



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 13, 2017

Case No. F-2016-11026

Segment: PA-0001:

Mr. William F. Marshall  
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Marshall:

In response to your request dated August 22, 2016, under of the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Department has retrieved 38 documents responsive to your request. After reviewing these documents, we have determined that 12 may be released in full, 21 may be released in part, and 5 must be withheld in full.

All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on the document. The documents withheld in their entireties were withheld under FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5). An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. All released material is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Trial Attorney Deepthy Kishore at (202)616-8470 or [deepthy.c.kishore@usdoj.gov](mailto:deepthy.c.kishore@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case number, F-2016-11026, and the civil action number, 16-cv-02027, in all correspondence regarding this case.

Sincerely,

*Susan O. Weimer for*

Eric F. Stein, Acting Director  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated

### 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



**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

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**From:** (U) Schaub, Daniel D **RELEASE IN FULL**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Stevenson, Susan N; Whelan, Moira; Starr, Katherine L; Perry, Monica D; Jackson, Jeff; Brown, Cynthia A  
**Cc:** Wang, Mimi; Dewey, James B; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Meeting this morning on updating the FAM  
**Attachments:** 01\_fam\_current.docx; 02\_fam\_revised\_clean.docx; 03\_fam\_revised\_markup.docx

Good morning.

Over the past week, FAM sections relevant to this effort were identified and updated versions drafted. Please note that the updates to be discussed this morning are still early drafts.

For your convenience, attached are three versions of the FAM sections identified below for our discussion this morning: *(Paper copies will be provided during the meeting.)*

1. **Current**
2. **Revised** (with mark-up)
3. **Revised** (clean/all updates accepted)

The purpose for the meeting this morning is to: 1) review the proposed updates and 2) discuss next steps.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dan

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**From:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 6:32 PM  
**To:** Whelan, Moira; Starr, Katherine L; Perry, Monica D; Jackson, Jeff; Brown, Cynthia A  
**Cc:** Wang, Mimi; Dewey, James B; (U) Schaub, Daniel D; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Meeting next week on updating the FAM

Colleagues,

By now, you have received an invitation from Dan Schaub to a meeting next Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM, to discuss updates to the FAM regarding PA activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

As A/S Kirby outlined in his June 2 message to the Bureau (attached), we need to update the FAM to help institutionalize the policy that "video and transcripts from daily press briefings will be immediately and permanently uploaded in their entirety on publicly accessible platforms." We also need to ensure the FAM accurately reflects PA's structure, as we noticed the OVS and ODE reorganization and new PA Bureau org charts are not reflected.

**NEXT STEPS:**

I have asked James Dewey, Mimi Wang, and Dan Schaub to take the first crack at revising the relevant FAM sections. Prior to the meeting, they will send you a copy of proposed edits for your review and background.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to participate in this process.

Susan

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**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 12:13 PM  
**To:** Kirby, John  
**Subject:** KIRBY: Politico: For Fox News reporter James Rosen, a new administration is a clean slate.

**RELEASE IN FULL**


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**From:** PA Press Clips <PAPressMediaMonitors@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** PA Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Politico: For Fox News reporter James Rosen, a new administration is a clean slate.

By HADAS GOLD 06/10/16  
 For Fox News reporter James Rosen, a new administration is a clean slate.

The correspondent, who has been on the front lines of the current administration's clampdown on leaks, said in an interview that despite what Donald Trump has said about reporters and libel laws, and despite Hillary Clinton's at times contentious, arms-length relationship with the press, he'll go into the next administration fresh.

"In such matters I'm inclined to follow the example of the late Herblock, the Pulitzer-Prize winning cartoonist for The Washington Post who had maintained over a very long period of time a special animus for Nixon," Rosen said. "But upon Nixon's inauguration, he drew a panel that featured a barber pole and in essence, he said where I've always drawn Nixon with a 5 o'clock shadow, he's got a clean slate from here."

That doesn't mean that Rosen doesn't recognize both Clinton and Trump may prove to be less than amenable to a hungry press corps following their every move as president.

"I think both Trump and Clinton have been on the national stage for a very long time and along the way accrued a lot of grudges against different members and institutions of the news media. So it's not terribly surprising that they come to the current cycle with a jaundiced view of the fourth estate," Rosen said. "But I can't let those kinds of views affect how I go about my job with respect to either one of them."

Rosen, whom the Justice Department collected information on and sought e-mails from by labeling him as a "co-conspirator" with "potential criminal liability" for soliciting classified information with a source in the State Department, found himself in a new situation with the government last month. The State Department acknowledged that part of a video of Rosen asking a question about diplomatic negotiations with Iran in 2013 was purposely deleted, though the full transcript remained available on the State Department site and the video was available elsewhere (including on POLITICO's website). The State Department's admission led to House Republicans launching an investigation last week and a torrent of questions from the State Department press corps, whom Rosen said "engendered a ferocious response and an appropriate one on social media and among the public."

State Department spokesperson Admiral John Kirby thanked Rosen for flagging the deletion and Rosen praised Kirby for handling the situation "diligently," though Kirby said he still doesn't know who ordered the deletion, a fact Rosen finds suspect.

"When the Department of State and Justice in the first Obama term investigated me, the authorities had access to all the electronic data they seemed to need. It surprises me to hear that somehow something as simple where a given

phone call from one part of the Department of State to another would be outside the technological means of the federal government to ascertain," Rosen said.

But while Rosen seems more or less satisfied with how Kirby handled the situation, he was less charitable with former State Department spokeswoman and current White House communications director Jen Psaki, with whom he said he had previously had a good relationship.

Psaki, who said she had no knowledge of who deleted the video of her, had an email exchange with Rosen which he described as "vitriolic."

"I understand it is inconvenient for you that I have nothing to do with this given you have spent the last three weeks vilifying me on television without any evidence of my knowledge or involvement and without once reaching out and asking me, but I would encourage you to also ask the State Department if there is any evidence," Psaki wrote. "A shred or any information at all that suggests I had any knowledge of this or any connection to this on any level. Hopefully you will find the time to spend on the range of global events happening in the world in between attacking my character."

Rosen acknowledged an "animus" toward Fox News from the administration but said he never suspected Psaki of doing anything wrong and never claimed she did. Psaki told the Washington Post she felt Fox News failed to provide important context when reporting on the missing video, making her seem guilty by association by replaying video of her talking over and over again.

The difference in responses between Kirby and Psaki is "striking," Rosen said.

"In general you don't see this kind of massive disconnect between a White House and one of their key agency spokesmen — let alone on the same day," he said.

The White House declined to comment.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2016/06/james-rosen-224180#ixzz4BC3henPY>  
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## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW OF DECEMBER 2, 2013 DAILY PRESS BRIEFING VIDEO FOOTAGE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY**

The Department of State publishes written transcripts and videos of its daily press briefings. Transcripts are made available on state.gov, and videos are made available through multiple distribution channels and locations, including state.gov, YouTube, and an online repository called the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS). In May 2016, the Department became aware that approximately nine minutes of footage concerning Iran were missing from the state.gov and YouTube versions of the daily press briefing video from December 2, 2013. A momentary white flash had been inserted in its place. The full transcript of the briefing had always been available on state.gov, and the complete video had always been available on DVIDS.

