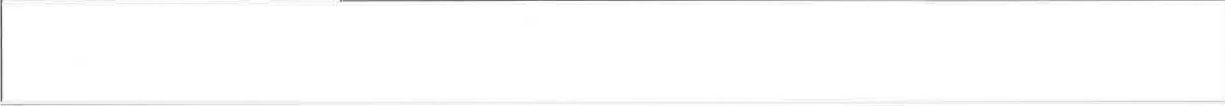
**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** Nuland, Victoria J; Randolph, Lawrence M; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Toiv, Nora F; NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-AS-DL; Sidereas, Evyenia; Gordon, Phillip H; Nolan, Edwin R  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

ighting has stopped, DCM Greg Hicks just confirmed to me. He also confirmed one fatality: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] His body has been recovered. The five ARSOs are accounted for, but they're still trying to find the Ambassador. [REDACTED]

have spoken to A/S Gordon and Liz Dibble is contacting the Charge at The Hague, Ned Nolan, to inform them.

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:13 PM  
**To:** Fogarty, Daniel J; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J; Kennedy, Patrick F  
**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

ust spoke again with Greg Hicks, who confirmed the party includes Ambassador Stevens plus three, not plus four. Hicks has been in contact twice with [REDACTED]



also urged Libyan Ambassador to the U.S. Aujali to engage on this immediately at the highest level.

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:49 PM  
**To:** Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland,

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L  
**Subject:** Libya update from Beth Jones

All:

Beth Jones just spoke with DCM Tripoli Greg Hicks, who advised a Libyan militia (we now know this is the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb brigade, as requested by Emb office) is responding to the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi.

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

More updates to follow.

-Dan

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:37 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

Apparently the Department is considering an ordered departure of some personnel from both Tripoli and Benghazi.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:10 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Fw: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

**From:** State Department Press Office [mailto:Press@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:07 PM  
**To:** State Department Press Office  
**Subject:** STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release  
2012/1421

September 11, 2012

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

I condemn in the strongest terms the attack on our mission in Benghazi today. As we work to secure our personnel and facilities, we have confirmed that one of our State Department officers was killed. We are heartbroken by this terrible loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and those who have suffered in this attack.

This evening, I called Libyan President Magariaf to coordinate additional support to protect Americans in Libya. President Magariaf expressed his condemnation and condolences and pledged his government's full cooperation.

Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet. The United States deplores any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear: There is never any justification for violent acts of this kind.

In light of the events of today, the United States government is working with partner countries around the world to protect our personnel, our missions, and American citizens worldwide.

###



CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

**RELEASED IN PART B1**

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:04 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya; Oat-Judge, Siobhan C  
**Subject:** [Redacted]

1.4(A)  
1.4(C)  
B1

[Redacted]

**Classification Extended on : 04/17/2014 ~ Class:SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 9/11/2027**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:17 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Tweet / JomanaCNN

From a CNN freelance reporter based in Libya:



27m [jomana karadsheh @JomanaCNN](#)

Got off phone to someone near the scene in #Benghazi - clashes ongoing between Ansar al-Shariaa & security forces at #US consulate. #Libya

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:20 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** UPDATE: American killed in US consulate attack in Benghazi: official (AFP)

---

**From:** [OpsNewsTicker@state.gov](mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov) [<mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 07:13 PM  
**To:** M\_Staff; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-Libya  
**Subject:** UPDATE: American killed in US consulate attack in Benghazi: official (AFP)

BENGHAZI (AFP) - A US official was killed and another wounded on Tuesday as an armed mob protesting over a film they said offended Islam attacked the US consulate in Benghazi, an official told AFP.

Libya's deputy interior minister Wanis al-Sharif said: "One American official was killed and another injured in the hand. The other staff members were evacuated and are safe and sound."

He could not say if the dead man was a diplomat.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

**Rangarajan, Taara A**

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: Feltman

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Yes

**From:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 08:48 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** Feltman

Susan,  
Pls see attached. You might want to reach out to Jeff by phone or email, when opportunity allows: While we all grieve now for fallen colleagues, I imagine it must be especially hard for him now, being away from State at this time.  
-Salman

**From:** Jeffrey Feltman [mailto:feltman@un.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 08:00 AM  
**To:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Subject:** thank you

B6

for your note on the other system. We are all just sickened; I was up all night on the phone of the larger group of friends of Chris, including in Libya. [redacted] kept insisting he was alive, and kept giving me weird mobile phone numbers to call in Libya to track him down. Beth Jones and I were working the phones on all leads, just in case.)

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN PART**  
1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

**From:** DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 6:58 AM  
**To:** Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Rice, Susan E (USUN); Pelofsky, Eric J; Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

BBC, NBC report US sources saying Chris among the dead but USG not confirming.

---

**From:** Ryu, Rexon Y  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 06:36 AM  
**To:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Rice, Susan E (USUN); Pelofsky, Eric J; Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Libyans are saying publicly he is one of the four dead. Don't have more right now.

---

**From:** DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 06:25 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 4-9-2014 ~ Class:  
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: B1 1.4(B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on:  
09/12/2019

'es I am doing UNSC.

---

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 06:20 AM  
**To:** Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Who are the four dead? Is Chris among them?

RDC, are you doing UNSC today?

---

**From:** Ryu, Rexon Y  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 06:01 AM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

1.4(D)  
B1  
B5



**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:53 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Susan,

It's very possible that he is dead. The SWO told me that a senior Libyan official called our DCM to extend his condolences. We have not seen or recovered a body (resources that flew in from Tripoli are attempting to do that - NFI); however, there is apparently a photo on twitter of someone carrying a body that resembles Chris over their shoulder. I have not seen the photo myself.

I have asked the Ops Center to call me if there are additional developments throughout the night.

Eric

---

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 09:05 PM  
**To:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** Re: Libya update from Beth Jones

Thanks. Stressing this big time.

---

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 08:51 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Susan,

I talked to the Operations Center just now. They told me two additional details:

- Security forces from Tripoli arrived in Benghazi.
- Post received a call from a person using a RSO phone that Chris was given saying that the caller was with a person matching Chris's description at a hospital and that he was alive and well. Of course, if he were alive and well, one could ask why he didn't he make the call himself.

1.4(D)  
B1

(no confirmation on whether they have completed the search of the consulate compound.)

If I hear more, I will pass it along.

Thanks,  
Eric

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Pelofsky, Eric J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:18 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Cc:** Singh, Priya (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan  
**Subject:** FW: Libya update from Beth Jones

Here is the very latest that I've heard from NEA. See yellow highlights in particular.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Jones, Beth E  
**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Greg Hicks just provided the following update about the three Embassy buildings in Tripoli:

1.4(D)  
B1

- All 33 COM (State) personnel in Tripoli are accounted for and currently they are all at the Residential Compound.

[Redacted]

- No one is currently at the Embassy itself.

passed on U/S Kennedy's recommendation that the personnel all move together to one compound in Tripoli; Greg said that suggestion made good sense and that he would discuss with the COS as to which compound is the most secure.

Other points:

- Greg said he has closed the Embassy tomorrow, and no one will travel from the residential compound into town except, as necessary, for him, the RSO and the DATT.
- Greg and the RSO held a Town Hall meeting in the last half hour to reassure the Embassy staff; they remain calm and are responding well.
- Greg has requested police protection [Redacted] at the moment, the police are protecting the Embassy. He is checking now on what the extra protection situation is with the

[Redacted]

In Benghazi:

- Greg is working with [Redacted]

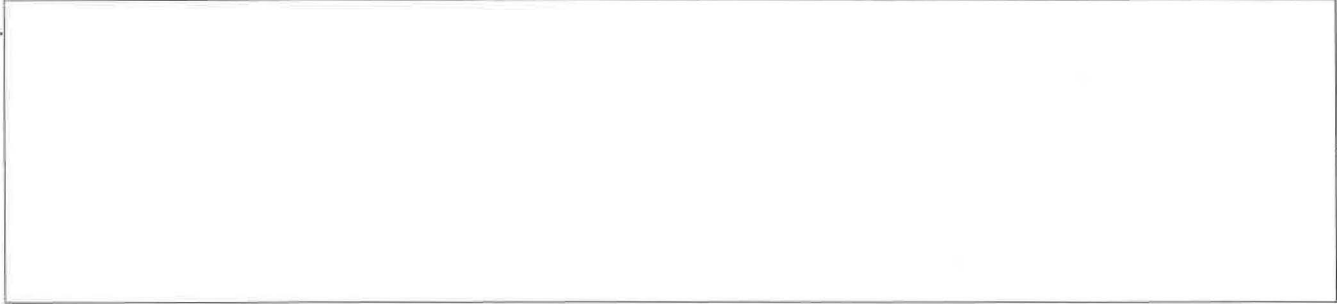
**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:55 PM  
**To:** Fogarty, Daniel J; Nuland, Victoria J; Randolph, Lawrence M; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, seph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D  
**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N;

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Toiv, Nora F; NEA-LIBYADESK, NEA-

DAS-DL; Sidereas, Evyenia; Gordon, Philip H; Nolan, Edwin R

**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

On working to locate Ambassador Stevens, the RSO team and militia are still on compound, which is 50 acres – Greg expressed the hope that Ambassador Stevens is in hiding somewhere on the compound. The PO's residence is still on fire.

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:32 PM

**To:** Nuland, Victoria J; Randolph, Lawrence M; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D

**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Toiv, Nora F; NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; Sidereas, Evyenia; Gordon, Philip H; Nolan, Edwin R

**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

The fighting has stopped, DCM Greg Hicks just confirmed to me. He also confirmed one fatality: Sean Smith – a TDY'er from The Hague – has died. His body has been recovered. The five ARSOs are accounted for, but they're still trying to find the Ambassador. The Principal Officer's residence is still on fire with toxic smoke.

I have spoken to A/S Gordon and Liz Dibble is contacting the Charge at The Hague, Ned Nolan, to inform them.

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:13 PM

**To:** Fogarty, Daniel J; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J; Kennedy, Patrick F

**Cc:** Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N; Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L

**Subject:** RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Just spoke again with Greg Hicks, who confirmed the party includes Ambassador Stevens plus three, not plus four. Hicks has been in contact twice with [redacted]



I also urged Libyan Ambassador to the U.S. Aujali to engage on this immediately at the highest level.

**From:** Fogarty, Daniel J

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:49 PM

**To:** Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; Macmanus, Joseph E (S); S\_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J

Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Miller, James N; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; McFarland, David C; Hicks, Gregory N;



Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Maxwell, Raymond D; Seche, Stephen A; Schmierer, Richard J; Dibble, Elizabeth L

**Subject:** Libya update from Beth Jones

All:

Jones just spoke with DCM Tripoli Greg Hicks, who advised a Libyan militia (we now know this is the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb brigade, as requested by Emb office) is responding to the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The QRF is in the compound, engaging the attackers, taking fire, and working its way through the compound to get to the villa, where Ambassador Stevens is in safe haven for extraction. The ARSO is also there in the compound. Greg spoke with Amb Stevens by phone 20 minutes before my call (which was about ten minutes ago).

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Embassy is sending medical assistance to Benghazi to be on stand-by.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

More updates to follow.

-Dan

**Din, Susan W****RELEASED IN PART B5**

**From:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelton, Erin; Pelofsky, Eric J; McPhillips, Alex (USUN); Cooper, Kurtis A; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** Re: For Review: Libya statement .

Thanks. We'll send out ASAP and tweet off it.

---

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 09:51 AM  
**To:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelton, Erin; Pelofsky, Eric J; McPhillips, Alex (USUN); Cooper, Kurtis A; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** Re: For Review: Libya statement

Good. Small tweaks:

I am profoundly saddened by the tragic and senseless deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador Chris Stevens and Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith. In their tireless service and courage, they represented the very best of America. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends and all whose lives were enriched and touched by these exceptional individuals.

