

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

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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September 18, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce documents it is withholding regarding National Security Advisor John Bolton's work with a Russian citizen who has now been charged by federal prosecutors with infiltrating the National Rifle Association and spying against the United States for years.

On August 20, 2018, we wrote to White House Chief of Staff John Kelly to request documents relating to the foreign contacts sections of Mr. Bolton's security clearance application and information that Mr. Bolton provided the White House about his prior contacts with foreign nationals. In that letter, we noted that Mr. Bolton was appointed to head the NRA's Subcommittee on International Affairs in 2011. We also noted that in 2013, Mr. Bolton appeared by video at a roundtable organized by a Russian citizen known as Maria Butina and sponsored by a Russian gun rights organization.<sup>1</sup>

On July 16, 2018, Ms. Butina was indicted for acting as a Russian agent inside the United States. According to the Department of Justice, Ms. Butina worked to "arrange introductions to U.S. persons having influence in American politics, including an organization promoting gun rights, for the purpose of advancing the agenda of the Russian Federation."<sup>2</sup>

The White House has not responded to our letter and has refused to produce the requested documents. The White House's refusal to produce these documents raises significant questions about why it is hiding the details of Mr. Bolton's contacts with foreign nationals.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Stephen F. Lynch, Subcommittee on National Security, to General John Kelly, White House Chief of Staff (Aug. 20, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2018-08-20.EEC%20Lynch%20to%20Kelly-WH%20re%20Bolton%20SF86%20Information%20Request.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> Affidavit in Support of an Application for a Criminal Complaint, *United States v. Butina* (July 14, 2018) (online at [www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1080766/download](http://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1080766/download)).

As we noted in our letter to General Kelly, in order to obtain access to classified information, Mr. Bolton was required to provide a wide range of information about his contacts with foreign citizens, foreign business and professional activities, foreign government contacts, and any advice he provided or consultancy arrangements he had with foreign entities. Applicants also typically provide additional information directly to the Executive Office of the President as part of their applications for employment at the White House.

So that our Committee may conduct credible oversight regarding Mr. Bolton's suitability for access to classified information—an important matter that you have stated is squarely within our Committee's purview<sup>3</sup>—we ask that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce the following documents in the possession, custody, or control of the Executive Office of the President and the National Security Council:

- (1) all documents and information provided by Mr. Bolton in response to questions in Sections 19, 20A, 20B, and 20C of any security clearance applications, renewal applications, or amendments he submitted over the past seven years;
- (2) all documents relating to investigative and adjudicative steps taken relating to Mr. Bolton's security clearance, including but not limited to Guideline B ("Foreign Influence") and Guideline C ("Foreign Preference"); and
- (3) all documents and information provided by Mr. Bolton and his associates to the Executive Office of the President relating to his contacts with foreign nationals over the past seven years.

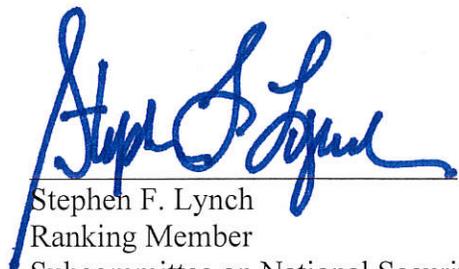
If you choose not to issue this subpoena yourself, then we ask that you place this matter on the agenda for our next regularly scheduled business meeting so all Committee Members will have the opportunity to vote on a motion to issue this subpoena.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member



Stephen F. Lynch  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security

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<sup>3</sup> *On Trump and Russia, Oversight Chair Trey Gowdy Says He Will Stay in His Lane*, Washington Post (June 23, 2017) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/on-trump-and-russia-oversight-chair-trey-gowdy-says-he-will-stay-in-his-lane/2017/06/23/4d1dfca6-583d-11e7-a204-ad706461fa4f\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/on-trump-and-russia-oversight-chair-trey-gowdy-says-he-will-stay-in-his-lane/2017/06/23/4d1dfca6-583d-11e7-a204-ad706461fa4f_story.html)).