

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: HUMA ABEDIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room HVC-205,
Capitol Visitor Center, commencing at 10:07 a.m.

Present: Representatives Westmoreland, Pompeo, and Cummings.

Appearances:

For the SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI:

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SHARON JACKSON, DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

CARLTON DAVIS, INVESTIGATOR

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Ms. Jackson. This is a transcribed interview of Huma Abedin conducted by the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

This interview is being conducted voluntarily as part of the committee's investigation into the attacks on the U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, and related matters pursuant to House Resolution 567 of the 113th Congress and House Resolution 5 of the 114th Congress.

Could we have the witness state her name, please?

Ms. Abedin. Huma Abedin.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. We appreciate your appearance today. We understand, as I just said, that it's voluntary, and we appreciate, again, you coming in and sharing the information that you have.

Again, good morning. I am Sharon Jackson. I am one of the counsel from the majority staff. And for the reporter to make an official record of this proceeding, I'm going to have everyone go around and introduce themselves, and I'll start with Mr. Pompeo to my right.

Mr. Pompeo. I'm Congressman Mike Pompeo from the 4th District of Kansas.

Mr. Westmoreland. Lynn Westmoreland from Georgia.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. And we'll go to your counsel then.

Ms. Goodman. Martha Goodman, counsel for Ms. Abedin.

Mr. Rodriguez. Miguel Rodriguez, counsel for Ms. Abedin.

Ms. Dunn. Karen Dunn, counsel for Ms. Abedin.

Ms. Jackson. How about back to the minority staff in the back row.

Ms. Boyd. Krista Boyd with the select committee minority staff.

Ms. Sawyer. Heather Sawyer with the minority staff.

Mr. Kenny. Peter Kenny with the minority staff.

Ms. Clarke. Sheria Clarke, majority staff.

Mr. Kiko. Phil Kiko with the committee.

Ms. Betz. Kim Betz with the majority staff.

Mr. Davis. Carlton Davis, counsel for Mr. Gowdy.

Mr. Chipman. I'm Dana Chipman with the committee.

Ms. Barrineau. Sara Barrineau with the majority staff.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

With that, I understand that both the witness and her counsel have something to say, so we'll allow you to add to the record at this point.

Ms. Dunn. Thank you, Sharon. Thanks for the opportunity to be here.

So the first thing we just want to say is Ms. Abedin will be testifying today to the best of her recollection. She has not had the benefit of review of all documents that are at the State Department or even all documents that have been produced to this committee by the State Department.

So we have agreed with committee staff that if there is a document that you want to show Ms. Abedin that she has not seen before -- some documents, we understand, were produced yesterday; we obviously have not seen those -- that we would take a break and allow for her to review the document.

The other concern we shared with majority staff is about leaking.

We received some assurances in this regard, and we just want to make sure everyone is sensitive to that.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

Ms. Abedin. Ms. Jackson, I just want to say very briefly that I'm glad to have the opportunity to answer your questions today. You know, I've spent most of my adult life in government service, including in this complex for many years, and I want to do everything I can to be helpful to your committee. And I will do the best that I can to answer your questions as best as I can remember.

And the last thing I'll say: If it's not already painfully obvious, I've never testified before a congressional committee before, and I'm extremely nervous. And so I appreciate your bearing with me.

Ms. Jackson. All right.

As with anything, we have some ground rules that we follow, some procedures that we have in place that govern a transcribed interview like this. So I'd just like to take a couple minutes and go over those with you.

Ms. Abedin. Of course.

Ms. Jackson. Generally, the way that questioning proceeds is that a Member of Congress or a member of the staff, of the majority staff, will ask questions for up to an hour.

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. And then you'll stay there, we'll switch seats and allow the minority staff or minority members of the committee to have the next hour of questioning. And we rotate back and forth in that

manner until each side has exhausted the questions that they have. And then, once we're out of questions, the interview will conclude for today.