The United States has lost four brave individuals who, in President Obama's words, exemplified America's commitment to freedom, justice and international partnership. In Ambassador Stevens, the Libyan people also lost a close friend -- one who stood by them in their revolution and its aftermath, one who understood and shared in their aspirations, their culture and their traditions. I had the privilege of working closely with Amb. Stevens. He was passionate about his work to bring about a better future in Libya, and he cared deeply for the Libyan people. He and the rest of his team risked their lives daily to support the Libyan people's democratic aspirations, including during the height of the revolution, when he represented the United States in Benghazi. Our hearts are heavy today.

I join President Obama and Secretary Clinton in condemning in the strongest terms this vicious and violent attack. On this day of profound grief, we honor, as ever, the service and sacrifice of our American diplomatic personnel around the world.

---

**From:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 09:40 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelton, Erin; Pelofsky, Eric J; McPhillips, Alex (USUN); Cooper, Kurtis A; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A  
**Subject:** For Review: Libya statement

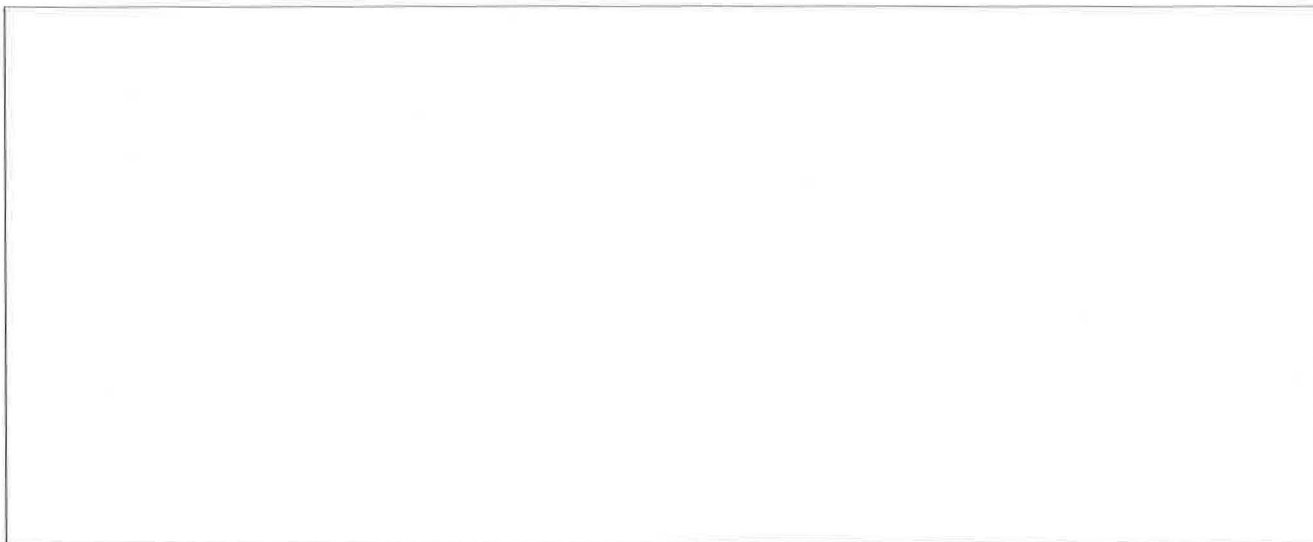
elow is a statement for your review. It includes input from Rexon and Eric.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

USUN PRESS RELEASE XXX  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2012

*Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on the* B5  
*Death of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya*



###

**Din, Susan W**

**From:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 5:42 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Ryu, Rexion Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A; Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Pelton, Erin; Cooper, Kurtis A; McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Subject:** Toria Nuland backgrounder on Libya

RELEASED IN  
FULL

Toria Nuland and DoD spokesman George Little did a background briefing for press a few minutes ago. I thought folks might find some of the details interesting—particularly the tick-tock—even if some of it has come via other channels, so a non-verbatim summary is below.

4pm EST: Compound begins taking fire from Libyan extremists. Two buildings on compound: a main building and an annex.

4:15pm EST: Extremists gain access and began firing into main building, setting it on fire. Libyan guard force and US security personnel respond. Three people inside building at that time: RSO, Stevens, and Smith. The three became separated while trying to evacuate due to the smoke. RSO made it outside and then he and security personnel returned to rescue Stevens and Smith. Found Smith dead and pulled him from building; were unable to locate Stevens before they were drawn from building because of smoke and small arms fire.

4:45pm EST: Security personnel again tried to gain access to main building but had to return to annex because of fire.

530pm EST: Security personnel made another attempt, gained access, and secured the main building. They evacuated rest of personnel into safe haven zones.

7:00pm EST: Annex came under fire for 2 hours; during that time, 2 additional U.S. personnel were killed and 2 wounded.

830pm EST: Libyan security forces were able to assist in regaining control of the compound. At some point (we don't know when), Stevens got out of the building and was taken to the hospital. The body was later returned to U.S. personnel at Benghazi airport.

Q & A: **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

--Torina declined to go into details about how Stevens' personal security detail responded because we don't discuss security operations.

--When asked if she could confirm if Stevens was alive when he was left the compound and was taken to the hospital and if the cause of death was smoke inhalation, Torina reiterated that we are not clear on the circumstances between when Stevens was separated from the group inside the building and when we were notified that his body was in a Benghazi hospital. We were not able to see his body until it was returned at the airport. Torina said that we can't comment on the cause of death until an autopsy can be performed.

--Responding to a question about whether it was an organized terror attack, Torina said that she couldn't speak to the identity of the perpetrators but that it was clearly a complex attack. There will be a full investigation with which the FBI is assisting.

that he was brought to the hospital by Libyans who found him. She said no Americans were responsible for taking him to the hospital and no US personnel saw him there.

-When asked when Embassy Cairo issued its statement, Toria said that she could unequivocally say that it was not coordinated with Washington and was therefore taken down. She said that it was her understanding that it was initially released around noon Cairo time, which was before the protests in Cairo began.

-Responding to a question about whether the attack was linked to the Mohammed video, she said that she could not confirm a connect as we simply don't know—and we won't know until there's an investigation.

-George Little confirmed that Gen. Dempsey spoke to Pastor Jones today and asked him to withdrawal his support for the video. Jones was non-committal.

-Responding to a question about when Stevens died, Toria said we don't know. She said that we've seen Libyan reports that he was unconscious when first found, was taken to the hospital, and then later passed.

RELEASED IN FULL

Guidance on Events in Libya, 9/12/2012

*Below is today's final guidance from NSS and State.*

NSS  
(9/12/2012)

**Q: What's your response to the situation in Libya?**

I think you all saw the President's statement this morning strongly condemning the outrageous attack on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi, which took the lives of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

The President directed the Administration to provide all necessary resources to support the security of our personnel in Libya, and to increase security at our diplomatic posts around the globe.

**Q: What specifically are you doing to augment security? Are reports that Marines are headed to Tripoli accurate?**

For obvious reasons were not going to detail what specifically we're doing to improve security, but as the President said he's directed the Administration to provide all necessary resources, and we are doing that. I'll leave it to the State Department to provide more detail as events unfold.

**Q: How was the President informed of the situation in Libya?**

The President was informed of the Libya situation by NSA Donilon yesterday afternoon as he started his weekly meeting with the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The President was updated on both incidents several times throughout the evening and again this morning. Last night at around 10:15 he called Secretary Clinton to express his condolences and to discuss security precautions.

**Q: when did he specifically learn of Amb Stevens death?**

The President was notified last night that Ambassador Stevens was unaccounted for and then notified again this morning about his tragic death.

**Q: What does this say about our relationship with Libya a country Americans just spent billions to protect?**

I think its premature to draw broader conclusions. I'd note that Libyan officials have denounced these acts and we received very important support from the Libyan government. The actions of these extremists will not break the bonds between the United States and Libya that Ambassador Stevens did so much to build.

**Q: Are you considering evacuating all Embassy personnel out of Tripoli?**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

I'd refer you to the State Department for questions about the posture of our Embassy, but I've seen no such announcement.

**Q: Was the attack pre-planned?**

There is a lot of press speculation about who did this and why but at this stage it would be premature to ascribe any motive to this reprehensible act. As the President said, make no mistake, we will work with the Libyan government to bring to justice the killers who attacked our people.

**Q: What do we know about Ansar al Sharia, the group that's taken credit?**

It's very early and I'm not going to be able to offer an assessment of this group.

**Q: Can you walk us through a tick tock of this incident? What specifically happened? How were they killed?**

I'm not going to walk through the sequence of events here. Our focus is on providing the resources to support the security of our personnel in Libya and to direct our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of those killed.

**Q: What are you doing to stop Terry Jones from posting these videos inciting other incidents like this one?**

As you know, we've made repeated outreach to Mr. Jones about the possible repercussions of his actions. Both Secretary Gates and General Allen have spoken to him about previous incidents. The United States rejects efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others, and we all must unequivocally oppose the kind of senseless violence that took the lives of these public servants.

Din, Susan W

RELEASED IN FULL

From: McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
 Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 6:23 PM  
 To: Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Torsella, Joseph M (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Lillie, Katie (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan; Hughes, Alexandra S (USUN); Finerty, Trèssa R (USUN); Schrenell, Hillary (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Whalen, Robert P COL (USUN); Benenson, Anya; Sabar, Aisha; USUN/W users-DL; USUN-Libya-DL  
 Cc: USUN-Media-Officers  
 Subject: Social Media Roundup / "Chris Stevens was a blessing from Allah"  
 Attachments: Benghazi.jpg

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Dear all:

Wanted to try to summarize the range of reactions on Libya today from an exhausted social media sphere, including from people actually on the ground in Libya. Condolences poured in from around the world, including from Dr. Mustafa Abushagur, the newly elected Libyan PM, who is actually a Twitter user (@MustafaAG). Here, however, the focus is on activists and ordinary Libyan citizens - and their moving tributes to four Americans who were killed in Benghazi, including our very own Ambassador Stevens:



48m Hayat Libya @LIBYA\_WIN

#ChrisStevens was a blessing from #Allah -if #America even had any other men like him-I wouldn't blame them not sending him for us #Libya

There were reports today on social media of counter-demonstrations taking place in Tripoli, Benghazi and Zintan, with protesters chanting and waving signs. The attached photo ("Sorry people of America...") comes from a web album published by Libya Alhurra on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.361504610597476.85002.119125474835392&type=1>

Condolences directed to @AmbassadorRice came in during the early hours this morning, long before sunrise on the East Coast of the U.S. I should note: worldwide, every conceivable extreme viewpoint, in many cases fueled by political, cultural and religious anxieties, has been aired on Twitter. Anti-American invective, some of it apparently from pro-Assad Syrians, has flown around. At times today, Twitter has been an extraordinarily ugly place.

Nevertheless, I haven't seen a single tweet from a Libyan that celebrates the attackers or condones the attack. From one Libyan (from most recent - use of "@AmbassadorRice" simply designates Amb. Rice as the recipient of the message):



3h sohiab suhbe @SohiabSuhbe

@AmbassadorRice he loved libya and we loved him but the Terrorists they made fire in the council i hope from the us still stand with libya



3h sohiab suhbe @SohiabSuhbe

@AmbassadorRice and what happend last night in #benghazi it's very bad thing we in tripoli we upset we lose very good person



**@SohiabSuhbe**

I'm so sorry I'm Libyan I'm upset and depressed for Ambassador Chris he was a good person and I love him

For user, some decent accounts to follow for updates on the ground are @ChangeinLibya, @ShababLibya, and BentBladi. Andy Carvin of NPR (@acarvin) does a good job of monitoring sentiments from around the Arab world. I included a sample of tweets below. Since they're from English-speaking, web-savvy Libyans, there may be some bias here, but tributes are moving, nevertheless. Further below, I've copied the range of comments left on Ambassador Rice's Facebook wall (ex. "The images of Mr. Stevens walking around Tripoli with his friendly smile, the places we love to eat at seem to occupy my mind today.").