The Department conducted factfinding to determine what occurred, and in particular to determine if content was removed from selected parts of the public record in an effort to obscure it. The Department spoke with over 30 individuals and reviewed numerous email accounts to identify potentially relevant information. The Department has briefed the Office of Inspector General on its review and findings.

After extensive interviews and document review, the facts surrounding this matter remain partially unclear and the Department is unable to draw definitive conclusions. Nevertheless, the Department can conclude that the YouTube and state.gov versions of the December 2, 2013, daily press briefing video likely were deliberately edited: the white flash is evidence of deliberate editing and a video technician recalls making the edit. However, the Department has not found any evidence to support a conclusion that the video was edited to hide any content. Because the content reflects an exchange that took place in front of the State Department press corps and was reported on almost immediately by the press, any attempt to obscure the content would have been futile. The uninterrupted availability of the full record transcript and DVIDS video also suggests that the YouTube and state.gov versions of the video were not edited in an effort to hide information. The Department cannot rule out the possibility that the white flash was inserted into the YouTube and state.gov versions of the video in place of technically corrupted footage in those versions.

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Prior to the Department's review of this matter, the Department lacked a policy to prohibit making edits to press briefing footage to obscure content. In June 2016, the Bureau of Public Affairs adopted a policy that makes clear that content-driven editing of the daily press briefing video is not condoned or permitted, absent exceptional circumstances—even if that may not be what occurred here.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

On May 9, 2016, a reporter informed the Department that footage was missing from the Department's daily press briefing video from December 2, 2013. The footage concerned Iran. Reporters questioned whether the footage had been removed to hide it.

The Bureau of Public Affairs (PA) looked into the matter and confirmed that approximately nine minutes of footage were missing from the versions of the briefing video posted on YouTube and on state.gov. See Tab 1 for a transcript of the missing footage.<sup>1</sup> PA also determined that the entire briefing video was available on another public video repository, the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS), which is the Department's normal repository for broadcast-quality videos of daily press briefings. PA also determined that the entire official transcript of the briefing was available on state.gov. PA immediately replaced the shortened version of the video on state.gov with the full-length video, and added an annotation to the YouTube video that provided a link to the full-length version on state.gov.

On May 11, a technician in PA's Office of Digital Engagement reported a recollection of making an edit to a video of that daily press briefing in response to a request over the phone from elsewhere in PA. The technician could not, however, remember who made the request.

Soon thereafter, the Department conducted a preliminary inquiry to see if there had been any wrongdoing, including by interviewing the technician and reviewing relevant law, regulations, and directives. The preliminary inquiry concluded that no rules had been broken in posting the edited video. Moreover, as noted above, the DVIDS video and the full written transcript was always publicly available.

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<sup>1</sup> The media have focused on the omission of one exchange between the Spokesperson and a Fox News reporter concerning past statements about negotiations with Iran. However, that exchange is not the only content missing from the video: the nine-minute gap covered several exchanges, not exclusively with Fox News. See Tab 1. Further, the exchanges were on various aspects of the nuclear deal with Iran, many of which (including meetings in Oman that led up to the negotiations) had been briefed previously.

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Nevertheless, the Department determined that deliberate, content-driven edits to daily press videos generally should be prohibited in the future. On June 1, Assistant Secretary Kirby announced a policy, formally circulated to the PA bureau via email on June 2, that "all video and transcripts from daily press briefings will be immediately and permanently uploaded in their entirety on publicly accessible platforms", and that "[i]n the unlikely event that narrow, compelling circumstances require edits to be made, such as the inadvertent release of privacy-protected or classified national security information, they will only be made with the express permission of the Assistant Secretary...and with an appropriate level of annotation and disclosure." See Tab 2.

At the request of the Secretary, the Department subsequently conducted a broader review of the matter, which is summarized in this report.

### III. FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Following are the key findings and conclusions of the Department's review of this matter. In addition, based on interviews and the documentary record, the Department has prepared a rough chronology of likely events surrounding the creation, processing, and distribution of the video. See Tab 3 for an approximate timeline.

Full Record Transcript and Full Video Always Available. The full record transcript and full video of the December 2, 2013, daily press briefing were always available to the public. In addition, the exchange at the press briefing took place before the press corps and was reported on almost immediately.<sup>2</sup> The written transcript of a daily press briefing is reflected in the applicable Department records disposition schedule as the permanent record of the briefing. As described above, until June 2016, the Department did not have a rule or policy prohibiting the editing of daily press briefing videos for content. A policy is now in place that will govern this issue going forward. See Tab 2. In addition, the Department will work with the National Archives and Records Administration to determine whether any changes to the current records disposition schedules should be made.

Evidence that the Video Was Missing the Footage in Question Soon After the Briefing. Emails suggest that the video likely was already missing the footage in question approximately 18 minutes after the daily press briefing's conclusion on

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<sup>2</sup> See Tab 4 for an example of contemporary press reporting on the exchange.

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December 2, 2013. At that time, the briefing's assigned editor for web distribution internally uploaded for onward processing a version of the briefing that was already almost exactly the length of the shortened version that would eventually be posted to state.gov and YouTube. Therefore, it seems likely that the version of the video uploaded internally by the editor at that time was the same as the version that appeared on state.gov and YouTube.<sup>3</sup> The assigned editor had no record or recollection of removing footage of questions and answers from the video, or of anything unusual happening that day.

Evidence of Purposeful Editing. A technician from PA recalled having received a request to edit the video over the phone from a female caller from elsewhere in PA who could credibly assert that an edit should be made. Given the passage of time, the technician's memory was imperfect. The technician did not recall the identity of the caller and the Department has been unable to ascertain it independently through interviews or document review. The technician believed that the call likely came late in the day, well after the briefing would have ended. The technician did not believe the call had come from the Spokesperson. The technician did not recall a reason being given for the edit request, but did believe that the requester had mentioned in the course of the call a Fox network reporter and Iran.<sup>4</sup> The technician indicated that the requester may also have provided the start and end times for an edit, though the technician also recalls consulting the written transcript to locate the exchange. Although the technician recalled seeking approval from a supervisor, when interviewed the supervisor did not recall that exchange or anything else about the video. The technician also recalled adding a white flash in order to make clear that footage had been removed. However, that technician does not usually engage in any editing, and is usually not involved in the daily press briefing video processing until several steps into the process of preparing the video for web distribution. It is difficult to reconcile the recollection of the video technician with information suggesting that the video was at a shorter total run time minutes after the briefing ended.