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. I realize that you've not testified before, but unlike testimony in a Federal court or a State court or a deposition in litigation, the committee format is not bound by rules of evidence. You and your counsel may raise objections for privilege subject to, then, review by the chairman of the committee. If those objections cannot be resolved in the interview, we can require you to return to answer those questions in a deposition or a hearing.

Members or their staff, however, are not permitted to raise objections to the questions that are posed when either side is asking questions. This has not been an issue that we've had, but it is one of our processes that we observe.

The setting that we're in today is an unclassified setting, so if any question that we pose to you you believe calls for a classified answer, please just let us know. We have a classified setting reserved for this afternoon, and we can move to that, or we can hold the question or withdraw the question until we're in a classified setting.

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. So, again, just to the best of your ability, alert us if you think an answer might go into classified information, and we'll reserve it for the appropriate setting.

I believe your counsel has told you this, but I just wanted to

reiterate it. You are very welcome to confer with your counsel whenever you wish to do so. And you can do that throughout the interview before you answer any question and, obviously, during the breaks that we will take.

But if it's a simple matter of you need something clarified or repeated, just ask us to do so. I have a habit of asking complex questions, and sometimes they need to be broken down. So if there's too many parts to it, just let me know. I'll be happy to restate it or rephrase it in a way that enables you to answer it to the best of your ability.

But, again, if you want to discuss anything with your counsel, just let us know. We'll, you know, stop the clock, take a break, allow you a private area to confer with your counsel and give you as much time as you need to do that.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you.

Ms. Jackson. We will also take a break whenever is convenient for you. We typically do this at the end of every hour of questioning, so we take a break every hour. But if you need a break in between, if you need another cup of coffee or if you need water or anything like that, please just let us know. We're going to try and make you as comfortable as possible, given the circumstances that we're all in today.

As you can see, we have an official reporter taking down everything that is asked and your responses today. So one of the things that is important is that you give verbal responses to the questions

that are posed. We have a habit in conversation of nodding and shaking our head, but the reporter needs to take everything down. And so I give the reporter permission, if we get into that habit of not answering verbally, that the reporter can interject and say, "I need a verbal answer."

Along those same lines, sometimes people talk over each other, start giving an answer, or I might start a question before you've finished your answer. I will try my best not to do that. Again, I give the reporter full rein to interject and say "one at a time" or "slow down" or things like that.

I have been told, when I used to appear in Federal court, that I can talk really fast. Anytime a judge would say to me, "You have 5 minutes left in your closing," and I had 15 minutes of words yet to speak, I could talk really fast. And I will try not to do that today.

We don't want to keep you here any longer than possible, but we do want to make sure we get a good record of everything that's said and that you feel that you understand the questions that are posed to you to give us your best recollection.

And, again, that is what we're asking for today. We know that there has been a passage of time since these events that we're going to ask you about. And we realize that everyone's memory is not as crystal-clear as it was, say, yesterday, although I will admit that my short-term memory is the worst these days. My long-term memory is a little better.

But we are asking that you give us the most complete answer that

you can to our questions and to the best of your recollection. If you can honestly not remember something, please just say so. That's all we ask.

If it's a matter of you don't know the information but you know someone else does, we would ask that you give us that information. So, again, as I've often said, we weren't there at the time, we were not in the room, and so we can only get the information from the people who were there at the time. And that's why you're here today.

So I think that's pretty much it, except for the last part, but it's a very important part. Do you understand that you are required to answer questions from Congress truthfully?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Do you understand that this also applies to questions asked by staff members of a congressional committee?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Do you understand that witnesses that knowingly provide false testimony could be subject to criminal prosecution for perjury or making false statements?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Is there any reason that you would be unable to provide truthful answers to today's questions?

Ms. Abedin. No.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

That is the end of my preamble. I am going to ask the minority staff if they have anything that they would like to add.