**Libyan Twitter Users:**

**Matog Saleh @MatogSaleh**

Protest in front of #Tibesti #Benghazi and the chants heard are .. " Sorry Sorry .. USA .. Sorry Sorry .. USA "

**Ismael @ChangeInLibya**

Who is a Salafi tells me that the thugs who attacked US Embassy went against Islam by not protecting and mistreating a guest #Libya

**Zahra Trabis @ZahraTrabis**

#Benghazi collecting money to rebuild #USEmbassy .. These are the people of Libya I know and love

**Leebee @LyConstitution**

May 'The blood of our Martyrs will not go in vain'. Ambassador Stevens is one of our heroes & his blood is not in vain. R.I.P.

**Asma Magariaf @LibyanBentBladi**

Stevens, a friend of #Libya who loved this free land, more than many I know.. we let you down

**ARags @ARagsLibya**

Libyan ppl who jubilated the world, rejects these acts which undermine the journey to modern state. #Libya

**Amry @Libyan4life**

trying listening to the words of President Obama about Amb.Stevens. He was a hero to #Libya.  
twitter.com/eAhID9LI



A Free Libyan @LibyanLion17

for the Libyan people to take back the revolution. This isn't what #Feb17 was about. #Benghazi #Libya



Hussam Muntasser @Proudlibyandoc

ambassadorRice We are very sorry, terribly saddened. and indeed ashamed. please accept our condolences.



Nahla Elsubeihi C\* @StayStrongLibya

condolences to Chris Stevens' dear family and my profound apologies to all Americans. This is a sad day in #Libya.  
ChrisStevens #US



@AhmedEMisrata

Yahya's event was a disgrace to our revolution, our martyrs and most of all, a disgrace to the teachings of the  
at PBUH #Benghazi



Libyan Youth Movement @ShababLibya

Chris #Stevens, words fail me



Ismael @ChangeInLibya

my tweets today were helpful & eased the pain of losing such a great, honourable man. I spent much of it in  
#ChrisStevens #Libya



Son of Tripoli @ibntarabulus

meeting #ChrisStevens at Tibisti hotel in #Benghazi he was more than excited that Libyan Americans were there



osama solieman @osamasolieman

attack on the US embassy in benghazi today was an act of cowardice. i haven't seen one libyan say different.



Khaled M @thisisKhaledM

Facebook's been turning since the middle of the night when we learned of the death of Chris Stevens. Many of us...  
facebook.com/GI0plOvP



Asma @Libyan217

eb17 isn't over yet. Until there is peace and security. Got to keep going...

check comments left on Ambassador Rice's wall:

em Hamad I pray for the families of Chris Stevens and the other 3 Americans who were senselessly murdered in Libya sterday. The small group of idiots who carried out this attack are cowards, not Godly. I deeply believe that uhammad ( alihi alsalat wa alasalam) would have been ashamed of the the barbaric act s of some people who called emselves Muslims, if he was was still alive.

ours ago · Like · 2

lem A. Bashoon all the Libyans are sorry for such things that happened from some Terrorists group that never present Benghazi at all R.I.P Chris Stevens...

ours ago · Like · 1

ghamed Al Rwemie we are the Doctors Association Of Libya sharing our sadness emotions with the people of united ites of america and we are really so sorry for that Ambassador Susan Rice .

ours ago · Like · 2

ir Elshaban We really do apologize for this uncivilian act... He was a good man and loved Libya ... And many Libyan spected him for his support and for everything ... WE ARE SORRY

ours ago · Like · 2

ckens Honeywell RIP to the souls of gallant americans

ours ago via mobile · Like

ve Hernan Inyang Really tragic and devastating news. What pains me the most is that the man actually loved Libyans d uced up dying on the soil of Libya. May his soul RIP and may his killers be mangled in mind torture, restlessness d hell fire! Take heart as I commiserate with you on this uneventful day...

ours ago · Edited · Like · 1

ad Soufi Rest in peace ambassador Stevens and the other American diplomats. These barbaric people do not know at Islam is. Islam is peace and these actions do not represent peace.

ours ago · Like · 1

nar Mokhtar Rest in peace abassador stevens.... :(

ours ago via mobile · Like

ram Almasri I wish him peace and wellness too. But to be frank, isn't anyone going to actually think about WHY this ppened? People don't take blatant insult of their religion seriously. Please be more considerate of other peoples' liefs and religions, so we can stop this madness from happening again.

ours ago · Like · 1

hn Parthenios Another Hero of World's fights for Democracy became a victim of an unfair war. Rest in Peace!

ours ago · Like

iby Ave Maria Very sad day... RIP to the sensless death! My heart goes to the grieving family. God be with them.

ours ago · Like

Zeyad El Baser I'm deeply saddened and shocked. I am lost for words. The images of Mr. Stevens walking around Tripoli with his friendly smile, eating at the places we love to eat at seem to occupy my mind today.

This act doesn't represent me, my country or my great religion. The ignorant ones who committed this criminal act are the true enemy of Islam and Libya.

Condolence goes to the families of the lost ones.

3 hours ago · Like · 1

Pj Connolly Question: Were the security personnel that "fled" when the attack grew more intense US Marines or contractors?

3 hours ago · Like

Haddesa Belay My prayers goes out to their family and loved ones. May the lord gives them comfort!

2 hours ago · Like

Emad Bukhari RIP Them !

2 hours ago via mobile · Like

John Essien my condolences goes to the family of Amb. Chris Stevens, the US people and govt for their lost

2 hours ago · Like

Faisal Abdulaziz Words feel inadequate to express the sadness that we feel. Hope the hard times pass by soon.

about an hour ago via mobile · Like

ناي ع ت اظ ح ال my condolences goes to the family of Amb. Chris Stevens, the US people and govt for their lost

about an hour ago · Like

Ihassana Malam Sambu Today we live in a world of sadness at the loss of people stranded, and only wish for them the blessing of God be for them.

Until we can call this day national day of mourning for all Americans.

Iaji Shoib A As a Libyan citizen, I strongly condemn the vicious and violent attack on the US Consulate in Benghazi that killed ambassador Stevens and three other Americans. Today we lost a close friend who stood behind us in our evolution and its aftermath. Ambassador Stevens sacrificed his life for our freedom. My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families I am deeply saddened and outraged by these senseless violent attack.

about an hour ago · Like · 6

Ihassana Malam Sambu Today we live in a world of sadness at the loss of people stranded, and only wish for them the blessing of God be for them.

about an hour ago · Like

RELEASED IN PART  
B1,B5,1.4(G),1.4(D)

Ryu, Rexion Y

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 4-16-2014 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~  
Reason: 1.4(D), 1.4(G), B1 ~ Declassify on: 09/12/2032

From: Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:30 PM  
To: Ryu, Rexion Y  
Subject: [Redacted]

B5

Thx

From: Ryu, Rexion Y  
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 07:21 PM  
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Subject: [Redacted]

B5

B5

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: Ryu, Rexion Y  
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:49 PM  
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Cc: DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Pelofsky, Eric J; Rangarajan, Taara A; Singh, Priya (USUN)  
Subject: [Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5



B5

.exon

his email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Din, Susan W**

**From:** Pelton, Erin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:25 AM  
**To:** USUN-Libya-DL; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Fw: Statement by the President on the Attack in Benghazi

RELEASED IN FULL

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**From:** White House Press Office [<mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 07:21 AM  
**To:** Pelton, Erin  
**Subject:** Statement by the President on the Attack in Benghazi

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2012

**Statement by the President on the Attack in Benghazi**

I strongly condemn the outrageous attack on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi, which took the lives of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. Right now, the American people have the families of those we lost in our thoughts and prayers. They exemplified America's commitment to freedom, justice, and partnership with nations and people around the globe, and stand in stark contrast to those who callously took their lives.

I have directed my Administration to provide all necessary resources to support the security of our personnel in Libya, and to increase security at our diplomatic posts around the globe. While the United States rejects efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others, we must all unequivocally oppose the kind of senseless violence that took the lives of these public servants.

On a personal note, Chris was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States. Throughout the Libyan revolution, he selflessly served our country and the Libyan people at our mission in Benghazi. As Ambassador in Tripoli, he has supported Libya's transition to democracy. His legacy will endure wherever human beings reach for liberty and justice. I am profoundly grateful for his service to my Administration, and deeply saddened by this loss.

The brave Americans we lost represent the extraordinary service and sacrifices that our civilians make every day around the globe. As we stand united with their families, let us now redouble our own efforts to carry their work forward.

###

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:56 AM  
**To:** Pelton, Erin; USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Re: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Death of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

Pls work with Eric and Rexon to draft one from me. Thx.

---

**From:** Pelton, Erin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 07:41 AM  
**To:** USUN-Libya-DL; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Fw: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Death of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

---

**From:** State Department Press Office [<mailto:Press@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 07:39 AM  
**To:** State Department Press Office  
**Subject:** STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON: Statement on the Death of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release  
12, 2012  
2012/1422

September

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

Statement on the Death of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

It is with profound sadness that I share the news of the death of four American personnel in Benghazi, Libya yesterday. Among them were United States Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and Foreign Service Information Management Officer, Sean Smith. We are still making next of kin notifications for the other two individuals. Our hearts go out to all their families and colleagues.

A 21 year veteran of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Stevens died last night from injuries he sustained in the attack on our office in Benghazi.

I had the privilege of swearing in Chris for his post in Libya only a few months ago. He spoke eloquently about his passion for service, for diplomacy and for the Libyan people. This assignment was only the latest in his more than two decades of dedication to advancing closer ties with the people of the Middle East and North

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**



of the first Americans on the ground in Benghazi. He risked his own life to lend the Libyan people a helping hand and to build the foundation for a new, free nation. He spent every day since helping to finish the work that he started. Chris was committed to advancing America's values and interests, even when that meant putting himself in danger.

Sean Smith was a husband and a father of two, who joined the Department ten years ago. Like Chris, Sean was one of our best. Prior to arriving in Benghazi, he served in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and most recently The Hague.

All the Americans we lost in yesterday's attacks made the ultimate sacrifice. We condemn this vicious and violent attack that took their lives, which they had committed to helping the Libyan people reach for a better future.

America's diplomats and development experts stand on the front lines every day for our country. We are honored by the service of each and every one of them.

###

Din, Susan W

RELEASED IN FULL

From: McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:14 AM  
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL  
Cc: USUN-Media-Officers  
Subject: REMARKS: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton On the Deaths of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2012

2012/1423

REMARKS

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
On the Deaths of American Personnel in Benghazi, Libya

September 12, 2012  
Treaty Room  
Washington, D.C.

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Yesterday, our U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya was attacked. Heavily armed militants assaulted the compound and set fire to our buildings. American and Libyan security personnel battled the attackers together. Four Americans were killed. They included Sean Smith, a Foreign Service information management officer, and our Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. We are still making next of kin notifications for the other two individuals.

This is an attack that should shock the conscience of people of all faiths around the world. We condemn in the strongest terms this senseless act of violence, and we send our prayers to the families, friends, and colleagues of those we've lost.

All over the world, every day, America's diplomats and development experts risk their lives in the service of our country and our values, because they believe that the United States must be a force for peace and progress in the world, that these aspirations are worth striving and sacrificing for. Alongside our men and women in uniform, they represent the best traditions of a bold and generous nation.

In the lobby of this building, the State Department, the names of those who have fallen in the line of duty are inscribed in marble. Our hearts break over each one. And now, because of this tragedy, we have new heroes to honor and more friends to mourn.

Chris Stevens fell in love with the Middle East as a young Peace Corps volunteer teaching English in Morocco. He joined the Foreign Service, learned languages, won friends for America in distant places, and made other people's hopes his own.