Evidence Inconsistent With Content-Driven Edit. The manner in which the video appeared on state.gov and YouTube was inconsistent with an effort to hide the edit. The fact that footage was missing on those sites was clear from the presence of a white flash and the choppy nature of the cut. Ordinarily, when a glitch corrupts a

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<sup>3</sup> Because of limitations on storage space, no intermediate versions of the video remained in 2016, so the Department was not able to compare versions to confirm this.

<sup>4</sup> As shown in Tab 1, the missing footage included but was not limited to exchanges with a Fox News reporter on Iran.

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portion of a question-and-answer (which does happen on occasion), the assigned editor edits the entire question-and-answer out of the video as seamlessly as possible. (The Department will review whether some form of marker or notice would be appropriate in such instances.) However, the cut in the December 2, 2013, video was not seamless; it begins in the middle of an answer, and ends in the middle of a sentence. It is possible that the December 2, 2013, video contained a glitch that wasn't noticed until after the video left the assigned editor. There were various technical problems occurring with the video production system during this period, including unpredictable electric voltage dips affecting the studio master control room's servers. However, the Department found no information indicating that such a problem occurred on December 2, 2013.

In addition, it does not appear that the exchanges in question raised policy concerns within the Department. The exchanges were on various aspects of the nuclear deal with Iran, many of which (including meetings in Oman that led up to the negotiations) had been briefed previously, and interviewees familiar with briefing the press did not find the exchange with Fox News to be more notable than many others that occur in daily press briefings. Further, interviews and at least one email suggest that the spokesperson was generally seen to have done an effective job in answering the relevant reporter's questions.

Finally, the Department did not find evidence that editing press briefing videos for content is or was a common practice. Although the Department has not conducted a review of other videos, no interviewee was aware of any other videos of daily press briefings that might have been edited for the purpose of removing content.

Possible Conclusions. Despite 34 interviews and follow-ups, email reviews, and cross-checks of those records still available from the editing and processing of the press briefing video in question, the Department's factfinding has not revealed who may have requested an edit or why the request may have been made.

The context of the incident is also relevant. The videos of the daily press briefing contained information that had already been disclosed, through the briefing itself, to the domestic and international press. In addition, the edit was reflected in versions uploaded to YouTube and state.gov, but not the DVIDS version (which is frequently accessed for broadcast-quality footage) or the written transcript. Further, it is possible that the domestic press pool made its own video of the daily press briefing, as this appears to have already been common at the time.

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Taking into account all of the evidence, the following explanations cannot be ruled out.

- If an effort was made—however clumsy and ineffective—to scrub the public record of an already-public exchange with the press, no documentary evidence or memory of such an effort remains. If such an effort was undertaken, it was not comprehensive (in light of the unedited transcript and DVIDS video) and it was undertaken through a technician who would not normally be involved in the video editing process.
- Alternatively, a glitch in the December 2, 2013, briefing video may have resulted in the corruption of nine minutes from the YouTube and state.gov versions of the press briefing videos. The glitch was identified late in the day and the video technician was asked to address it since the normal editing team was gone for the day. Because the technician was not a normal editor, and in an effort to be transparent about the missing footage, the technician added a white flash to the video.

**IV. FACTFINDING PROCESS**

In reviewing this matter, the Department interviewed 34 individuals and conducted email searches. Nine of these individuals were senior officials in relevant positions from the relevant time period, including the then Department Spokesperson and Deputy Spokesperson, and numerous others within the PA bureau. Fifteen of the interviewees were in positions in which they might have known who requested an edit or might have been in a position to relay a request for an edit from someone with the perceived authority. The final 10 individuals (including the technician who recalled making the edit) were involved in or familiar with the video production and editing processes in the Department as of December 2013, and might have been involved with the particular video in question or could explain those processes in greater detail. Individuals in this category also provided available records from programs and tools involved in the video production process.

In addition to being asked for any relevant emails on the subject matter, individuals were asked to review emails sent or received for the time period December 2-6, 2013 (the work week of the press briefing in question), and from May 9, 2016 (the

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date on which the story broke) to the day of the email search.<sup>5</sup> Individuals were instructed not to delete any relevant email.<sup>6</sup> The Department does not have records of phone calls made to the video technician that day.

The Department met with staff from the Office of Inspector General twice during the course of the factfinding to brief them on process and findings.

Attachments:

- Tab 1 – Excerpt of December 2, 2013 Daily Press Briefing Transcript
- Tab 2 – June 2, 2016 Email from Assistant Secretary Kirby
- Tab 3 – Approximate Timeline of December 2, 2013, Daily Press Briefing Video
- Tab 4 – Example of contemporary press coverage of the relevant exchange

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<sup>5</sup> It appears that the version of the video missing the footage was likely created on the day of the briefing – Monday, December 2, 2013. In any case, the shortened video had been made public on both YouTube and state.gov by Wednesday, December 4. Nevertheless, emails were reviewed for the entire week in question, just in case there were any after-the-fact acknowledgments or discussions of an edit. The recent emails (May 9, 2016 to the date of the search) were reviewed in case the recent attention to the issue prompted emailed recollections of an edit.

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that emails were reviewed as a matter of due diligence in the factfinding, not because there was any indication of the existence of email communications that would lead to the identity of an individual who requested an edit or other explanation. Indeed, no email or documentary evidence was discovered that described making the edit.

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL - 7 2016

The Honorable  
Jason Chaffetz, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

RELEASE IN FULL

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On June 9, 2016, we provided the Committee with an interim response to your June 2, 2016, letter concerning the video of the Department's December 2, 2013, daily press briefing. We write to provide you with a further interim update.

As described to your staff, the Department's internal review is ongoing. We expect to provide a summary of our findings soon. To date, the Department has not identified who, if anyone, made a request to edit a portion of the video of the briefing. As you know, the exchange itself occurred in public, in front of the domestic and international press corps, and a copy of the full record transcript and video have been available to the public at all times.

We have searched for documents pursuant to your request. We expect that we will be able to provide documentation showing the approximate timing that the edit in question likely took place (Request 2). Currently we are not aware of any documents from the period in question that refer or relate to the reason for the edit (Request 3). With respect to Request 4, the Department intends to convey a summary of its findings to you in the near future.

Currently, we are not aware of any documents reflecting any requests to delete portions of daily press briefing videos based on their substantive content since January 1, 2012, to include December 2, 2013 (Request 5). Finally, we remain willing to work with you on your request for more information about the individual referenced in your first request, whose job title is "Audio/Video Production Specialist." However, as discussed with your staff, we request an opportunity to present our findings to you to further inform your consideration of this request.

Please let us know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

**Ghaffari, Kuros**

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**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 5:14 PM  
**To:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** POs: Report: Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video footage from the Daily Press Briefing  
**Attachments:** Department of State Review of December 2, 2013 Daily Press Briefing Vide....pdf

RELEASE IN FULL

The following may be provided if asked by any chasers.  
Please include the email text below.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Kirby, John  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 5:12 PM  
**Subject:** Report: Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video footage from the Daily Press Briefing

Colleagues: As discussed at today's briefing, please find attached the report of the Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video edit from that day's Daily Press Briefing.