Ms. Sawyer. We'd just like to welcome you here. We appreciate you being here. The ranking member, Mr. Cummings from Maryland, will be joining us shortly, and I'm sure that he will also express his appreciation for you joining us today.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you, Heather. Appreciate it.

Ms. Jackson. Ms. Abedin or your counsel, do you have anything else that you would like to add before we start the first round of questioning?

Ms. Dunn. No.

Ms. Abedin. No.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

And, with that, we will start the first round of questioning. I'll say it's 10:19, sort of in between that, but we will start the first round of questioning.

EXAMINATION

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Ms. Abedin, we understand that you worked at the State Department between the years of 2009 and 2013. Is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Could you describe for us your duties, responsibilities, and positions at the State Department?

A I was Secretary Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. And, in that capacity, I was responsible for the day-to-day operations of her office as it related to her schedule, her daily schedule, her long-term schedule. So it was everything from

planning, coordinating, and implementing her travel, whether it was in the building, domestically, or on foreign trips.

Q And you said your role was limited to her office and her schedule. Is that correct? You were not in charge of operations for the State Department writ large?

A That is correct.

Q Okay.

And can you give us the -- were you there during her entire tenure?

A I was.

Q Okay. Did you stay after her tenure?

A I did not.

Q Okay.

Ms. Abedin, how did you first learn that the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi had been attacked or was being attacked?

A I remember receiving an alert on my BlackBerry. It was either a news alert or an alert from our operations center that there had been an attack.

Q Where were you at the time?

A I was in New York.

Q Okay. So you were not at State Department buildings here in Washington, D.C.

A I was not.

Q Okay.

What, if anything, did you do when you received that alert?

A I called one of the assistants in the Secretary's office

to check in.

Q Okay. And do you recall who that was?

A It was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], one of her two personal assistants there.

Q Could I get the first name again, please?

A [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Q Okay. And what, if anything, did you want to do or inquire about, or what was the purpose of your call?

A I just wanted to check in. I'd heard about this -- I'd heard about the attack and just wanted to check in to the office and see what was happening.

Q Do you recall approximately when that was?

A You know, I honestly don't remember the time, but I was out to dinner with friends in New York, so it was sometime in the early evening.

Q Would you say it was after 6 p.m. and before 8 p.m. or was it earlier than that?

A I don't recall.

Q Okay.

You said that one of the ways that you might have been alerted was through an alert from the operations center?

A Correct.

Q Okay.

[Abedin Exhibit No. 1

Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I'm going to hand you what I've marked as Deposition Exhibit No. 1 or exhibit No. 1, which is a series of updates from the operations center at the State Department. It bears -- oh, man, the copying is bad -- bears document number 58670, and it is a multipage document.

But I would ask that you take a look at this exhibit, and then I'm going to ask you a few questions from it.

A Okay.

Q Okay. Are you ready?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. Is this the nature of an ops alert that you described as being the type of information that you might have received? Or would an ops alert come to you in a different format?

A Looking at this, the document that you're showing me, I'm not sure I would have received these particular messages. Often, the special assistants -- [REDACTED], for example, is noted up here -- would forward alerts that they got, that the special assistants got, that they then forwarded to some of the members of the Secretary's staff.

I don't recall receiving updates to this detail that evening. But, yes, an ops alert typically would give you an update on a situation around the world at one of our facilities.

Q And when information would be forwarded to you, would it be forwarded in the form that the special assistants received it?

A I can't speak specifically, but this would not be atypical, for the special assistant to then forward it to some members of the

Secretary's staff, as is reflected in this particular document.

Q So I want to understand how the information flow would go. So if it wouldn't come in this form, how would it come to --

A No, it would. It would've been forwarded -- I mean, this is not atypical is what I'm saying.

Q Oh, not atypical.

A This is not atypical --

Q Okay.

A -- for the special assistant to have forwarded something to members of the Secretary's staff.

Q Okay.