In the early days of the Libyan revolution, I asked Chris to be our envoy to the rebel opposition. He arrived on cargo ship in the port of Benghazi and began building our relationships with Libya's revolutionaries. He risked his life to stop a tyrant, then gave his life trying to help build a better Libya. The world needs more Chris

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

many nations.

Sean Smith was an Air Force veteran. He spent 10 years as an information management officer in the State Department, he was posted at The Hague, and was in Libya on a brief temporary assignment. He was a husband to his wife Heather, with whom I spoke this morning. He was a father to two young children, Andrew and Nathan. They will grow up being proud of the service their father gave to our country, service that took him from Pretoria to Baghdad, and finally to Benghazi.

The mission that drew Chris and Sean and their colleagues to Libya is both noble and necessary, and we and the people of Libya honor their memory by carrying it forward. This is not easy. Today, many Americans are asking – indeed, I asked myself – how could this happen? How could this happen in a country we helped liberate, in a city we helped save from destruction? This question reflects just how complicated and, at times, how confounding the world can be.

But we must be clear-eyed, even in our grief. This was an attack by a small and savage group – not the people of the Government of Libya. Everywhere Chris and his team went in Libya, in a country scarred by war and tyranny, they were hailed as friends and partners. And when the attack came yesterday, Libyans stood and fought to defend our post. Some were wounded. Libyans carried Chris' body to the hospital, and they helped rescue and lead other Americans to safety. And last night, when I spoke with the President of Libya, he strongly condemned the violence and pledged every effort to protect our people and pursue those responsible.

The friendship between our countries, borne out of shared struggle, will not be another casualty of this attack. A free and stable Libya is still in America's interest and security, and we will not turn our back on that, nor will we rest until those responsible for these attacks are found and brought to justice. We are working closely with the Libyan authorities to move swiftly and surely. We are also working with partners around the world to safeguard other American embassies, consulates, and citizens.

There will be more time later to reflect, but today, we have work to do. There is no higher priority than protecting our men and women wherever they serve. We are working to determine the precise motivations and methods of those who carried out this assault. Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior, along with the protest that took place at our Embassy in Cairo yesterday, as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet. America's commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear – there is no justification for this, none. Violence like this is no way to honor religion or faith. And as long as there are those who would take innocent life in the name of God, the world will never know a true and lasting peace.

It is especially difficult that this happened on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It's an anniversary that means a great deal to all Americans. Every year on that day, we are reminded that our work is not yet finished, that the job of putting an end to violent extremism and building a safe and stable world continues. But September 11<sup>th</sup> means even more than that. It is a day on which we remember thousands of American heroes, the bonds that connect all Americans, wherever we are on this Earth, and the values that see us through every storm. And now it is a day on which we will remember Sean, Chris, and their colleagues.

May God bless them, and may God bless the thousands of Americans working in every corner of the world who make this country the greatest force for peace, prosperity, and progress, and a force that has always stood for human dignity – the greatest force the world has ever known. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

**Din, Susan W**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Torsella, Joseph M (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Lillie, Katie (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan; Hughes, Alexandra S (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Schrenell, Hillary (USUN); Cenzer, Matthew A (USUN); Whalen, Robert P COL (USUN); Benenson, Anya; Sabar, Aisha; USUN/W users-DL; USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Remarks by the President on the Deaths of U.S. Embassy Staff in Libya

RELEASED IN FULL

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2012

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE DEATHS OF U.S. EMBASSY STAFF IN LIBYA

Rose Garden

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

10:43 A.M. EDT

**THE PRESIDENT:** Good morning. Every day, all across the world, American diplomats and civilians work tirelessly to advance the interests and values of our nation. Often, they are away from their families. Sometimes, they brave great danger.

Yesterday, four of these extraordinary Americans were killed in an attack on our diplomatic post in Benghazi. Among those killed was our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, as well as Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith. We are still notifying the families of the others who were killed. And today, the American people stand united in holding the families of the four Americans in our thoughts and in our prayers.

The United States condemns in the strongest terms this outrageous and shocking attack. We're working with the government of Libya to secure our diplomats. I've also directed my administration to increase our security at diplomatic posts around the world. And make no mistake, we will work with the Libyan government to bring to justice the killers who attacked our people.

Since our founding, the United States has been a nation that respects all faiths. We reject all efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. But there is absolutely no justification to this type of senseless violence. None. The world must stand together to unequivocally reject these brutal acts.

ill not break the bonds between the United States and Libya. Libyan security personnel fought back against the attackers alongside Americans. Libyans helped some of our diplomats find safety, and they carried Ambassador Stevens's body to the hospital, where we tragically learned that he had died.

It's especially tragic that Chris Stevens died in Benghazi because it is a city that he helped to save. At the height of the Libyan revolution, Chris led our diplomatic post in Benghazi. With characteristic skill, courage, and resolve, he built partnerships with Libyan revolutionaries, and helped them as they planned to build a new Libya. When the Qaddafi regime came to an end, Chris was there to serve as our ambassador to the new Libya, and he worked tirelessly to support this young democracy, and I think both Secretary Clinton and I relied deeply on his knowledge of the situation on the ground there. He was a role model to all who worked with him and to the young diplomats who aspire to walk in his footsteps.

Along with his colleagues, Chris died in a country that is still striving to emerge from the recent experience of war. Today, the loss of these four Americans is fresh, but our memories of them linger on. I have no doubt that their legacy will live on through the work that they did far from our shores and in the hearts of those who love them back home.

Of course, yesterday was already a painful day for our nation as we marked the solemn memory of the 9/11 attacks. We mourned with the families who were lost on that day. I visited the graves of troops who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan at the hallowed grounds of Arlington Cemetery, and had the opportunity to say thank you and visit some of our wounded warriors at Walter Reed. And then last night, we learned the news of this attack in Benghazi.

As Americans, let us never, ever forget that our freedom is only sustained because there are people who are willing to fight for it, to stand up for it, and in some cases, lay down their lives for it. Our country is only as strong as the character of our people and the service those both civilian and military who represent us around the globe.

No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character, or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for. Today we mourn four more Americans who represent the very best of the United States of America. We will not waver in our commitment to see that justice is done for this terrible act. And make no mistake, justice will be done.

But we also know that the lives these Americans led stand in stark contrast to those of their attackers. These four Americans stood up for freedom and human dignity. They should give every American great pride in the country that they served, and the hope that our flag represents to people around the globe who also yearn to live in freedom and with dignity.

We grieve with their families, but let us carry on their memory, and  
continue their work of seeking a stronger America and a better  
for all of our children.

Thank you. May God bless the memory of those we lost and may God  
the United States of America.

END

10:48

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use - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Washington DC 20500 - 202-456-1111

**RELEASED IN FULL****From:** Pelton, Erin**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:22 AM**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Torsella, Joseph M (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Singh, Priya (USUN); Lillie, Katie (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Oat-Judge, Siobhan; Hughes, Alexandra S (USUN); Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Schrenell, Hillary (USUN); Whalen, Robert P COL (USUN); Benenson, Anya; Sabar, Aisha; USUN/W users-DL; USUN-Libya-DL**Subject:** Statements by Members of Congress on Libya**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**Statements by Members of Congress on Libya  
9/12/12**

**STATEMENT BY SENATORS MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN AND GRAHAM:**

"We are anguished and outraged by the death of four citizens of the United States, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, during an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

"Chris was one of America's finest and bravest diplomats, and also someone we considered a friend. In the midst of last year's uprising in Libya, Chris traveled at great personal risk to Benghazi to represent the country he loved as the U.S. envoy to the Libyan opposition. He advanced American interests and values in Libya and stood with the Libyan people throughout their struggle for freedom and during the challenging times that followed. His death at the hands of extremists is a tragic and awful loss for the people of both the United States and Libya.

"There is still much we do not know about what happened in Benghazi yesterday. What is clear, however, is that the attackers must be apprehended and punished. We appreciate that senior Libyan leaders have condemned these cowardly attacks, and we now look to the Libyan government to ensure that the perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice, and that U.S. diplomats are protected. We have confidence that our own government will provide all necessary assistance to this end.

"Yesterday's attack is a tragic and terrible reminder that – despite the hopes of the Arab Spring – the forces of violent extremism in the Middle East are far from defeated, and that the revolutions inspired by millions of people who dream of freedom and democracy can still be hijacked by small groups of violent extremists who are eager to kill to advance their evil ideology.

"Despite this horrific attack, we cannot give in to the temptation to believe that our support for the democratic aspirations of people in Libya, Egypt, and elsewhere in the broader Middle East is naive or mistaken. We cannot resign ourselves to the false belief that the Arab Spring is doomed to be defined not by the desire for democracy and freedom that has inspired millions of people to peaceful action, but by the dark fanaticism of terrorists.

"To follow this misguided path would not only be a victory for the extremists and their associates, but a betrayal of everything for which Chris Stevens and his colleagues stood and

gave their lives. In short, it would be a betrayal of our own best ideals as Americans and our own enduring interest in using our great influence to support the overwhelming majority of people in the Middle East who want to be free from the kinds of murderers and terrorists who killed our people yesterday in Benghazi."

**STATEMENT BY SPEAKER BOEHNER:**

"We mourn for the families of our countrymen in Benghazi, and condemn this horrific attack. Eleven years after September 11, this is a jolting reminder that freedom remains under siege by forces around the globe who relish violence over free expression, and terror over democracy -- and that America and free people everywhere must remain vigilant in defense of our liberties."

**STATEMENT BY LEADER REID:**

I was deeply disturbed and saddened to learn of the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other American personnel in an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya. I join President Obama in condemning these senseless acts of violence. And my thoughts are with the families of those who were killed in this horrific attack.

It is too often forgotten that American diplomats risk their lives on a daily basis. Our diplomatic corps is filled with admirable and dedicated public servants. And the four Americans who lost their lives yesterday exemplified the courage and sacrifice that happens every day at diplomatic posts across the globe.

I have traveled to many of America's embassies abroad, and I have always been impressed by and grateful for the leadership and commitment of America's ambassadors and State Department personnel. Ambassador Stevens was a career Foreign Service officer and a former Peace Corps volunteer, who spent his life giving of his time and his talents to promote democracy and American values.

I support President Obama's directive to increase security at our diplomatic posts around the world, and to provide whatever resources necessary to keep our personnel in Libya safe. And I will continue to monitor the situation as we learn more about these terrible events.

**STATEMENT BY LEADER CANTOR:**

"I condemn the attacks on our consulate in Benghazi and Embassy in Cairo by violent extremists. My prayers are with the families of Ambassador Chris Stevens and the other brave Americans who lost their lives in this unjustifiable and hateful assault. Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues were known for having stood firmly on the side of the Libyan people against tyranny, and were untiring in their efforts to help the Libyan people establish a peaceful and tolerant democracy. These brave and honorable public servants deserve the respect of the American and Libyan people, for whom they tragically gave their lives.

"These terrible incidents highlight the ongoing security challenges in Libya and Egypt, and I call upon the Libyan and Egyptian governments to protect diplomatic facilities, secure their borders,



and redouble efforts to combat extremist terrorism within their countries. Eleven years after September 11, it is clear that Islamic extremist terrorism still poses a tremendous threat to the Middle East, to the United States, and to the international community. These attacks will not deter America from continuing to promote peace, democracy, individual and religious freedom and an unwavering respect for human life throughout the region and the world."

#### **STATEMENT BY LEADER PELOSI:**

"Our thoughts and prayers rest with the families and loved ones of Ambassador Stevens and the three other Americans killed in this vicious and heinous attack against the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi. We condemn this brazen assault in the strongest possible terms.

"These American diplomats served on the front lines of our efforts to work with the Libyan people toward a future of democracy, freedom, justice, and stability. Their commitment to peace and security stand in stark contrast to those who perpetrated this violent act.