This report is provided to you as part of our commitment to transparency on this issue. It is not being provided to you for the purpose of your publishing it on your own, and I would ask you to respect that. As I said at today's briefing, it presents the facts as we have been able to determine them, and we are committed to learn from them.

Kirby

John Kirby  
Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson



Jen Psaki  
Spokesperson  
Daily Press Briefing  
Washington, DC  
December 2, 2013

RELEASE IN FULL

BEST COPY  
AVAILABLE

**TRANSCRIPT:**

1:54 p.m. EST

... [roughly minute 27]

**QUESTION:** Can I go back to the Iranians and taking part in Geneva? I mean, I think over the last week or so, when there's been, like, various bouts of violence in Syria, that the Iranian Government has said that there needs to be a political solution to the situation in Syria. So don't you think that Iran is making more positive comments? I mean, I don't think the Russians have gone far beyond saying that there needs to be a political solution. They haven't said anything about President Assad leaving (inaudible).

**MS. PSAKI:** Well, the whole premise – I mean the whole goal is to create a transitional governing body. That's the goal of a Geneva conference. So, certainly, they haven't embraced that as the focus of the Geneva communique, and --

**QUESTION:** Well, even though the Russians have agreed to a political transition, your definition of a transition is far different from the – than the Russians' definition of a transition. So if the Iranians were to say, like, okay, we accept a political transition, I mean, does that really mean that they --

**MS. PSAKI:** It's not just about a political transition. It's about embracing the Geneva communique, which they have not done. If they do that, we will evaluate whether or not we'd support their – an invitation to them to attend the conference.

**QUESTION:** Zarif also told us that his country is not interested in aggravating any sectarian tensions between Shiite and Sunni, between Alawite and other major Islamic communities: that they're trying to, in their efforts, promote more harmony, more peace. Does that add any – does that change the complexion at all, particularly in Syria?

**MS. PSAKI:** I don't want to speak too specifically to an interview I haven't yet seen yet, and neither has anyone on our team. Broadly speaking, obviously we took a significant step forward with the first-step agreement on their nuclear program, but there are remaining concerns that we have, as you all are familiar with, whether it's their involvement in support of the regime in Syria or humanitarian issues, and so that has not changed that. I can take a closer look once we see the transcript of the interview and see if we have more comments on Foreign Minister Zarif's comments.

**QUESTION:** You're saying your team does not watch Al Jazeera?

MS. PSAKI: Well, that is not true, we do. However, I believe there's only been a very short clip that has played of this interview that I'm sure will get lots of attention once it all plays.

QUESTION: Beyond the interview, he's freely reaching out. He visited Kuwait. He's reaching out to the other Gulf countries. He wants to visit Saudi Arabia. I mean, there is an effort underway to alleviate their fears and actually encourage them towards participating in Geneva. It to make it a success. You must have some sort of a reading of this effort.

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any particular reading of it for you, Said. Our position, I think, has been pretty clear on whether or not they attend the Geneva conference.

QUESTION: I have another really quick logistics thing. On the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, that's Wendy Sherman and that -- it's the same iteration?

MS. PSAKI: It is that level. Exactly, yes. Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Is that new or was that announced last week or something --

MS. PSAKI: I believe we talked about it last week as being the next meeting.

QUESTION: On China -- (inaudible).

QUESTION: Please, Jen, can we stay on Iran, please?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Let's stay on Iran and then we can go to China.

QUESTION: On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February in this room, I had a very brief exchange with your predecessor, Victoria Nuland --

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: -- about Iran. And with your indulgence, I will read it in its entirety for the purpose of the record and so you can respond to it.

*"Rosen: There have been reports that intermittently, and outside of the formal P5+1 mechanisms, the Obama Administration, or members of it, have conducted direct, secret bilateral talks with Iran. Is that true or false?"*

*"Nuland: We have made clear, as the Vice President did at Munich, that in the context of the larger P5+1 framework, we would be prepared to talk to Iran bilaterally. But with regard to the kind of thing that you're talking about on a government-to-government level, no."*

That's the entirety of the exchange.

As we now know, senior state department officials had, in fact, been conducting direct, secret bilateral talks with senior officials of the Iranian Government in Oman, perhaps dating back to 2011 by that point.



So the question today is a simple one: When the briefer was asked about those talks and flatly denied them from the podium, that was untrue, correct?

MS. PSAKI: I mean, James, I -- that -- you're talking about a February briefing, so 10 months ago. I don't think we've outlined or confirmed contacts or specifics beyond a March meeting. I'm not going to confirm others beyond that at this point. So I don't know that I have any more for you.

QUESTION: Do you stand by the accuracy of what Ms. Nuland told me, that there had been no government-to-government contacts, no secret direct bilateral talks with Iran as of the date of that briefing, February 6<sup>th</sup>? Do you stand by the accuracy of that?

MS. PSAKI: James, I have no new information for you today on the timing of when there were any discussions with any Iranian officials.

QUESTION: Let me try it one last way, Jen --

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

QUESTION: -- and I appreciate your indulgence.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Is it the policy of the State Department, where the preservation of the secrecy of secret negotiations is concerned, to lie in order to achieve that goal?

MS. PSAKI: James, I think there are times where diplomacy needs privacy in order to progress. This is a good example of that. Obviously, we have made clear and laid out a number of details in recent weeks about discussions and about a bilateral channel that fed into the P5+1 negotiations, and we've answered questions on it, we've confirmed details. We're happy to continue to do that, but clearly, this was an important component leading up to the agreement that was reached a week ago.

QUESTION: Since you, standing at that podium last week, did confirm that there were such talks, at least as far back as March of this year, I don't see what would prohibit you from addressing directly this question: Were there secret direct bilateral talks between the United States and Iranian officials in 2011?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have anything more for you today. We've long had ways to speak with the Iranians through a range of channels, some of which you talked -- you mentioned, but I don't have any other specifics for you today.

QUESTION: One more on Iran?

QUESTION: *The Los Angeles Times* and *Politico* have reported that those talks were held as far back as 2011. Were those reports inaccurate?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not sure which reports you're talking about. Are you talking about visits that the Secretary and others made to Oman, or are you talking about other reports?

**QUESTION:** I'm talking about U.S. officials meeting directly and secretly with Iranian officials in Oman as far back as 2011. The Los Angeles Times and Politico have reported those meetings. Were those reports inaccurate?

**MS. PSAKI:** I have nothing more for you on it, James, today.

**QUESTION:** One more on Iran?

**MS. PSAKI:** On Iran? Let's just finish Iran and then we can go to China. Go ahead, Roz.

**QUESTION:** One of -- one more on Iran. Foreign Minister Zarif said, directly contradicting the Obama Administration's contention that sanctions worked, he told our interviewer that when the sanctions were first imposed, Iran had 200 working centrifuges. Today, they have more than 19,000. What is this building's reaction to his comment that sanctions did not work and did not bring Iran to the negotiating table?