Going back to, sort of, the end of this document, when the first alert came out, which would be, sort of, the bottom of the second-to-last page into the last page, it is sent Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 4:05 p.m. And it lists a variety of what I would call distribution lists.

A Uh-huh.

Q Is that how you would describe who it is sent to?

A I'm not sure I can speak to who, you know, the ops alert would send emails to. But, yes, it was a selection of people throughout the Department. Yes.

Q Were you part of any of these email addresses here? For example, in the "to" line, I see, S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov.

A Correct.

Q Correct. Would you be a recipient of that, or would that

have been someone else who then would have perhaps forwarded the information to you?

A I would not have been a recipient of that. That would go to the S_SpecialAssistants.

Q Okay.

As you look through this list of email addresses, do you see any email address that you would have been a part of?

A There isn't an email address here that I recognize as part of a distribution group I would have been on.

Q In the middle of that distribution list, I see an email address that is called "BenghaziUpdate@state.gov." Do you recognize that email address?

A It does not sound familiar to me.

Q Okay. So you don't know who would have been a part of that email address.

A I am not certain.

Q Okay.

Throughout this document, exhibit 1, there are periodic updates that have come in, which culminates on the first page with what is in the subject line, "Update 8: Second Evacuee Flight is Wheels-Down in Tripoli."

Do you recall whether you received these updates periodically through this evening and into the next day, September 12?

A I do not recall.

Q Did you receive periodic updates that night from any other

source?

A You know, Ms. Jackson, the best that I remember, I received a notice on my BlackBerry. I'm not certain if it was an ops alert or if it was, you know, a CNN breaking news story. I was out to dinner with my husband and with some friends. I looked at it with some alarm.

I got up. I remember I was in a noisy restaurant. I called the office. "What's happening?" And it was clear they had a lot going on and said, yes, the Secretary is here, senior staff is here, and a lot's happening. And, basically, I can't -- I don't remember it being more than a few-minute phone call. I certainly don't think I appreciated how serious the situation was in that moment, because, you know, I just went back to what I was doing.

And so I do not recall having received -- and now that I've read this document -- you know, some obviously very serious updates that were being sent. I don't recall seeing those.

Q Did you have any further communications with anyone back at what I will describe as "Main State" either that evening or the next morning?

A I went to bed not, you know, having much, frankly, of an update. I don't recall hearing from any of my colleagues that evening. And then I woke to a department-wide email informing us that we'd lost Chris Stevens.

Q Okay. Do you recall if you had talked to the Secretary that evening?

A I didn't talk to her.

Q Okay. Did you talk to her the next morning?

A I did.

Q Okay. And we'll come back to that in a moment.

One last question about exhibit No. 1. At the very top of this document, on Tuesday, October 23, 2012, this document is being sent to Philippe Reines, Cheryl Mills, and Jake Sullivan and then to an address called "Coordination@state.gov."

Do you know what the Coordination@state.gov represented?

A I don't.

Q Is it an email address that you recall ever using?

A I never heard of it before.

Q Okay.

Was there any type of coordination group that was put together in response to the Benghazi incident?

A If there was, I'm not aware of the specifics.

Q Okay. All right.

A Shall I return this to you, ma'am?

Q We'll just set them over there for the reporter.

A Okay.

Q Set them to the side.

You stated that you talked to the Secretary the next morning?

A I did.

Q Okay. And do you recall approximately when that was?

A I do not.

Q Before noon? Or before 10?

A I think it may have been in the afternoon.

Q Okay. And did she relate to you what she knew about the attacks in Benghazi?

A Honestly, in that moment, I think everyone was just in shock and immediately trying to figure out how we brought the bodies home.

And, you know, for me, for my purposes, the purpose of our communication that day would have been how we addressed her existing schedule, which was quite full, and how we accommodated the schedule to have an appropriate service to honor, you know, those that we lost, and, you know, how that affected her schedule, and what do we cancel, what do we keep, who are we calling, and just, you know, coordinating that.