"On my visit to Libya and the region earlier this year, I met with some of the courageous foreign service officers representing our nation in the Middle East, despite enormous risk to their own safety. As we mourn the loss of the Americans in Benghazi, we pay tribute to all of the men and women standing their post abroad on behalf of our values and our partnerships across the globe."

#### **STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE HOYER:**

"I was deeply saddened to learn this morning of the news from Libya of the tragic death of Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith and two other American personnel in an attack in Benghazi. Their families are in my prayers today. Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith were distinguished career diplomats who embodied the best of our Foreign Service and were instrumental in helping Libya's democratic transition.

"Yesterday's horrific attack is a reminder to all of us that there are thousands of heroic Americans serving our country overseas every day, and that they deserve our gratitude and recognition. Some wear the uniform of our Armed Forces, others doctors' robes. From humanitarian workers to the seasoned negotiators in our embassies, those who serve us overseas do so in spite of the dangers they expect to face. Through their service, they show the world the best of America.

"Yesterday, four of these proud Americans paid the ultimate price, in the name of the values that make our nation so great - the protection of basic rights, religious freedom, and the development of democratic institutions. The extremists who carried out this horrendous attack will not change our unswerving commitment to these values and they must be brought to swift justice."

#### **STATEMENT BY LEADER MCCONNELL:**

"We learned yesterday, and are receiving reports this morning, of the attacks against the United States Embassy in Cairo and the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

"In Benghazi our Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in service to our nation. Our thoughts and sympathy today are with the families of these brave Americans.

"These attacks remind us of the sacrifices made on a daily basis by foreign service officers, diplomatic security personnel, and our Marine Security Guards.

"I join my colleagues in strongly condemning the murder of these innocent Americans. And I support employing every available tool at our disposal to ensure the safety of Americans overseas and to hunt down those responsible for these attacks.

"Yesterday we commemorated the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, and today we are reminded that brave Americans serve us every day at the risk of their own lives. We honor the Americans we lost in Libya, and we will stand united in our response.

"Among the things we can all agree on in Washington is that attacks on the U.S. and its representatives will be met with resolve, and that America's presence and defense of our national interests across the globe will not be deferred by the acts of violent extremists."

#### **STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE BERMAN:**

"I am horrified by the murder of the US ambassador to Libya and three other US officials. Absolutely nothing justifies this despicable act," said Rep. Berman. "I am particularly angry that this sickening attack occurred in a country that the US did so much to liberate.

"Ambassador Stevens was one of our best and brightest-- and most courageous. He was on the ground in Benghazi leading US diplomatic efforts from the earliest days of the revolution. He worked tirelessly on behalf of US-Libyan relations and the well being of US citizens living in Libya. He will be missed for his knowledge of the Middle East, his exemplary commitment to service, and his basic human decency. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of all the dedicated foreign service officers whose lives were lost today.

"Libya owes the American people a full investigation of this incident, in complete cooperation with U.S. authorities. The killers must be found and brought to justice."

#### **STATEMENT BY SENATOR RUBIO:**

"I am deeply saddened and troubled by the mob attacks in Libya that led to the murder of our ambassador and three members of his staff. I had the chance of meeting Ambassador Chris Stevens during his confirmation process and again when I visited Libya last year. He was an exemplary diplomat and his embassy staff could not have been more helpful and knowledgeable during my visit. My prayers are with the families and loved ones of these courageous diplomats who were working to help the Libyan people rise from the ashes of Gaddafi's rule.

"It is imperative that these senseless mob attacks be condemned by the Libyan government and that it commit to stop this violence and bring those responsible for the deaths of our American

diplomats to justice. In both Libya and Egypt, their governments have an obligation to resolutely condemn these violent attacks and protect American diplomatic missions and personnel based on their soil.

“The Libyan and Egyptian people should understand that the U.S. shares their commitment to building more hopeful and prosperous nations. However, if left unchecked, violent attacks like these against our embassies and diplomats will lead Libya and Egypt down a dark path and rob them of their hopes of a more prosperous and democratic future. The broader publics in Libya and Egypt should condemn the violence and distance themselves from the unruly and intolerant elements of their society that threaten the security and future of their nations.”

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Din, Susan W****RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 12:29 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL  
**Cc:** USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** AFP / 'Big advance' in US consulate attack probe: Libya PM

'Big advance' in US consulate attack probe: Libya PM

Agence France-Presse

September 13, 2012

A "big advance" has been made in the probe into the deadly attack on the US consulate in Libya's second city Benghazi, Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagur told AFP in an exclusive interview on Thursday.

"We have made a big advance," Abu Shagur said in his first interview since his election as premier on Wednesday.

"We have some names and some photographs. Arrests have been made and more are under way as we speak."

The new prime minister did not elaborate on how many suspects were in custody or what groups, if any, they were connected to.

"We don't want to categorise these people until we know all the facts," he said.

Deputy Interior Minister Wanis al-Sharif was similarly reticent about going into details when he spoke to AFP earlier Thursday.

"The interior and justice ministries have begun their investigations and evidence gathering and some people have been arrested," he said.

He declined to give any details of the number of people in custody or their backgrounds "so as not to hamper the smooth running of the investigation."

Initial reports said that Ambassador Chris Stevens and the three other Americans were killed by a mob outside the consulate in Libya's second largest city on Tuesday as they tried to flee an angry protest against a US-produced movie deemed offensive to Islam.

But it is now believed Stevens died from smoke inhalation after becoming trapped in the compound when suspected Islamic militants fired on the building with rocket-propelled grenades and set it ablaze.

US officials are investigating the possibility that the assault was a plot by Al-Qaeda affiliates or sympathisers, using the protest against the film as a cover to carry out a coordinated revenge attack on Tuesday's anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

The finger of blame initially fell on hardline Sunni Islamists of the Salafist group Katibat Ansar al-Sharia (Brigade of the Supporters of Sharia).

But in a statement Thursday, the group condemned "the accusations without any verification or investigation" which had emerged against it in the Libyan media.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**Din, Susan W**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 8:03 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); USUN-Libya-DL; USUN-Media-Officers  
**Subject:** Fw: SGSM on violence in the Middle East and Libya

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**From:** UN Spokesperson - Do Not Reply [mailto:[unspokesperson-donotreply@un.org](mailto:unspokesperson-donotreply@un.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 07:55 PM  
**Subject:** SGSM on violence in the Middle East and Libya

**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General  
on violence in Libya and the Middle East**

The Secretary-General is deeply disturbed by the recent violence in Libya and elsewhere in the Middle East. Nothing justifies such killings and attacks. He condemns the hateful film that appears to have been deliberately designed to sow bigotry and bloodshed. At this time of rising tensions, the Secretary-General calls for calm and restraint, and stresses the need for dialogue, mutual respect and understanding.

New York, 12 September 2012

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**Fox News Sunday**

**Host: Chris Wallace**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. EDT, Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012**

**MR. WALLACE:** Leland Vittert reporting from Cairo -- Leland, thanks for that: Joining us now our ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice. Ambassador, welcome back to "Fox News Sunday."

**AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE:** Thank you.

**MR. WALLACE:** This week, there have been anti-American protests in two dozen countries across the Islamic world. The White House says it has nothing to do with the president's policies. Let's watch.

**WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY:** (From video.) This is not a case of protests directed at the United States writ large or at U.S. policy. This is in response to a video that is offensive.

**MR. WALLACE:** You don't really believe that?

**AMB. RICE:** Chris, absolutely I believe that. Because, in fact, it is the case. We had the evolution of the Arab spring over the last many months. But what sparked the recent violence was the airing on the Internet of a very hateful very offensive video that has offended many people around the world.

Now, our strong view is that there is no excuse for violence. It is absolutely reprehensible and never justified. But, in fact, there have been those in various parts of the world who have reacted with violence. Their governments have increasingly and effectively responded and protected our facilities and condemned the violence and this outrageous response to what is an offensive video. But there is no question that what we have seen in the past, with things like Satanic Verses, with the cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad, there have been -- such things that have sparked outrage and anger and this has been the proximate cause of what we've seen.

**MR. WALLACE:** Now, it may have sparked it, Ambassador, but critics say that this outpouring of outrage against the U.S. has everything to do with the U.S. policies, that we are disengaging from that part of the world, that we pulled out of Iraq, we are pulling out of Afghanistan, that Iran is continuing on with its nuclear program. And they say, our critics, that our allies no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us.

**AMB. RICE:** Well, Chris, that's just false. And let's be plain -- our partners and allies have responded effectively and promptly when we have asked them to protect our facilities and our people.

**MR. WALLACE:** Well, let's -- it took three days in Cairo.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**AMB. RICE:** Well -- and what happened initially in Cairo was not sufficiently robust. When President Obama picked up the phone and spoke to President Morsi, right away things changed. And that's an evidence of our influence and our impact. And what happened was that the authorities in Egypt have been very robust in protecting our facilities, not just in Cairo, but elsewhere in the country. President Morsi has issued repeated condemnations of the violent response and called for calm. And we have seen the same thing in Yemen, in Libya, in Tunisia and many other parts of the world.

**MR. WALLACE:** Then why are we asking all nongovernmental personnel to leave Sudan and Tunisia?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, first of all, we're not asking all non-governmental personnel.

**MR. WALLACE:** All non-essential governmental personnel.

**AMB. RICE:** What we have done on a selective basis, where we assess that the security conditions necessitate is to temporarily have family members and non-essential personnel depart the country. That's something we do all over the world when security circumstances warrant. It's short-term, it's temporary and it's prudent. And we do it, Chris, because we obviously prioritize. The president has been very clear his number one priority is the protection of American personnel and facilities.

**MR. WALLACE:** So do you think we're turning the corner here?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, Chris, I think, first of all, we have seen in the past outrage and unfortunately violent outrage which is condemnable and never justified. It may, indeed, occur in other circumstances. There is no predicting exactly what the trajectory of this is. Obviously, the last couple of days have been somewhat better.

But we are very vigilant and we are of the view that this is not an expression of hostility in the broadest sense towards the United States or U.S. policy. It's proximately a reaction to this video and it's a hateful video that had nothing to do with the United States and which we find disgusting and reprehensible.

**MR. WALLACE:** You talk about our influence and impact in the region. Our closest ally in the region, Israel, clearly doesn't feel that we are supporting them when it comes to confronting Iran. In fact, this past week, Prime Minister Netanyahu blasted the U.S. for its failure to set the same red lines as he has in terms of stopping Iran's nuclear program. Let's watch what the prime minister said.

**PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU:** (From video.) The world tells Israel, wait, there is still time. And I say, wait for what? Wait until when? Those in the international community who refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red light before [inaudible].

MR. WALLACE: And when Netanyahu requested a meeting, the president, said he was too busy to meet with him.

AMB. RICE: Let me address --

MR. WALLACE: Let me just ask the question, if I may.

AMB. RICE: I thought you had. I'm sorry.

MR. WALLACE: Well, no, I haven't. They'll be a question mark at the end. Is that how we treat our best friend in the region?

AMB. RICE: Well, let me answer that question in three parts. First of all, the overall relationship with Israel. As Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Barak have repeatedly said, the intelligence and security relationship between the United States and Israel at present is unprecedented. It has never been stronger. That's -- those are their words. So, that's the overall nature of our relationship, very strong -- stronger than ever.

Secondly, with respect to Iran. The United States, President Obama has been absolutely crystal clear that the United States will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon and we will do what it takes to prevent that from happening. All options remain on the table. The president has been very clear about that and that includes the military option. This is not a policy of containment, Chris. As the president has repeatedly said, it's a policy to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. That is the bottom line or if the prime minister prefers to call it, a red line. That's the bottom line.

Now, we have also said and I think we are in constant communication with Israeli security and intelligence and policy officials that we still think that there is time through economic pressure which is unprecedented as well. Iran's economy is now shrinking by 1 percent a year. Its oil production is down 40 percent. Its currency has plummeted 40 percent just in the last several months as sanctions have gone into fullest effect. We think there is still time and space for that pressure to yield a result. The bottom line, Chris, is the only way to permanently end Iran's nuclear program is if it decides to give that program up.