**MS. PSAKI:** Well, again, I would like to look more closely at the context of the comments. But, just as a reminder, President Rouhani and others have talked about how the impact -- how growing the economy and putting an end -- doing -- bringing an end to the sanctions is something that was a priority for them in order to help the economy and the Iranian people. There's no question, if you look just at the facts of the impact of oil revenues, the impact on their economic growth was large that there was a huge impact of -- that there -- the sanctions had an enormous impact, and that that was a driving factor in bringing the Iranians back to the negotiating table.

In terms of progress made on their efforts to develop a nuclear weapon, whether through centrifuges or at their various facilities, that to me sounds like a separate question. Obviously, there was concern about steps they were taking and progress they were making, which was why it was so important to come to an acceptable agreement that would halt and roll back the progress of their program.

**QUESTION:** Just to follow up on that, though --

**MS. PSAKI:** Min-hun.

**QUESTION:** -- Secretary Kerry, when he did his round robin of interviews after the announcement of the deal in Geneva, more than once stated that when Iran had reached out to the Bush-Cheney Administration in 2003, Iran was only in possession of 164 centrifuges. Now, he would go on to say, they have 19,000, and this therefore represents the best possible deal that could be secured.

Isn't it a fact that since the Obama-Biden Administration took office, 70 percent of Iran's centrifuges have been installed?

**MS. PSAKI:** Well, I'd have to look at the statistics, James, but we have not questioned the fact that Iran has made progress on enrichment and on developing a nuclear weapon. We have not questioned that. That's one of the reasons why we stepped up sanctions over the past couple of years. The President and Secretary Kerry were big proponents of that. We worked with the international community to do just that to put that necessary pressure in place.

The point I was trying to make to Roz is that -- what she's asking sounds to me like two separate questions, so that was --



QUESTION: Right, I'm pursuing the separate one part that she carved out, and that is to say -- and if this is untrue, I'd be grateful to be disabused of the notion -- but the great bulk of Iran's progress in the development of its enrichment program has taken place under President Obama's watch, correct?

MS. PSAKI: I'd have to check on the specific numbers. The --

QUESTION: You're not prepared to dispute that statement, as --

MS. PSAKI: Well, James, I think what we're focused on at this point is the fact that we're now at a point where we are halting and rolling back the progress of their program and we're working towards a comprehensive agreement to bring an end to it. I can't speculate for you what would happen without -- what would have happened without sanctions. I would venture to guess --

QUESTION: (Inaudible) sanctions.

MS. PSAKI: But they were being paired together, so that's why I'm bringing it into the conversation.

QUESTION: But the context of the question was exactly: "The Obama Administration says we showed up because our economy is falling apart. I'm here to tell you that's not the case. We have our own reasons for coming."

MS. PSAKI: Well, we will take a close look at his comments and we'll have more to say about them once we do.

QUESTION: Can I just go back to the Geneva meeting and --

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

(The briefing was concluded at 3:18 p.m.)

DPB # 196

RELEASE IN FULL

---

**From:** Kirby, John <kirbyj@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 7:45 PM  
**To:** PA - All PA Bureau Users-DL  
**Subject:** Editing policy

Colleagues,

As you know, we learned that on at least one occasion this bureau edited a portion of the video of a daily press briefing before posting it to our YouTube channel and the Department's website.

Upon learning of this, I immediately directed the video to be restored in its entirety with the full and complete copy that exists -- and had existed since the day of the briefing -- on the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System website. I also verified that the full transcript of the briefing, which we also posted on the Department website, was intact and had been so since the date of the briefing.

To my surprise, PA did not have in place any rules governing this type of action. Now we do.

All video and transcripts from daily press briefings will be immediately and permanently uploaded in their entirety on publicly accessible platforms. In the unlikely event that narrow, compelling circumstances require edits to be made, such as the inadvertent release of privacy-protected or classified national security information, they will only be made with the express permission of the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and with an appropriate level of annotation and disclosure.

This new policy took effect yesterday. And I have tasked Susan Stevenson to lead an effort to create new language for the Foreign Affairs Manual to institutionalize this approach.

I know you share my commitment to transparency, disclosure and accountability. While the actions taken in relation to the editing of this video broke no protocol -- since none existed -- they clearly were not the appropriate steps to take.

I ask for your help going forward in ensuring that the content of any video or transcript from daily press briefings is not edited or altered in any way without my specific permission.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. We're a great team with a great mission.

K

Sent from my iPad



RELEASE IN FULL

Approximate Timeline of December 2, 2013, Daily Press Briefing Video

2013

December 2	1:54 pm	Press Briefing begins.
	3:18 pm	Press Briefing ends.
	3:21 pm	Live feed of Press Briefing ends.
	3:21 pm	DVIDS has the briefing feed and the video is posted. Total run time recorded as 1:21:58.
	3:36 pm	Office of Broadcast Services has cut the beginning and end, and uploads the video to an internal PA server. The total run time is recorded as 1:13:02. That is almost exactly the run time of the video that is later posted to state.gov and YouTube on December 3-4 (missing approximately 9 minutes of briefing).
	4:26 pm	Notification goes out to DVIDS subscribers that the DVIDS video of the Press Briefing is available.
	4:52 pm	Video has finished encoding/compression on internal PA server and is ready to be uploaded to the video hosting tool for state.gov.
	6:26 pm	Video has been uploaded to the video hosting tool, but is still processing. Not yet public.
	7:36 pm <sup>1</sup>	Video public on state.gov.
December 3	1:38 pm	Video uploaded to YouTube. The total run time is recorded as 1:13:07. Not yet public.
December 4	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	Video public on YouTube.

2016

May 9	5:10 pm	Fox News' James Rosen emails Department officials asking if the December 2, 2013 Press Briefing video had been edited.
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<sup>1</sup> This is our best understanding, but it is possible that the video was not public until later.

<sup>2</sup> This is the date listed on the public-facing YouTube page, but there is no time listed. Another source suggests, however, that the video might have been made public on YouTube on December 3, possibly around 4pm.

By 9:32 pm State.gov video replaced with full video.

Approx. 9 pm YouTube video annotated to refer watchers to state.gov for the full version.



**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Starr, Katherine L  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2013 8:06 PM  
**To:** Velasco, Peter P (PACE); Clay, Noel C (PACE)  
**Cc:** Tran, Michael J (PACE)  
**Subject:** Thank you

RELEASE IN FULL

Peter, Noel-

Thanks for doing the DPB today, especially given its length and lateness. Really appreciate you staying late and getting it out so quickly.