I mean, it was pretty -- we had moved pretty quickly into how do we operationalize, what are we supposed to be doing. I just remember everyone, you know, being in a little bit of -- our building was in mourning.

Q Uh-huh.

Do you recall any conversation with the Secretary regarding the details of the attack as part of that conversation?

A Oh, absolutely not. Those were -- no.

Q Okay.

Did you have conversations, telephone conversations, with any of the other senior leaders from the State Department that day?

A I did.

Q Okay. And who did you speak with?

A I couldn't tell you specifically, but I probably spoke to a lot of them. I was in the building the next day. I returned to Washington; I was in the building the next day. I saw many of my colleagues.

Q Okay. That was going to be my next question. Were you doing this from New York or Washington?

A I was in Washington.

Q So you returned that morning of the 12th?

A I returned, if I remember correctly, late morning -- I returned late morning. It was after the President had visited the Department.

Q Okay.

And so, then, once you returned, you were handling the Secretary's schedule and rearranging things and --

A You know, honestly, at that point, I was more serving in an advisory capacity -- how can I help, you know, what needed to be done. You know, many of my colleagues in the Department knew Chris quite well. And so it was just, you know -- part of it was, you know, we were just ~~wondering~~^{wandering} around, you know, we were hugging people and checking in on them. But, yes, I did reengage.

Q Okay.

When did you first get any details regarding the attack, or attacks?

A I don't recall anything specific. There was obviously -- there were news reports coming out immediately. If there

were reports about the attack that were coming up in the Department, those were not meetings I would have typically been in.

Q Was it discussed, though?

A I --

Q And by that, I mean in your presence.

A I don't remember conversations. I was more in -- it wasn't my purview to be, sort of, listening to those conversations or being part of those conversations. I don't recall anything specific, aside from just talking about the loss of life.

Q Okay.

Do you know if the Secretary had reached out to either any of the survivors of the attack or the employees in Tripoli or other Americans that were in Libya?

A Could you be more specific into what time? When?

Q Either the night of the attack or the 12th.

A I know that -- I think it's public record that she spoke with the embassy that evening. And beyond that, I wasn't privy to the conversations or meetings that she had that evening.

Q Okay. And when you say "the embassy," you're talking about Tripoli as opposed to Benghazi?

A Yes. That's my recollection.

Q Okay.

There is an interagency group known as the FEST, which is the Foreign Emergency Support Team. Are you aware of the FEST?

A I'm not, really. I've read about them in news reports, but

no.

Q At the time.

A No.

Q At the time of the --

A At the time, I would not.

Q Okay.

Ms. Dunn. Sharon, I think also it would help, just to clarify, because I think there are some things that Ms. Abedin will know because she saw the news, and there are things that she will know because they're her firsthand knowledge.

Ms. Jackson. Right.

Ms. Dunn. And I suppose what you're interested in is what she actually remembers based on her firsthand knowledge.

Ms. Jackson. That is correct.

Ms. Dunn. But it's sometimes very difficult because, sitting here today, she probably knows what she read in the news. So I think --

Ms. Jackson. I will try and preface my questions with "at the time." But that is what -- you know, at the time these events unfolded, you know, did any number of things happen. And I have a list of things that I want to go down.

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. So, regardless of whether you subsequently learned about things, I want to focus on what you knew at the time, what was discussed at the time, the information flow within --

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. -- the senior leadership of the Department.

And I understand that it's very likely you don't know a variety of things, but I want to explore that too, okay?

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. All right.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q So, as to the FEST, at the time of the attacks in September of 2012, you did not know of that resource of the State Department?

A I did not.

Q Okay. Did it come up in any conversations that you were privy to in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, like, the 12th, 13th, 14th, that week?

A None that I recall.

Q Okay.

Subsequent to that time and notwithstanding anything that you may have read in the media or learned, but did you ever learn in your official capacity at the State Department that there was a decision not to employ the FEST that evening?

