



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 17 2014

SECRET/NOFORN

(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to inform you that as part of the Department's ongoing document production we are providing an additional set of documents in connection with the Committee's investigation into the attacks on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi. The Department is producing today copies of 276 documents, consisting of 779 pages. This production consists of documents responsive to the Committee's subpoena of August 1, 2013, seeking possession of documents originally provided for *in camera* review, as well as additional documents that are also responsive to the Committee's request of September 20, 2012.

Please note that the documents produced today contain classified information as well as sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information. These documents also may contain personally identifiable information and information that is exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act.

As agreed to in discussions with your staff, we are producing these documents under the condition that any classified documents will be stored in accordance with all applicable security regulations and accessed only by personnel with applicable security clearances and that SBU documents will be stored in locked containers with access limited to personnel directly engaged in this investigation. We also reiterate that the public release of any portion of the enclosed documents is not authorized by this communication and, should you wish to disclose any documents or portions thereof, that you should provide the

The Honorable

Darrell E. Issa, Chairman,

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives.

SECRET/NOFORN

(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)

SECRET/NOFORN
(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)

Department two business days' notice per document to afford the Department the opportunity to inform the Committee of sensitive information that must be safeguarded.

enclosed documents is not authorized by this communication and, should you wish to disclose any documents or portions thereof, that you should provide the Department two business days' notice per document to afford the Department the opportunity to inform the Committee of sensitive information that must be safeguarded.

Consistent with Department practice, we have redacted certain sensitive foreign government information, such as confidential communications with foreign government officials, the disclosure of which could adversely impact relations with foreign nations; law enforcement sensitive information; and information on security policies, procedures, and specifications for American diplomatic missions, the disclosure of which could threaten the safety of State Department and other U.S. Government personnel serving overseas. We have also redacted certain privacy protected information and the names of Department personnel below the rank of Assistant Secretary, with the exception of Deputy Assistant Secretaries who have been interviewed during the course of the Committee's investigation, in order to protect the security and privacy of Department officers who are serving or will serve overseas in sensitive locations. Additional information has been redacted for similar reasons at the request of other agencies referenced in the documents. Finally, certain information has been redacted to protect Executive Branch confidentiality interests. Aside from certain privacy protected information and information redacted to protect Executive Branch confidentiality interests, the redacted text remains available to you through the existing *in camera* document review process.

Although the process of redacting such information, which includes interagency coordination, necessitates that the Department produce responsive documents on a rolling basis, the Department must take this step because the Committee has declined multiple requests to provide assurances that it will not release the documents publicly or at least provide sufficient advanced notice of public release to afford the Department the opportunity to identify sensitive material

SECRET/NOFORN
(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)

SECRET/NOFORN
(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)

that should be redacted. The Department will therefore continue to produce the remaining documents on a rolling basis, as expeditiously as possible, pending the redaction of information described above.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Frifield".

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

cc: Elijah E. Cummings

SECRET/NOFORN
(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachments)