

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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September 13, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Acting Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

We are in receipt of a letter addressed to you from Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, dated September 5, 2019, concerning Vice President Pence's travel arrangements and accommodations while representing the United States in Ireland.<sup>1</sup> According to the Chairman, the Vice President's stay at the Trump International Golf Links and Hotel in Doonbeg, Ireland (Doonbeg Hotel) "personally enrich[ed] President Trump, his family, and his companies."<sup>2</sup> Chairman Cummings did not consult with Republican Committee Members prior to sending his letter. As such, and because the Chairman has a pattern of using the Committee to attack the Trump Administration for partisan gain, we write to supplement the Chairman's letter with relevant information.

First, Chairman Cummings has a pattern of coordinating his partisan attacks against President Trump with other House Democrats. Earlier this year, without consulting Republicans or having a vote of the Committee, the Chairman executed a secret Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters to investigate President Trump's personal finances.<sup>3</sup> With respect to his September 5th letter to you, it appears that Chairman Cummings is coordinating his investigation with Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler.<sup>4</sup> We are not aware, however, whether any similar MOU exists for this investigation or whether Chairman Cummings intends to share any investigative material that you may produce with Chairman Nadler.

Second, Chairman Cummings's letter to you omits relevant information about the Chairman's previous oversight of President Trump's foreign travel, which revealed that accommodations at a Trump Organization property in Europe saved taxpayer money. Specifically, following the President's stay at Trump Turnberry in Scotland in July 2018, then-

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Mick Mulvaney, Acting Chief of Staff, White House (Sept. 5, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (May 15, 2019).

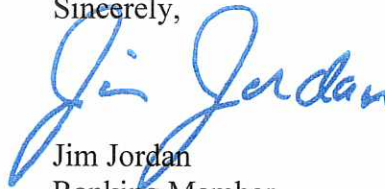
<sup>4</sup> Press Release, H. Comm's on Oversight & Reform and Judiciary, Oversight and Judiciary Committee Investigate Pence Trip to Trump Golf Resort in Ireland and Trump's Pitch to Host G7 at His Resort in Miami, (Sept. 6, 2019).

Ranking Member Cummings asked the independent State Department Office of Inspector General (OIG) to examine any possible financial impropriety related to the travel.<sup>5</sup> In July 2019, the OIG reported back to Chairman Cummings that the State Department saved taxpayer money by staying at the Trump Turnberry property, explaining that the “rate offered by the Trump Turnberry [was] the lowest of all the hotels being utilized for this VIP visit.”<sup>6</sup> Chairman Cummings has not publicly acknowledged the OIG’s findings.

Chairman Cummings expanded his investigation of the Trump Turnberry property this year, demanding detailed information and documents from the Defense Department about military expenditures at the nearby Prestwick Airport.<sup>7</sup> Here, too, the Chairman’s letters omitted key information: according to public reports, U.S. Air Force aircrafts landed at Prestwick Airport during the Obama Administration and executed a contract to refuel at Prestwick Airport in 2016, before President Trump entered office.<sup>8</sup> We are not certain why Chairman Cummings ignored this information in his letters.

We have repeatedly urged Chairman Cummings to abandon his politicized oversight and stop his political attacks on the President for partisan gain. Because we are not optimistic that Chairman Cummings will do so, we felt it prudent to alert you of these issues. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform, Tom Carper, Sen., U.S. Sen., Elizabeth Warren, Sen. U.S. Sen., to Steve A. Linick, Insp. Gen., State Dep’t (July 31, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Letter from Steve A. Linick, Insp. Gen., State Dep’t, to Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, Tom Carper, Sen., U.S. Sen., Elizabeth Warren, Sen. U.S. Sen. 3 (July 22, 2019).

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, Jamie Raskin, Chairman, Subcomm. On Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, to Patrick Shanahan, Acting Sec., U.S. Dep’t of Def. (June 21, 2019); Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, Jamie Raskin, Chairman, Subcomm. On Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, to Dr. Mark T. Esper, Sec., U.S. Dep’t of Def. (Sept. 10, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Byron York, *Is military money really propping up a Trump resort?*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER (Sept. 9, 2019).