A No. I'm not aware.

Q Okay.

Moving ahead a couple of days, or in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, so the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, was the Secretary asked to appear on any news shows?

A I recall conversations about potentially appearing on the Sunday shows.

Q Okay. And when do you recall that you first learned about that?

A I have no memory. It was within -- you know, it was within that span of days, but I couldn't tell you.

Q Would it have been before Friday?

A It's possible it wasn't. I don't know. I really don't know.

Q Okay. Do you recall that you had the return-of-remains ceremony on Friday afternoon?

A Absolutely.

Q Okay. Would it have been -- I'm just trying to focus on the time period as best we can.

A Okay.

Q Would it have -- you returned on Wednesday?

A Wednesday.

Q And you had the return of remains on Friday. Where did the Secretary go after the return of remains? Did she go to New York?

A She was in Washington, as I recollect.

Q That weekend?

A Not the entire weekend. She returned to New York that weekend.

Q Okay. Would it have been before she returned to New York that these conversations about the Sunday talk shows would have come up?

A I would be speculating, but likely -- I would be

speculating. I mean, I don't -- I honestly don't remember.

Q Okay. And that's why we have documents.

A Oh, thank you. Good.

Q I'm going to mark this document as exhibit No. 2.

[Abedin Exhibit No. 2

was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q It's document 45306.

A Okay.

Q There's a front and back, double-sided, but there's very little on the back.

A Okay.

Q Have you had enough time to review this document?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. This document, which has been marked 45306 and 45307, has a subject line of "Mini for Today -- Friday, September 14, 2012."

Can you explain to us what a "mini for today" is?

A Yes. So her assistants would typically print her schedule, shrink it down on an index card so that it was convenient for her to travel with, and we called it the mini.

Q Okay.

This was an email exchange sent by [REDACTED]. Who was he?

A He was one of her assistants in the office. He did all of her correspondence and printed documents for her.

Q Okay. So he worked on the seventh floor at the State Department?

A He did.

Q And he would have access to her calendar and schedule and things like that?

A He typically would -- he would've been sent this to format it, but the schedulers are the ones who accessed and maintained the schedule.

Q Okay.

And I notice that this was sent at 7:29 a.m. to you and others.

██████████ is a name that you --

A Yes.

Q -- previously mentioned. ██████████, I believe, is also a name you mentioned. And then there is one other name, and who is that person?

A ██████████ was her director of scheduling.

Q Okay.

So were all of these people, you yourself included, involved in setting up her schedule for that day?

A It would have been ██████████ who set up her schedule, and most of us would have been cc'd for our awareness, but yes.

Q Okay.

And I noticed that down at the bottom there are some TBDs, which I assume means "to be determined," but please correct me if I'm wrong.

A That is correct.

Q Okay. And it appears that there was some consideration that the Secretary would leave after the return-of-remains ceremony and go to New York. Was that under consideration at the time?

A It must have been, as is noted on the schedule, yes.

Q Okay. Do you have a recollection as to whether that occurred?

A I don't. I'm not sure. You know, I'm not sure that she would have left that night.

Q Okay. If she didn't leave Friday night, when did she leave?

A She either left Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. I just would have to check --

Q Okay.

A -- the records.

Q And what type of records would have that information?

A Her schedule. Her schedule for that day.

Q And the State Department should still have a record of that?

A You'd have to check with them.

Q Okay.

Mr. Westmoreland. Sharon, can I just get her to clarify?

Ms. Jackson. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. What kind of scheduling did you do for Mrs. Clinton?

Ms. Abedin. Well, I oversaw the scheduling operation. So it would be, sort of, long-term planning, where she goes, you know, when we're traveling overseas. I worked very closely with [REDACTED] we worked

hand-in-hand, but she actually typed out the schedule. She would be the one who then called the host organization and said, "The Secretary will be coming," and then worked out all the logistical details. But I oversaw [REDACTED]

Mr. Westmoreland. So you oversaw all the scheduling, but there was people that worked under you that scheduled different things?