Now, the most solemn decision that a president can ever take is a decision to go to war. And President Obama's view is we will do what it takes it. But before we resort to the use of force, let us be sure we have exhausted other means including sanctions, pressure and diplomacy to ensure that Iran fully and finally gives up its nuclear weapons.

MR. WALLACE: Let's talk in the time we have left about the --

AMB. RICE: You asked about the visit -- I would like to address that too --

MR. WALLACE: Well, I know. We have limited time. I'm happy -- if you want to go along, I'm happy to as well.



**AMB. RICE:** I don't want to leave that hanging. That was the third point I wanted to address. As you know, the president is coming up to the General Assembly in New York at the United Nations. He'll be there in the beginning of the week, Monday and Tuesday. Prime Minister Netanyahu is coming toward the end of the week. Their schedules don't match. There is no opportunity for them to meet in New York.

**MR. WALLACE:** The prime minister would be willing I'm sure to go. And in fact there are suggestions from the Israelis to go to Washington.

**AMB. RICE:** Well, the prime minister hasn't asked for a meeting in Washington, Chris, and one was never denied.

**MR. WALLACE:** The point is clearly, if you watched what he just said, he said that countries that don't set red lines don't have the moral authority to put red lights on Israel. That doesn't sound like a happy ally, Ambassador.

**AMB. RICE:** Well, first of all, we are very close partners and friends and always will be. That is an enduring aspect of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

**MR. WALLACE:** Then why did the president call Prime Minister Netanyahu in the middle of the night and talk for an hour?

**AMB. RICE:** Precisely because they are friends, and when friends need to say something to each other, they pick up the phone and talk. And they talked for an hour. It was a good conversation and it's in the nature of our relationship that these two partners speak to one another regularly. We have no daylight between us on the issue of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. That is our clear bottom line and the president could not be any plainer about it.

**MR. WALLACE:** Let's talk about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi this week that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. The top Libyan official now says that the attack on the consulate on Tuesday was, quote, his words "preplanned". al-Qaida says the operation was revenge for our killing a top al-Qaida leader. What do we know?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, first of all, Chris, we are obviously investigating this very closely. The FBI has a lead in this investigation. The information, the best information and the best assessment we have today is that in fact this was not a preplanned, premeditated attack. That what happened initially was that it was a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired in Cairo as a consequence of the video. People gathered outside the embassy and then it grew very violent. Those with extremist ties joined the fray and came with heavy weapons, which unfortunately are quite common in post-revolutionary Libya and that then spun out of control.

But we don't see at this point signs that this was a coordinated, planned, premeditated attack. Obviously, we will wait for the results of the investigation and we don't want to jump to conclusions before then. But I do think it's important for the American people to know our best current assessment.

**MR. WALLACE:** All right. And the last question, terror cells in Benghazi had carried out five attacks since April, including one at the same consulate, a bombing at the same consulate in June. Should U.S. security have been tighter at that consulate given the history of terror activity in Benghazi?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, we obviously did have a strong security presence. And, unfortunately, two of the four Americans who died in Benghazi were there to provide security. But it obviously wasn't sufficient in the circumstances to prevent the overrun of the consulate. This is among the things that obviously will be looked at as the investigation unfolds and it's also why we have reinforced --

**MR. WALLACE:** Is there any feeling that it should have been stronger beforehand?

**AMB. RICE:** It's also why we reinforced our presence, our security presence in Tripoli in the aftermath of this, as well as in other parts of the world. I can't judge that, Chris. I'm -- we have to see what the assessment reveals. But, obviously, there was a significant security presence defending our consulate and our other facility in Benghazi and that did not prove sufficient to the moment.

**MR. WALLACE:** Ambassador Rice, we want to thank you so much for coming in today and discussing the fast-moving developments in that part of the world.

Thanks so much.

**AMB. RICE:** Thank you for having me.

**MR. WALLACE:** Up next, the head of the House Intelligence Committee, Mike Rogers, with

RELEASED IN FULL

**CNN State of the Union**

**Host: Candy Crowley**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. EDT, Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012**

**MS. CROWLEY:** Joining me is the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice.

Madam Ambassador, thank you for joining us.

**AMB. RICE:** Good to be with you, Candy.

**MS. CROWLEY:** One of the things when I spoke with the Israeli prime minister that struck me was the conviction that he has that for certain Iran is building -- on its way to building a nuclear weapon, and his sense of urgency that at this moment the U.S. needs to set what he calls a "red line" for the U.S.

Does the U.S. share the conviction that Iran is, indeed, building a nuclear weapon? And, B, what about the concept of a red line?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, Candy, the United States is in constant communication with Israel and Israeli intelligence, Israeli policy makers, the military. We're sharing our assessments every day. And our assessments, our intelligence assessments are very similar. Obviously, we share a grave concern about Iran pursuing a nuclear weapon, We are determined to prevent that from happening. President Obama has been absolutely clear, and on this there's absolutely no daylight between the United States and Israel that we will do what it takes to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

We are not at that stage yet. They do not have a nuclear weapon. Our shared intelligence assessments is that there is still considerable time and space before they will have a nuclear weapon should they make the decision to go for that. But we've been very clear. The United States is not interested and is not pursuing a policy of containment. President Obama has been very plain. We will keep all option on the table, including a military option, as necessary, to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

But, Candy, the fact is we have just seen the imposition of another layer of the toughest sanctions that have ever been imposed on a country. In this case, Iran. Their economy is beginning to buckle. Their oil production is down 40 percent. Their currency has plummeted 40 percent in the last year. Their economy is now shrinking. And this is only going to intensify.

So we think that there's still considerable time for this pressure to work. But this is not an infinite window. And we've made very clear that the president's bottom line is Iran will not have a nuclear weapon.

**MS. CROWLEY:** Let me move you to what's gone on in the Middle East in Arab countries and elsewhere. There is a New York Times story this morning that suggests that the administration thinks this is a foreshadowing of a fall that will see sustained instability. Does the administration expect to see these sorts of protests outside U.S. embassies and elsewhere throughout the fall?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

**AMB. RICE:** Well, Candy, first of all, let's recall what has happened in the last several days. There was a hateful video that was disseminated on the internet. It had nothing to do with the United States government and it's one that we find disgusting and reprehensible. It's been offensive to many, many people around the world.

That sparked violence in various parts of the world, including violence directed against western facilities including our embassies and consulates. That violence is absolutely unacceptable, it's not a response that one can ever condone when it comes to such a video. And we have been working very closely and, indeed, effectively with the governments in the region and around the world to secure our personnel, secure our embassy, condemn the violent response to this video.

And, frankly, we've seen these sorts of incidents in the past. We've seen violent responses to "Satanic Verses." We've seen violent responses to the cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in an evil way. So this is something we've seen in the past, and we expect that it's possible that these kinds of things could percolate into the future. What we're focused on is securing our personnel, securing our facilities.

**MS. CROWLEY:** Do you at this moment feel that U.S. embassies abroad are secure?

**AMB. RICE:** We are doing our utmost to secure our facilities and our personnel in various vulnerable places. We have demanded and we are receiving the cooperation of host governments. Host governments have also put out very strong messages in Libya, in Egypt, in Yemen and Tunisia condemning violence, saying that it's a completely unacceptable response to such a video. And we feel that we are now in a position doing the maximum that we can to protect our people.

**MS. CROWLEY:** Why would one not look at what is going on in the Middle East now and say that the president's outreach to Muslims, which began at the beginning of his administration in Cairo and elsewhere has not worked because, yes, this video sparked it, but there is an underlying anti-Americanism that is very evident on the streets. So why would we not look at it and think that this is this outreach has failed?

**AMB. RICE:** For the same reason, Candy, when you look back at history and we had the horrible experience of our facilities and our personnel being attacked Beirut in 1981; we had the attack on Khobar Towers in the 1990s. We had an attack on our embassy in Yemen in 2008. There have been such attacks. There have been expressions of hostility towards the west.

**MS. CROWLEY:** But this was sort of a reset, was it not? It was supposed to be a reset of U.S.-Muslim relations?

**AMB. RICE:** And indeed, in fact, there had been substantial improvements. I have been to Libya and walked the streets of Benghazi myself. And despite what we saw in that horrific incident where some mob was hijacked ultimately by a handful of extremists, the United States is extremely popular in Libya and the outpouring of sympathy and support for Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues from the government, from people is evidence of that.

The fact is, Candy, that this is a turbulent time. It's a time of dramatic change. It's a change that the United States has backed because we understand that when democracy takes root, when human rights and people's freedom of expression can be manifested, it may lead to turbulence in the short-term, but over the long-term, that is in the interest of the United States.

The mobs we've seen on the outside of these embassies are small minority. They're the ones who have largely lost in these emerging democratic processes, and just as the people of these countries are not going to allow their lives to be hijacked by a dictator, they're not going to allow an extremist mob to hijack their future and their freedom. And we're going to continue to stand with the vast majority of the populations in these countries that want freedom, that want a better future. And understand that we're with them in that long-term endeavor.

**MS. CROWLEY:** All right. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice. I got to let you go here.

**AMB. RICE:** Thank you. Thank you very much.

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**ABC "This Week with "George Stephanopoulos"**  
**Guest Host: Jake Tapper**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m. EDT, Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012**

**MR. TAPPER:** Hello again. George Stephanopoulos has the morning off. We are now in the home stretch, just 51 days until the election, and our powerhouse roundtable is standing by to get to all the week's politics.

But, first, the crisis that has the potential to shake up the presidential race, the murder of four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador in Benghazi, Libya, on Tuesday and the wave of anti-American protests and violence now sweeping the globe.

For more on what happened and why, let's bring in the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Susan Rice.

Dr. Rice, thank you for joining us.

**SUSAN RICE:** Good to be with you, Jake.

**MR. TAPPER:** So, first of all, what is the latest you can tell us on who these attackers were at the embassy or at the consulate in Benghazi? We're hearing that the Libyans have arrested people. They are saying that some people involved were from outside the country; that there might have even been al-Qaida ties?

What's the latest information?

**MS. RICE:** Well, Jake, first of all, it's important to know that there's an FBI investigation that has begun and will take some time to be completed. That will tell us with certainty what transpired.

But our current best assessment based on the information that we have at present is that, in fact, what this began as was a spontaneous, not a premeditated, response to what had transpired in Cairo. In Cairo, as you know, a few hours earlier, there was a violent protest that was undertaken in reaction to this very offensive video that was disseminated.

We believe that folks in Benghazi, a small number of people, came to the embassy to -- or to the consulate rather -- to replicate the sort of challenge that was posed in Cairo. And then, as that unfolded, it seems to have been hijacked, let us say, by some individual clusters of extremists who came with heavier weapons, weapons that, as you know, in the wake of the revolution in Libya, are quite common and accessible. And it then evolved from there.

We'll wait to see exactly what the investigation finally confirms, but that's the best information we have at present.

**MR. TAPPER:** Why was there such a security breakdown? Why was there not better security at the compound in Benghazi? Why were there not U.S. Marines at the embassy in Tripoli?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**MS. RICE:** Well, first of all, we had a substantial security presence with our --

**MR. TAPPER:** Not substantial enough though, right?

**MS. RICE:** -- with our personnel and the consulate in Benghazi. Tragically, two of the four Americans who were killed were there providing security. That was their function.

And, indeed, there were many other colleagues who were doing the same with them. It, obviously, didn't prove sufficient to the nature of the attack and sufficient in that moment.

And that's why, obviously, we have reinforced our remaining presence in Tripoli and why the president has been very clear that, in Libya and throughout the region, we are going to call on the governments, first of all, to assume their responsibilities to protect our facilities and our personnel, and we are reinforcing our facilities and our embassies where possible.