Kate

7/29/2016

Fox reporter confronts State Department on Iran denial - POLITICO

**POLITICO**  
THE LATEST NEWS

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LIVE BLOG



## CONVENTION

### Under the Radar

Josh Gerstein on the Courts, Transparency, & More

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## Fox reporter confronts State Department on Iran denial

By JOSH GERSTEIN | 12/02/13 05:41 PM EST

Fox News Chief Washington Correspondent James Rosen visited the State Department briefing room Monday to challenge what he suggested were false denials the department issued about high-level talks between Iran and the United States.

With current State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki at the podium, Rosen read from a

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2013/12/fox-reporter-confronts-state-department-on-iran-denial-178651>

1/3



7/29/2016

Fox reporter confronts State Department on Iran denial - POLITICO

question he asked then-spokesperson Victoria Nuland in February about reports of "direct, secret bilateral talks with Iran."

"With regard to the kind of thing you're talking about on a government-to-government level: no," Nuland replied.

Rosen pointed Monday to reports that senior U.S. officials, including Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and then-Director of Policy Planning Jake Sullivan, held a series of meetings in Oman in recent years with top Iranian officials.

"The question today is a simply one: when the briefer was asked about those talks and flatly denied them, that was untrue, correct?" Rosen asked.

In response, Psaki noted that the State Department recently confirmed such a meeting took place in March of this year—after the denial in question. However, she did not deny reports that the meetings stretched back to 2011.

"You're talking about a February briefing, so ten months ago. I don't think we've outlined or confirmed contacts or specifics beyond a March meeting. I'm not going to confirm or outline others beyond that at this point," Psaki said.

Rosen then asked Psaki if she would "stand by the accuracy" of Nuland's denial.

"James, I have no new information for you today," Psaki replied.

Rosen followed up further by asking if it is "the policy of the State Department to lie in order" to maintain the secrecy of negotiations.

"There are times when diplomacy needs privacy in order to progress. This is a good example of that," Psaki said.

Psaki also said the U.S.-Iran talks "really picked up after [Iranian] President Rouhani's election" in June of this year, but she acknowledged she was not answering the question about when those talks began. U.S. officials have said the high-level back-channel was important to the interim nuclear deal reached in Geneva last month. However, the discussions have been controversial, in part because Israel was reportedly kept in the dark about the talks until September of this year.

Rosen pressed Psaki on the thinking of State Department briefers on whether it would be appropriate to mislead reporters about matters such as sensitive diplomatic negotiations.

7/29/2016

Fox reporter confronts State Department on Iran denial - POLITICO

"I'm not going to do a psychiatrists' chair today," Psaki declared.

"What about a couch?" Rosen shot back.

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2013/12/fox-reporter-confronts-state-department-on-iran-denial-178651>

30



**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 6:32 PM  
**To:** Whelan, Moira; Starr, Katherine L; Perry, Monica D; Jackson, Jeff; Brown, Cynthia A  
**Cc:** Wang, Mimi; Dewey, James B; (U) Schaub, Daniel D; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Meeting next week on updating the FAM  
**Attachments:** Editing policy

RELEASE IN FULL

Colleagues,

By now, you have received an invitation from Dan Schaub to a meeting next Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM, to discuss updates to the FAM regarding PA activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

As A/S Kirby outlined in his June 2 message to the Bureau (attached), we need to update the FAM to help institutionalize the policy that "video and transcripts from daily press briefings will be immediately and permanently uploaded in their entirety on publicly accessible platforms." We also need to ensure the FAM accurately reflects PA's structure, as we noticed the OVS and ODE reorganization and new PA Bureau org charts are not reflected.

**NEXT STEPS:**

I have asked James Dewey, Mimi Wang, and Dan Schaub to take the first crack at revising the relevant FAM sections. Prior to the meeting, they will send you a copy of proposed edits for your review and background.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to participate in this process.

Susan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASE IN FULL

**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Starr, Katherine L  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 11:12 AM  
**To:** Deaner, Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting next week on updating the FAM  
**Attachments:** Editing policy

SA

---

**From:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 6:32 PM  
**To:** Whelan, Moira; Starr, Katherine L; Perry, Monica D; Jackson, Jeff; Brown, Cynthia A  
**Cc:** Wang, Mimi; Dewey, James B; (U) Schaub, Daniel D; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
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Thanks in advance for your willingness to participate in this process.

Susan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



**Starr, Katherine L**

**From:** Williams, Abigail (NBCUniversal) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:35 AM  
**To:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Cc:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News Report Iran Deal

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

B6

Absolutely, sounds good.

Abigail Williams  
NBC News  
STATE DEPT: [REDACTED]  
MOBILE: [REDACTED]

> On May 10, 2016, at 10:32 AM, Trudeau, Elizabeth K <[trudeauek@state.gov](mailto:trudeauek@state.gov)> wrote:

>

> Abigail, let's talk this morning.

>

> From: Williams, Abigail (NBCUniversal)

> Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:29 AM

> To: PA Press Duty

> Subject: FOX News Report Iran Deal

>

>

> Good morning -

>

> Do you have any response to the Fox News report which suggests that a State Department press briefing was edited to remove an exchange about the timing of the Iran Deal?

>

>

> <http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://insider.foxnews.com/2016/05/10/state-dept-edited-video-rosen-psaki-2013-exchange-iran-talks>

>

> Thanks so very much,

> Abigail

>

> Abigail Williams

> NBC News

> STATE DEPT: [REDACTED]

> MOBILE: [REDACTED]

**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 11:27 AM  
**To:** chuck [redacted]  
**Cc:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** Re: Video edit question

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6

Chuck, Stephanie and Lauren passed your query. At this stage, we don't have anything to add to John Kirby's briefing yesterday. We're happy to pass the transcript, if you don't have it. Our thanks for the query, and best wishes.  
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Trudeau  
Director, Office of Press Relations

---

**From:** Hickey, Lauren A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 11:22 AM  
**To:** 'Chuck Ross'; Beechem, Stephanie  
**Subject:** RE: Video edit question

Hi Chuck --

I have not been working on this topic. I will pass it along to our press office and ask someone to get back to you.

Best,

Lauren

B6

**From:** Chuck Ross [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 11:19 AM  
**To:** Hickey, Lauren A; Beechem, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Video edit question

Hi Lauren/Stephanie,



What's the name of the employee who received the Dec. 2013 call to edit the DPB video? I'm thinking of doing some FOIA work to find out more details about this. She says she doesn't remember who called her. Maybe I can find out by requesting her records.

I understand John Kirby's reluctance to not spend too much time and resources on an investigation. I think the press can fill in on that.

I won't be contacting the employee directly or anything.

Thanks,

Chuck Ross

The Daily Caller

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 4:15 PM  
**To:** Pete Kasper  
**Cc:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** RE: video edit followup question

RELEASE IN PART B6

Hey, Pete – thanks for follow up. We won't have anything more to add to Kirby's brief. I can send you the transcript – should be done shortly.

**From:** Pete Kasper [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 4:14 PM  
**To:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** video edit followup question

B6

Hi Elizabeth,

Kirby just said the request to edit the 2013 video came from the Bureau of Public Affairs, but he also said no one knows who did it.