Ms. Abedin. They would schedule those things, sir. They did the actual logistics. They called. They, you know, talked about what her arrival point would be, where would she depart from, what would the order of the program be. So they reported -- she reported to me.

Mr. Westmoreland. So you would say, "She is going to New York," and they would do all the other stuff, whether it's getting a flight or whatever. If you said, "She's going to New York Friday afternoon" --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- then it would be up to them to --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. [REDACTED] would --

Mr. Westmoreland. -- coordinate that?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. But you don't remember if you told them that she was going to New York that afternoon or not?

Ms. Abedin. When she was in -- I don't. There was some conversation about her leaving that evening, as is reflected in this document. I'm not certain she did, sir. She went back --

Mr. Westmoreland. But you had her scheduled to go back to New

York.

Ms. Abedin. We had put it as a tentative option for her to go, but she -- it's possible she left later in the weekend. But I don't -- I didn't travel back with her, so I don't have on the top of my head when her wheels-up time was.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Okay. Just a couple other things on her schedule that day.

I see at 9:30 a.m. she had a weekly meeting with U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice. Do you see that on the schedule, on exhibit 2?

A I do see that, yes.

Q Do you know if that meeting occurred that day? Do you recall?

A I don't specifically recall for Friday. They did have a standing Friday meeting, so it was, you know -- typically, Ambassador Rice was there. As to that particular Friday, I don't remember if I saw her or not.

Q Okay. And one of the reasons I was just wondering is if Ambassador Rice then stayed and traveled with the Secretary to the ceremony in the afternoon or if you have a recollection of seeing her on this particular day.

A The senior officials I remember seeing that day were at Andrews Air Force Base. I just -- I don't remember if Ambassador Rice was there. I don't -- I really -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry I can't be more helpful.

Q Okay. Well, let me ask it this way. Once the Secretary

concluded her meetings for a day, was there a document that was written up that would summarize what actually happened on her schedule? Is there another document that may be out there that would confirm what she did or did not do?

A There typically was, yes, maintained at the State Department by [REDACTED], who was her executive assistant and did the final -- you know, updated what actually ended up happening.

Q Okay. And do you know where that final schedule was kept?

A Somewhere in the Department.

Q Okay. But [REDACTED] was the person who was responsible for that at the time?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A When she was in the office, it was [REDACTED], yes.

Q Okay.

Moving up to the schedule, I see at 8:45 a.m. there's a daily senior staff meeting in the Secretary's conference room. Do you recall if that meeting occurred?

A It's a meeting that took place every day when she was in Washington. I'd be speculating, but I would imagine it happened. I have no reason to believe it wouldn't happen.

Q Okay. And who would attend the daily senior staff meeting?

A It was leadership -- it was leadership from --

Ms. Jackson. Oh, let me just interrupt for a second. We've been joined -- interrupt you to say we've been joined by Representative

Cummings.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I believe the question was, who would attend the daily senior staff meeting?

A It was leadership from throughout the Department, the deputy secretaries and then the heads of various departments throughout the building.

Q So the under secretaries?

A No, not the under secretaries, specifically. It was the deputy secretaries of state and then representatives from -- you know, the executive secretary, for example, would be there, the executive assistant would be there, the head of ^{H and L} ~~H&L~~, and our counselor and chief of staff would be there. It was a smaller group.

Q Okay. And would you typically attend those when they were held at the State Department?

A Sometimes I did, but not always.

Q Okay.

And when the Secretary was traveling, did she have an alternative to this meeting? Was there a daily conference call as opposed to a meeting in her conference room? Did she maintain a daily briefing with her senior staff when she was out of the office?

A She received a PDB on a daily basis.

Q And would that be the Presidential Daily Brief?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay.

A But on travel, there wasn't typically a standing meeting or phone call that took place with the Department. But, you know, we were all regularly talking on the road, and several members of people traveling would be in communication with the State Department, including the Secretary.