**MR. TAPPER:** But why --

**MS. RICE:** And where needed.

**MR. TAPPER:** But why would we not have Marines at the embassy in Tripoli to begin with? It would seem like this is, obviously, an unstable country. This is a region where U.S. interests have been attacked in previous months.

Why were there not Marines there to begin with?

**MS. RICE:** First of all, there are Marines in some places around the world. There are not Marines in every facility. That depends on the circumstances. That depends on the requirements.

Our presence in Tripoli, as in Benghazi, is relatively new, as you will recall. We've been back post revolution only for a matter of months.

But I visited there myself both to Tripoli and Benghazi. I was very grateful to have a strong security presence with me as part of our embassy detachment there.

So we certainly are aware that Libya is a place where there have been increasingly some violent incidents. The security personnel that the State Department thought were required were in place. And we'll see when the investigation unfolds whether -- what was -- what transpired in Benghazi might have unfolded differently in different circumstances.

But the president has been very clear the protection of American personnel and facilities is and will remain our top priority. That's why we've reinforced our presence in Tripoli and elsewhere.

**MR. TAPPER:** Look at this map, if you would. There have been protests around the world over the last several days. And President Obama pledged to repair America's relationships with the Muslim world.

Why does the U.S. seem so impotent? And why is the U.S. even less popular today in some of these Muslim and Arab countries than it was four years ago?

**MS. RICE:** Jake, we're not impotent. We're not even less popular, to challenge that assessment. I don't know on what basis you make that judgment.

But let me --

**MR. TAPPER:** It just seems that the U.S. government is powerless as this -- as this maelstrom erupts.

**MS. RICE:** It's actually the opposite. First of all, let's be clear about what transpired here. What happened this week in Cairo, in Benghazi and many other parts of the region --

**MR. TAPPER:** Tunisia, Khartoum --

**MS. RICE:** -- was a result, a direct result of a heinous and offensive video that was widely disseminated, that the U.S. government had nothing to do with, which we have made clear is reprehensible and disgusting. We have also been very clear in saying that there is no excuse for violence. There is -- we have condemned it in the strongest possible terms.

But let's look at what's happened. It's quite the opposite of being impotent. We have worked with the governments in Egypt. President Obama picked up the phone and talked to President Morsi in Egypt. And as soon as he did that, the security provided to our personnel in our embassies dramatically increased.

President Morsi --

**MR. TAPPER:** It took two days for President Morsi to say anything about it.

**MS. RICE:** President Morsi has been out repeatedly and said that he condemns this violence. He's called off -- and his people have called off any further demonstrations and have made very clear that this has to stop.

**MR. TAPPER:** Well, you bring up --

**MS. RICE:** Now, and the same, frankly, in Tunisia, in Yemen and, of course, in Libya, where the government has gone out of its way to try to step up security and express deepest remorse for what has happened.

We are quite popular in Libya, as you might expect, having been a major partner in their revolution. What transpired outside of our consulate in Benghazi was not an expression of deep-seated anti-Americanism on the part of the Libyan people. Quite the contrary. The counterdemonstrations -- the outpouring of sympathy and support for Ambassador Stevens and for the United States, the government of Libya and the people on the streets saying how pained



they are by this is much more of a reflection of sentiment towards the United States than a small handful of heavily armed mobsters.

**MR. TAPPER:** That, certainly, according to polling, is the case in Libya, not the case in Egypt. And since you brought up President Morsi, let me try to get some clarification on something.

President Obama was asked about the relationship with Egypt on Wednesday, and this is what he said.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA:** (From video.) I don't think that we would consider them an ally, but we don't consider them an enemy. They are a new government that is trying to find its way.

**MR. TAPPER:** The United States has sent billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer money to Egypt over the last few decades. And, by definition, as you know, according to the State Department, Egypt is a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

Why would President Obama say Egypt is not an ally?

**MS. RICE:** Well, first of all, the president has been very clear, and everybody understands that Egypt is a very critical partner of the United States, has long been so. That relationship remains the same. And the president wasn't signaling any change in the nature --

**MR. TAPPER:** Was he trying to nudge Morsi?

**MS. RICE:** The president wasn't signaling any change in the nature of our relationship. Obviously, the president had a conversation with President Morsi and a very productive one in which he underscored that it's, of course, the responsibility of the Egyptian government as host to protect diplomatic personnel and facilities, including our own. And we saw that President Morsi, immediately after that, took dramatic steps to improve the security of our facilities in Cairo and elsewhere and then went out and repeatedly made a number of very important and powerful statements condemning the violence and conveying the message that, however hateful such a video may be, there is absolutely no justification for violence against the United States or other Western partners.

So what we've seen is that the president has been incredibly calm, incredibly steady and incredibly measured in his approach to this set of developments. And his interventions, his leadership has ensured that, in Egypt, in Yemen, in Tunisia, in Libya and many other parts of the world, that leaders have come out and made very plain that there's no excuse for this violence. We heard Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey say the same. We heard the grand mufti in Saudi Arabia say the same; that there's no excuse for violence; that violence is to be condemned and that governments have a responsibility to protect United States personnel and facilities and those of all foreign diplomats.

**MR. TAPPER:** I know you have to go, but very quickly, was the president in that interview trying to nudge President Morsi get your act together?

**MS. RICE:** No. I think that the president communicated directly with President Morsi and had the opportunity to underscore our expectation that Egypt will do what it can to protect our facilities.

So that was conveyed very directly, and the results were immediate and quite satisfactory.

**MR. TAPPER:** Dr. Rice, thank you so much for coming here today and answering our questions.

**MS. RICE:** Good to be with you.

END

**RELEASED IN FULL****NBC "Meet The Press"****Host: David Gregory****Time: 9:00 a.m. EDT, Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012**

**MR. GREGORY:** And good morning. Relative calm this morning in the Middle East after several days of intense anti-American protest raged across many parts of the Islamic world. The word this morning that the Obama administration has ordered the evacuation of all but emergency personnel from diplomatic missions in Tunisia and Sudan, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta saying this morning the Pentagon has deployed forces to several areas in an increased effort to protect U.S. personnel and property from the potential of violent protest, the latest consequences, of course, of this troubling unrest.

Joining me now for the very latest, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice. Ambassador Rice, welcome back to "Meet the Press."

**AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE:** Thank you, good to be here.

**MR. GREGORY:** The images, as you well know, are jarring to Americans watching all of this play out this week, and we'll share the map of all of this turmoil with our viewers to show the scale of it across not just the Arab world but the entire Islamic world, and flashpoints, as well.

In Egypt, of course, the protests outside the U.S. Embassy there that Egyptian officials were slow to put down. This weekend in Pakistan, protests, as well, there. More anti-American rage, also protests against the drone strikes. In Yemen, you also had arrests and some deaths outside of our U.S. Embassy there.

How much longer can Americans expect to see these troubling images and these protests go forward?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, David, we can't predict with any certainty, but let's remember what has transpired over the last several days. This is a response to a hateful and offensive video that was widely disseminated throughout the Arab and Muslim world.

Obviously, our view is that there is absolutely no excuse for violence, and that what has happened is condemnable. But this is a spontaneous reaction to a video, and it's not dissimilar but perhaps on a slightly larger scale than what we have seen in the past with "Satanic Verses," with the cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed.

Now, the United States has made very clear, and the president has been very plain that our top priority is the protection of American personnel in our facilities and bringing to justice those who attacked our facility in Benghazi --

**MR. GREGORY:** Well, let's talk -- you talk about this as spontaneous. Can you say definitively that the attacks on our consulate in Libya that killed Ambassador Stevens and others there, security personnel -- that was spontaneous? Was it a planned attack? Was there a terrorist element to it?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**AMB. RICE:** Well, let me tell you the best information we have at present. First of all, there is an FBI investigation, which is ongoing, and we look to that investigation to give us the definitive word as to what transpired. But putting together the best information that we have available to us today -- our current assessment is that what happened in Benghazi was, in fact, initially a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired hours before in Cairo -- almost a copycat of the demonstrations against our facility in Cairo, which were prompted, of course, by the video.

What we think then transpired in Benghazi is that opportunistic extremist elements came to the consulate as this was unfolding. They came with heavy weapons, which, unfortunately, are readily available in post-revolutionary Libya, and that escalated into a much more violent episode.

Obviously, that's our best judgment now. We'll await the results of the investigation, and the president has been very clear -- we'll work with the Libyan authorities to bring those responsible to justice.

**MR. GREGORY:** Was there a failure here that this administration is responsible for, whether it's an intelligence failure, a failure to see this coming, or a failure to adequately protect U.S. embassies and installations from a spontaneous kind of reaction like this?

**AMB. RICE:** David, I don't think so. First of all, we had no actionable intelligence to suggest that any attack on our facility in Benghazi was imminent. In Cairo, we did have indications that there was the risk that the video might spark some protests, and our embassy, in fact, acted accordingly and had called upon the Egyptian authorities to reinforce our facility.

What we have seen with respect to the security response, obviously, we had security personnel in Benghazi, a significant number, and, tragically, among those four that were killed were two of our security personnel. But what happened, obviously, overwhelmed the security we had in place, which is why the president ordered additional reinforcements to Tripoli and why elsewhere in the world we have been working with governments to ensure they take up their obligations to protect us, and we've reinforced where necessary.

**MR. GREGORY:** The president, the secretary of State, have talked about a mob mentality -- that's my words not their words -- but they've talked about the tyranny of mobs operating in this part of the world. Here is the reality: If you look at foreign aid -- U.S. direct foreign aid to the two countries involved here in Libya and Egypt, this is what you see -- 200 million since 2011 to Libya, over 1 billion a year to Egypt. And yet Americans are seeing these kinds of protests and attacks on our own diplomats.

What do you say to members of Congress who are now weighing whether to suspend our aid to these countries if this is the response that America gets?

**AMB. RICE:** Well, first of all, David, let's put this in perspective. As I said, this is a response to a very offense video. It's not the first time that American facilities have come under attack in the Middle East going back to 1982 in Beirut, going back to the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia or even the attack on our embassy in 2008 in Yemen.

**MR. GREGORY:** Or Iran in 1979.

**AMB. RICE:** This has happened in the past. But -- and so I don't think that we should misunderstand what this is. The reason we provide aid in Egypt and in Libya is because it serves American interests; because --

**MR. GREGORY:** But our Americans are not being served if this is the response.

**AMB. RICE:** It serves our interests to have Egypt willing and able to maintain its peace treaty with Israel. It serves our interests for Egypt to continue to be a strong partner.

Now, let's be clear -- the government -- one President Obama called President Morsi, immediately, in Egypt, the security forces came out and had provided very significant protection -- same in Tunisia, same in Libya, same in Yemen, and all of these leaders have very forcefully conveyed their condemnation of what has transpired.

**MR. GREGORY:** But there were conflicting messages from the Morsi government. In Arabic they encouraged protests; in English they said stop the protests. This from an ally that we give over \$1 billion --

**AMB. RICE:** What has happened, in fact, is that the Egyptian government has come out and protected our facilities, our embassy is open today, things are calm, and Morsi has repeatedly been clear in his condemnation of what has occurred.

We are in these partnerships, David, over the long term. We think that despite this very bumpy path we're on and the very disturbing images we've seen, it's in the United States fundamental interests that people have the ability to choose their own governments; that these governments be democratic and free. That's in our long-term best interests. We need to reinforce that with our assistance.

**MR. GREGORY:** We are in the middle of a heated presidential campaign, there are different foreign policy visions. That's why we wanted to dedicate the hour to this today -- to really understand these different views.

Mitt Romney spoke out this week. He criticized the administration, talked about whether the United States was apologizing for some of the initial response to this. These were his comments this week:

**MITT ROMNEY (R):** (From videotape.) The administration was wrong to stand by a statement sympathizing with those who had breached our embassy in Egypt instead of condemning their actions. I think it's a -- a -- a -- terrible course to -- for America to stand in apology for our values.