The obviously people to ask were Jen Psaki and Marie Harf. Can you say whether they were asked? Particularly interested in Harf because she is still there, and it shouldn't be a problem, I would think.

Thanks if you can help there...

--  
Pete Kasperowicz  
News editor, Washington Examiner  
(cell)  
(office)



**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 3:20 PM  
**To:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** POs: Video

RELEASE IN PART B5

[REDACTED] Anything else, you can flag for me [REDACTED] B5  
[REDACTED]

**Starr, Katherine L**

---

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 9:48 AM  
**To:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** POs: Video edit

Kirby will address at DPB today.

[REDACTED]

B5



**Ghaffari, Kuros**

---

**From:** CNS NY Southern District <newyork[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 2:32 PM  
**To:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** FOIA Lawsuit against State Dept. in re: Jen Psaki/Iran Presser Video Edit

B6

Hi State Department Press Officer,

**RELEASE IN PART B6**

I'm a reporter for the legal news service Courthouse News.

I'm covering a FOIA lawsuit filed yesterday in Washington DC, seeking release of records related to a Dec. 2, 2013 State Department Press Briefing video that was allegedly edited deliberately to remove questions/statements regarding State Department lying about secret meetings with Iranian leadership in Oman.

This story is has been circulating in different forms online for a while now, can the State Department offer a statement on the record regarding the allegations in the FOIA lawsuit, in this complaint from the American Center for Law and Justice?

I'd be hugely appreciative to get the State Department side of this story.

Thanks.

Joshua Russell  
Courthouse News, Manhattan Federal

[redacted] (office)

[redacted] (cell)

**Ghaffari, Kuros**

---

**From:** Oliver Darcy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2016 1:34 PM  
**To:** PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** Request for Report on Iran Briefing Video

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6

To whom it may concern —

I am writing to obtain the report issued after the investigation into the Iran State Department briefing video that was mysteriously edited. My understanding was the State Department circulated it among journalists and I need it for my story.

Oliver

--

Oliver Darcy  
Politics Editor | Business Insider  
[REDACTED] @oliverdarcy



RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Gardner, Joshua B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:54 AM  
**To:** White, Emily B; Legal-PD-DL  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:51 AM  
**To:** Legal-PD-DL  
**Subject:** FW: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

B5

Thanks,  
Emily White

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,

B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant

Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Mull, Stephen D  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 11:07 AM  
**To:** White, Emily B; Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

S/INI clears.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,



B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Nierenberg, Lorie J  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 1:14 PM  
**To:** White, Emily B  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

[REDACTED]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

B5

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:51 AM  
**To:** Legal-PD-DL  
**Subject:** FW: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

[REDACTED]

Thanks,  
Emily White

B5

SBU  
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---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,

[REDACTED]

Thanks,  
  
Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)

B5

Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Reynolds, Justin E  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 2:10 PM  
**To:** White, Emily B  
**Cc:** Richardson, Timothy M  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

Good from the Iran press angle.  
Best,  
Justin

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,



B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

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**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video  
**Attachments:** 160829 HQ9 PA.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

All,



B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Hallock, Catherine  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 3:11 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Cc:** White, Emily B  
**Subject:** RE: Topline message on edited video

Susan,

Thank you! Emily also wrote to Elizabeth so hopefully we'll have the final version from PRS.

Katie

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 3:05 PM  
**To:** Hallock, Catherine  
**Cc:** White, Emily B  
**Subject:** Topline message on edited video

Katie,

Here's the draft talking points Kirby had for last Thursday's DPB. I'm not sure what the final doc looked like.

Susan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 12:54 PM  
**To:** Evers, Austin R; Finer, Jonathan J; Kirby, John; Stout, Jennifer P; Stevenson, Susan N  
**Cc:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** topline message edit.kirby LPD.docx

Some additional tweaks and a question or two.

B5



RELEASE IN PART B5

**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** Malik, Arslan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 12:47 PM  
**To:** White, Emily B  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

Clear. A

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

Mr. Malik – any chance you had the opportunity to review this? We have now missed our deadline with H by over a day, and I'd like to get back to them as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Emily

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** Malik, Arslan; Gardner, Joshua B; Nierenberg, Lorie J  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

S/P and L Colleagues,

Thanks!  
Emily White

SBU  
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---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan

B5

**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,



B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

SBU  
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**White, Emily B**

---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 4:28 PM  
**To:** Kirby, John  
**Cc:** Stevenson, Susan N; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; PA Special Assistants  
**Subject:** FW: For clearance today - testimony on edited video  
**Attachments:**

B5

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sir:

L has made revisions to our response on the H tasker on the video edit question. Attached are their edits in a tracked change and a clean version. I am also printing a clean copy for you to review one last time before I send on to H.

Thanks,  
Emily

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Gardner, Joshua B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 4:20 PM  
**To:** White, Emily B; Malik, Arslan; Nierenberg, Lorie J  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth; Hahs, Ona M  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

Hi Emily,

B5

Thanks,  
Josh

SBU  
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---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** Malik, Arslan; Gardner, Joshua B; Nierenberg, Lorie J



**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance today - testimony on edited video

S/P and L Colleagues,

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks!  
Emily White

SBU  
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---

**From:** White, Emily B  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Richardson, Timothy M; SINI\_Internal; Hahs, Ona M; Malik, Arslan  
**Cc:** SP\_Staff Assistants; Reynolds, Justin E; PA Special Assistants; Lawrence, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** For clearance today - testimony on edited video

All,

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,

Emily White  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
[WhiteEB@state.gov](mailto:WhiteEB@state.gov)  
Office Phone: (202) 647-8926

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**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Rosiland Jordan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 5:18 PM  
**To:** Kirby, John  
**Subject:** RE: Report: Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video footage from the Daily Press Briefing

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6

John -

Many thanks for this. Will review once I get off the air.

Cheers,  
Ros

---

**From:** Kirby, John [<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:KirbyJ@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 21:12  
**Subject:** Report: Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video footage from the Daily Press Briefing

Colleagues: As discussed at today's briefing, please find attached the report of the Department's review of the December 2, 2013 video edit from that day's Daily Press Briefing.

This report is provided to you as part of our commitment to transparency on this issue. It is not being provided to you for the purpose of your publishing it on your own, and I would ask you to respect that. As I said at today's briefing, it presents the facts as we have been able to determine them, and we are committed to learn from them.

Kirby

John Kirby  
Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson

---

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**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:05 AM  
**To:** Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Fw: is there really no update on the "glitch" video after 7 weeks?

RELEASE IN PART B6

---

**From:** Pete Kasper <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:03 AM  
**To:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** Re: is there really no update on the "glitch" video after 7 weeks?

B6

Hi again Elizabeth,

Figured I'd try something new, like from the old days, when we were allowed to have conversations with people outside of the PA Bureau.

