

JUL 25 2013



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 24 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to provide specific documents requested as part of the Committee's investigation into the attacks on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi.

Since September 2012, in response to the Committee's request, the Department has provided the Committee with ongoing access at your offices to a set of over 25,000 pages of responsive documents. In your letter of April 26, 2013, you requested that the Department turn over copies of those documents that "Members and staff have identified as critical to the investigation."

The Department has subsequently conveyed to your staff its willingness to consider requests for copies of specific documents from this set of over 25,000 pages that are of particular interest to the Committee. Accordingly, prior to transcribed interviews of four Department officials during the week of July 8, the Department offered to produce copies of specific documents (enclosed with this letter) that were used as exhibits in those interviews (pp. 001-011). Moreover, at the request of Committee staff, the Department is producing copies of 46 additional documents from the overall set, consisting of the unclassified documents identified in a July 3 letter from Ranking Member Cummings, which are subject to the Committee's request for copies of documents identified as critical to the investigation (pp. 012-145).

Consistent with Department practice, we have redacted certain foreign government sensitive information, law enforcement sensitive information, 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 this investigation. Aside from certain privacy protected information, the redacted text remains available to you through the existing document review process.

The Honorable

Darrell E. Issa, Chairman,

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives.

Please note that these documents may still contain sensitive information, including information about the security of U.S. diplomatic missions overseas, foreign government sensitive information, and law enforcement sensitive information, the unauthorized release of which could damage security interests and foreign relations. These documents also may contain personally identifiable information that is subject to the Privacy Act and information that is exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act. As such, and as agreed to in discussions with your staff, we are producing these documents under the condition that they will be stored in locked containers with access limited to personnel directly engaged in this investigation.

Furthermore, given the sensitive nature of these documents, we request that the Committee protect this information from any public disclosure. We also request that if you would like to publicly release any portion of any of the enclosed documents, you provide the Department two business days' notice to afford the Department the opportunity to inform the Committee of sensitive information that must be safeguarded.

We reiterate our offer to receive and process requests from the Committee for copies of specific documents previously provided to the Committee for *in camera* review which the Committee considers critical to its investigation.

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

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Gibbons
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosures:

As stated.

cc: Elijah E. Cummings