**MR. GREGORY:** Our embassies did not stand up for free speech in this initial response to this violence. And the Republican charge is that it's weakness on the part of this administration that

invites this kind of chaos; that the administration has not been tough enough on radical extremists that are beginning to take root in these countries. How do you respond to that?

First of all, I think the American people and certainly our diplomats and development experts who are putting their lives on the line and around the world every day expect, from our leadership, unity in times of challenge, and strong, steady, steadfast leadership of the sort that President Obama has been providing.

With respect to this, I think, vacuous charge of weakness, let's recall -- I think the American people fully understand that this is an administration led by a president who said, when he ran for office, that he would take the fight to al-Qaida. We have decimated al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden is dead. He said we would end the war responsibly in Iraq. We have done that.

He has restored relationships around the world. I spend every day up at the United Nations where I have to interact with 192 other countries. I know how well the United States is viewed, I know that our standing is much improved, and it's translated into important support for strong American positions, for example, --

**MR. GREGORY:** Was it inappropriate for Governor Romney to level the criticism he leveled?

**AMB. RICE:** I'm not going to get into politics, David. That's not my role in this job. But I think the American people welcome and appreciate strong, steady, unified leadership -- bipartisan -- in times of challenge. And for those men and women in our diplomatic service, including those we tragically lost, they look to our leadership to be unified and responsible.

**MR. GREGORY:** Let's talk about another area where the administration is on the defensive in terms of leadership in the world, and that is the nuclear threat from Iran. Another area of tension between the United States and Israel -- in just a couple of minutes, we will show our interview with the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and our viewers will see that.

One aspect is how close Iran is getting to becoming a nuclear power. I asked him about that. I want to show you a piece of the interview and get your reaction to it.

**ISRAEL PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU:** (From videotape.) I can tell you, David, that Iran has been placed with some clear red lines on a few matters, and they've avoided crossing them. So I think that as they get closer and closer and closer to the achievement of weapons-grade material -- they're very close, they're six months away from being about 90 percent of having the rich uranium for an atom bomb -- I think that you have to place that red line before them now before it's too late.

**MR. GREGORY:** (From videotape.) As the prime minister of Israel, has Iran crossed your red line?

**PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU:** (From videotape.) Well, the way I would say it, David, is they're in the red zone. You know, they're in the last 20 yards, and you can't let them cross that

goal line. You can't let them score a touchdown because that would have unbelievable consequences, grievous consequences for the peace and security of us all of the world, really.

**MR. GREGORY:** What is President Obama's line in the sand -- the point at which he says to Iran, don't cross this with your nuclear program or there's going to be a military consequence?

**AMB. RICE:** David, the president has been very, very clear. Our bottom line, if you want to call it a red line, the president's bottom line has been that Iran will not acquire a nuclear weapon, and we will take no option off the table to ensure that it does not acquire a nuclear weapon, including a military option.

**MR. GREGORY:** The prime minister says they are acquiring.

**AMB. RICE:** But he's talking about a red zone, which is a new concept --

**MR. GREGORY:** No, he's talking about how close they are to actually becoming a nuclear power -- having the development capacity to become a nuclear power.

**AMB. RICE:** They're not there yet. They are not there yet. And our assessment is, and we share this regularly with our Israeli counterparts in the intelligence and defense community, that there is time and space for the pressure we are mounting, which is unprecedented in terms of sanctions to still yield results. This is not imminent. The window is not infinite, but let's be clear: The sanctions that are now in place reached their high point in July.

The Iranian economy is suffering. It's shrinking for the first time, negative 1 percent growth. The amount of production of Iranian oil has dropped 40 percent over the last several months. Their currency has plummeted 40 percent over the last several months. This pressure is, even to use the Iranians' own words: "crippling."

**MR. GREGORY:** But can you say that President Obama's strategy to keep Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon almost at the end of his first term is succeeding or failing?

**AMB. RICE:** David, what is clear is Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, and that Iran is more isolated than ever internationally, the economic pressure it is facing is much greater than ever. When President Obama came to office, the international community was divided about Iran, and Iran was, internally, very united. The exact opposite is the case today -- the international community is united. We just had another strong resolution out of the IAEA Board of Governors, and the internal dynamics in Iran are fracturing and the leadership is divided.

We are committed, and President Obama is committed to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. It is not a policy of containment. But, David, the most difficult and profound decision that any president has to make is a decision to go to war. And this president is committed to exhausting pressure, economic pressure and diplomacy, while there is still time, before making a decision of such consequence.

**MR. GREGORY:** Ambassador Rice, the debate continues. Thank you very much for your views this morning.

**AMB. RICE:** Thank you.



**RELEASED IN FULL**

**CBS "Face the Nation"**

**Host: Bob Schieffer**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. EDT, Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012**

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** And joining us now, Susan Rice the U.N. ambassador -- our U.N. ambassador.

Madam Ambassador, he says that this is something that's been in the planning stages for months. I understand you have been saying that you think it was spontaneous. Are we not on the same page here?

**SUSAN RICE:** Well, Bob, let me tell you what we understand to be the assessment at present. First of all, very importantly, as you discussed with the president, there is an investigation that the United States government will launch led by the FBI. That has begun and --

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** But they're not there yet.

**MS. RICE:** They're not on the ground yet, but they have already begun looking at all sorts of evidence of various sorts already available to them and to us. And they will get on the ground and continue the investigation.

So we'll want to see the results of that investigation to draw any definitive conclusions. But based on the best information we have to date, what our assessment is as of the present is, in fact, what it began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours earlier in Cairo where, of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our embassy sparked by this hateful video.

But soon after that spontaneous protest began outside of our consulate in Benghazi, we believe that it looks like extremist elements -- individuals -- joined in that -- in that effort with heavy weapons of the sort that are, unfortunately, readily now available in Libya post-revolution and that it spun from there into something much, much more violent.

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** But you do not agree with him that this was something that had been plotted out several months ago?

**MS. RICE:** We do not have information at present that leads us to conclude that this was premeditated or pre-planned.

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** Do you agree or disagree with him that al-Qaida had some part in this?

**MS. RICE:** Well, we'll have to find that out. I mean, I think it's clear that there were extremist elements that joined and escalated the violence, whether they were al-Qaida affiliates, whether they were Libyan-based extremist or al-Qaida itself, I think, is one of the things we'll have to determine.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** There seems to be demonstrations in more than 20 cities as far as we know yesterday. Is there any sense that this is leveling off?

**MS RICE:** Well, on Friday, of course -- I think that's what you're referring to -- there were a number of places around the world in which there were protests, many of them peaceful, some of them turned violent.

And our emphasis has been -- and the president has been very, very clear about this -- priority number one is the protection of American personnel and facilities. And we've been working now very constructively with host governments around the world to provide the kind of protection we need and to condemn the violence.

What happens going forward -- I think it would be unwise for any of us to predict with certainty. Clearly, the last couple of days have seen a reduction in protests and a reduction in violence. I don't want to predict though what the next days will yield.

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** The Romney campaign continues to criticize the administration. Paul Ryan was on the campaign trail yesterday saying that the Obama administration has diminished America's presence overseas and our image. A direct quote: "If we protect -- if we project weakness, they come. If we are strong, our adversaries will not test us and our allies will respond to us."

What is your response to that?

**MS. RICE:** It's twofold. First of all, Bob, I think the American people expect, in times of challenge overseas, for our leaders to be unified and to come together and to be steadfast and steady and calm and responsible. And that's certainly what President Obama has been.

With respect to what I think is a very empty and baseless charge of weakness, let's be plain. I mean, the American people know the record very well. President Obama said when he was running for president that he would refocus our efforts and attentions on al-Qaida. We've decimated al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden is gone.

He also said we would end the war in Iraq responsibly. We've done that. He has protected civilians in Libya, and Gadhafi is gone.

I serve up at United Nations, and I see every day the difference in how countries around the world view the United States. They view us as a partner. They view us as somebody they want to work with. They view President Obama as somebody they trust. Our standing in the world is much stronger.

So this charge of weakness is really quite baseless.

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** Do you think Mitt Romney spoke inappropriately when he criticized and issued a statement so early in this turmoil?

**MS. RICE:** Bob, I think you know, in my role, I'm not going to jump into politics and make those judgments. That's for the American people to decide.

**MR. SCHIEFFER:** Madam Ambassador, thank you for being with us.

**MS. RICE:** Thank you very much.

RELEASED IN PART  
B1,1.4(G),B5,1.4(D),1.4(A)

Classification Extended on : 04/10/2014 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify  
on: 09/17/2037

**From:** Ryu, Rexion Y  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2012 10:11 AM  
**To:** Oat-Judge, Siobhan C  
**Cc:** Pelofsky, Eric J; Catalano, Elisa; Graff, Corinne; Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Pelton, Erin E  
**Subject:** [Redacted] B5

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(G)  
B1  
B5

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN  
Sensitive

Printed By: Rangarajan, Taara A  
Page 2 of 2

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**RELEASED IN PART B5**

**Randall, James W**

---

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** Lillie, Katie; USUN-SER Briefing Book-DL  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Salman  
**Subject:** [Redacted]  
**Attachments:** [Redacted]

B5

Katie –

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tx, Caroline

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

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RELEASED IN PART  
B5

B5

**Randall, James W**

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 5:38 PM  
**To:** Ahmed, Salman  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 05:33 PM  
**To:** Tess, Caroline  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 05:25 PM  
**To:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Subject:** Fw: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 05:23 PM  
**To:** Tess, Caroline  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 04:57 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

Subject:

B5

Susan -

Many thanks, C



RELEASED IN PART  
B5

B5

**Randall, James W**

---

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 5:07 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E  
**Subject:** Re: [redacted]

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 05:05 PM  
**To:** Tess, Caroline  
**Subject:** Re: [redacted]

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Tess, Caroline  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 04:57 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
**Subject:** [redacted]

Susan -

[redacted]

Many thanks, C

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

[Redacted] B5

B5

Ran

From: Tess, Caroline  
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 4:34 PM  
To: Rice, Susan E  
Cc: Ahmed, Salman  
Subject: [Redacted]  
Attachments: ATT48730.docx; ATT50447.docx

Susan --

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tx, Caroline

----- Original Message -----

From: Tess, Caroline  
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 04:11 PM  
To: Pelton, Erin; Rice, [Redacted] (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Ahmed, Salman (USUN)  
Subject: [Redacted]

Susan --

Here is a revised version of the letter.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

C

----- Original Message -----

From: Pelton, Erin  
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 03:58 PM  
To: Rice, [Redacted] Ryu, Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Tess, Caroline  
Subject: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Erin

RELEASED IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

From NBC's *Meet the Press*,

"Well let us -- let me tell you the best information we have at present. First of all, there's an FBI investigation which is ongoing and we look to that investigation to give us the definitive word as to what transpired. But putting together the best information that we have available to us today, our current assessment is that what happened in Benghazi was, in fact, initially a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired hours before in Cairo; almost a copycat of -- of the demonstrations against our facility in Cairo, which were prompted, of course, by the video.

What we think then transpired in Benghazi is that opportunistic extremist elements came to the consulate as this was unfolding. They came with heavy weapons, which unfortunately, are readily available in post-revolutionary Libya. And it escalated into a much more violent episode.

Obviously, that's -- that's our best judgment now. We'll await the results of the investigation and the President has been very clear. We'll work with the Libyan authorities to bring those responsible to justice."

From Fox News,

'Well, Chris, I think, first of all, we have seen in the past outrage and unfortunately violent outrage which is condemnable and never justified. It may, indeed, occur in other circumstances. There is no predicting exactly what the trajectory of this is. Obviously, the last couple of days have been somewhat better. But we are vigilant and we are of the view that is not an expression of hostility in the broadest sense towards the United States or U.S. policy. It's approximately a reaction to this video and it's a hateful video that had nothing to do with the United States and which we find disgusting and reprehensible.'