Is there anyone available to talk on background about the video glitch investigation? Just seems to me after 9 weeks there is probably more to hear from someone involved in the effort.

Could you see if someone's available?

Thanks,

Pete

On Fri, Jul 29, 2016 at 9:25 AM, Trudeau, Elizabeth K <[trudeauek@state.gov](mailto:trudeauek@state.gov)> wrote:

Absolutely, will do.

---

**From:** Pete Kasper [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 9:12 AM  
**To:** Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Cc:** Beechem, Stephanie; PA Press Duty  
**Subject:** Re: is there really no update on the "glitch" video after 7 weeks?

B6

OK thanks, do let us know if that changes...!

Pete



On Thu, Jul 28, 2016 at 5:39 PM, Trudeau, Elizabeth K <trudeauek@state.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Pete. As Kirby mentioned yesterday in the briefing: "I can tell you that our Office of the Legal Adviser is continuing that work. It's not complete. I don't have an update for you. But they are still working at it. And when we are in a position to speak about their findings and their recommendations going forward, we'll do that."

<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2016/07/260571.htm#DEPARTMENT2>

**From:** Pete Kasper [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 5:07 PM  
**To:** Beechem, Stephanie; Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** is there really no update on the "glitch" video after 7 weeks?

B6

I heard Kirby say there is no update, but it seems amazing to me there is nothing. Kirby and others have said there are only like 3-5 people who could have been involved.

Is there really no progress that can be reported, 7 weeks after Sec. Kerry asked officials to take a second look?

Thanks,

--

Pete Kasperowicz

News editor, Washington Examiner

(cell)  
(office)

--

Pete Kasperowicz

News editor, Washington Examiner

[redacted] (cell)

[redacted] (office)

B6

--

Pete Kasperowicz

News editor, Washington Examiner

[redacted] (cell)  
[redacted] (office)

**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Kirby, John  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 3:54 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C  
**Cc:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Subject:** Re: 4 pm call

RELEASE IN PART B5

B5

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2016, at 15:53, Toner, Mark C <[tonermc@state.gov](mailto:tonermc@state.gov)> wrote:

Susan - [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2016, at 3:47 PM, Stevenson, Susan N <[StevensonSN@state.gov](mailto:StevensonSN@state.gov)> wrote:

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

From: Toner, Mark C  
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 3:06 PM  
To: Kirby, John  
Cc: Stevenson, Susan N  
Subject: Re: 4 pm call

Ah - ok.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 15, 2016, at 3:02 PM, Kirby, John <[KirbyJ@state.gov](mailto:KirbyJ@state.gov)> wrote:

>

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Aug 15, 2016, at 14:56, Toner, Mark C <[tonermc@state.gov](mailto:tonermc@state.gov)> wrote:

>>

>> [REDACTED]

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>> On Aug 15, 2016, at 2:53 PM, Kirby, John <[KirbyJ@state.gov](mailto:KirbyJ@state.gov)> wrote:

>>>

>>> [REDACTED]

>>>

>>>

>>>



>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

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**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Evers, Austin R  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 3:43 PM  
**To:** Kirby, John  
**Subject:** RE: Press guidance, video

RELEASE IN PART B5

[Redacted]

B5

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---

**From:** Kirby, John  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 3:39 PM  
**To:** Evers, Austin R  
**Subject:** Re: Press guidance, video

[Redacted]

B5

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2016, at 15:11, Evers, Austin R <[EversAR@state.gov](mailto:EversAR@state.gov)> wrote:

[Redacted]

B5

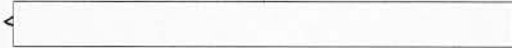
-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Kirby, John  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 3:05 PM  
**To:** Evers, Austin R  
**Subject:** Press guidance, video

[Redacted]

B5

Sent from my iPhone

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B5



**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Stevenson, Susan N **RELEASE IN PART B5**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 6:14 PM  
**To:** Evers, Austin R; Schram, Zachary I; Beechem, Stephanie; Hickey, Lauren A  
**Cc:** Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** RE: Lines re HOGH letter

Agree -

B5

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**From:** Evers, Austin R  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 6:08 PM  
**To:** Schram, Zachary I; Beechem, Stephanie; Hickey, Lauren A  
**Cc:** Stevenson, Susan N; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** RE: Lines re HOGH letter

---

**From:** Beechem, Stephanie <[BeechemS@state.gov](mailto:BeechemS@state.gov)>  
**Date:** July 7, 2016 at 6:02:03 PM EDT  
**To:** Hickey, Lauren A <[HickeyLA@state.gov](mailto:HickeyLA@state.gov)>, Evers, Austin R <[EversAR@state.gov](mailto:EversAR@state.gov)>, Schram, Zachary I <[SchramZI@state.gov](mailto:SchramZI@state.gov)>  
**Cc:** Stevenson, Susan N <[StevensonSN@state.gov](mailto:StevensonSN@state.gov)>, Toner, Mark C <[tonermc@state.gov](mailto:tonermc@state.gov)>, Kirby, John <[KirbyJ@state.gov](mailto:KirbyJ@state.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Lines re HOGH letter

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---

**From:** Hickey, Lauren A  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 6:00 PM

**To:** Schram, Zachary I; Evers, Austin R; Beechem, Stephanie  
**Cc:** Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C; Stevenson, Susan N  
**Subject:** RE: Lines re HOGH letter

+ Kirby, Toner, Susan. See below

B5

SBU

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**From:** Schram, Zachary I

**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 5:58 PM

**To:** Evers, Austin R; Hickey, Lauren A; Beechem, Stephanie

**Subject:** RE: Lines re HOGH letter

Letter was provided at 5:15.

SBU

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---

**From:** Evers, Austin R

**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 5:54 PM

**To:** Hickey, Lauren A; Beechem, Stephanie; Schram, Zachary I

**Subject:** Lines re HOGH letter

- 
- 
- 
- 

Austin R. Evers

U.S. Department of State  
202-647-0384

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**Toufanian, Melissa Turley**

---

**From:** Vissek, Richard C  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 8:54 PM  
**To:** Frifield, Julia E; Stevenson, Susan N  
**Cc:** Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C; Trudeau, Elizabeth K; Hahs, Ona M; Evers, Austin R  
**Subject:** Re: Timeline of video edit review for the Hill

RELEASE IN PART B5

All --

Regards, Rich

B5

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** Frifield, Julia E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Cc:** Vissek, Richard C; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C; Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** Re: Timeline of video edit review for the Hill

Very helpful, thanks!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** Stevenson, Susan N  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:24 PM  
**To:** Frifield, Julia E  
**Cc:** Vissek, Richard C; Kirby, John; Toner, Mark C; Trudeau, Elizabeth K  
**Subject:** Timeline of video edit review for the Hill

Julia,

Susan N. Stevenson  
Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary  
PA Front Office, Room 6634  
Tel. 202-647-0419  
E-mail: [StevensonSN@state.gov](mailto:StevensonSN@state.gov)

B5