Q Okay.

And at this daily senior staff meeting, for the ones that you attended, what were the topics of conversation, just generally? What type of things were being discussed?

A It was any news and updates that each individual department wanted to say that they are working on. The Legal Advisor would, for example, ~~tell the Secretary what they were working on.~~ The people representing H would tell her what was happening on the Hill. The executive secretary would give an update about what was happening at embassies around the world. It was sort of a, you know, daily update, daily report.

Q Okay.

A And then she would share anything that she wanted to.

Q Okay.

And did she have other standing meetings throughout the week with other either departments or sections of the Department?

A She did. Every Monday morning, we had a senior leadership meeting, which was very large, that did include the under secretaries, and it included the assistant secretaries from just about every bureau in the building. And all the envoys were included. So that was a

standing meeting that was every Monday.

She also had a standing meeting with the regional assistant secretaries. So the assistant secretaries that reported to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, they would update her on the activities of their bureau.

Q Okay. That would include the Under Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, the regional bureau?

A That's correct.

Q Okay.

A Yes.

Q And when you say "regional bureaus," just help me understand the hierarchy in the State Department. Was that a level below the assistant secretary? Were they people different than the assistant secretaries, or was it the assistant secretaries?

A It was either the assistant secretary or, you know, the principal deputy assistant secretary in the office. It was whoever the assistant secretary for that particular bureau, you know, deemed appropriate to attend. They either came themselves; often, if they were traveling, it wasn't atypical for a deputy to show up.

Q Okay. And how often were these meetings held?

A The regionals were once a week or once every other week. But, again, it depended on her travel schedule. We tried to do it once a week. And I think it was every Thursday.

Q Okay. And how many people would be attending this particular meeting? How voluminous was the attendees?

A For the regional?

Q Let's start there, yeah.

A It would be just the number of assistant secretaries as there were for regional bureaus. So 10, 11? I'm guessing.

Q Okay.

A It was -- you know, it would fill this table.

Q I just want to make -- let's take Near East Affairs. Do you know how many regional bureaus were within the Near East Affairs --

A Well, that was a --

Q -- region?

A That was a regional bureau.

Q Okay.

A That was one.

Q Okay. So they'd have one person there.

A Correct.

Q Oh, okay.

A Yes.

Q I understand now.

A Yes.

Q And the other meeting that you described that was the larger meeting, how many people would be at that?

A That was quite large. That could have been, you know, anywhere from 30 to 40 people. Again, I'm guessing, but that was a very broad cross-section of leadership throughout the Department was included.

Q Okay.

Now, you said the special envoys attended that meeting?

A If they were not traveling, yes.

Q Okay. So were there any telecommunications capabilities? I mean, did people remote in? Was it is a SVTCS or a VTC or anything like that? Or would it be an in-person meeting?

A That was an in-person meeting.

Q Okay. So if you had an envoy that was in the Middle East or some other country, that person would not be participating?

A I don't recall that ever happening.

Q Okay.

~~I veered off a little bit. We had been talking about the~~
Secretary was asked to appear on the Sunday talk shows following the attacks in Benghazi. And I believe you stated that she had been requested to do them. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And do you recall who requested?

A Actually, I just want to clarify something, Ms. Jackson. There was conversation about her going on the Sunday shows that was raised with me, but -- yes, there was conversation.

Q And did you have those conversations with the Secretary?

A If I'm recalling, yes.

Q Okay. And who else participated in those conversations?

A Our press secretary^{and} Philippe Reines.

Q Okay. Anyone else?

A I'm sure our deputy chief of staff, Jake Sullivan, and our chief of staff, Cheryl Mills.

Q Okay. Did Victoria Nuland participate in the conversations, if you recall?

A I'm sure she did. Philippe reported to Victoria, so I'm sure she did.

Q Okay. Anyone else that you recall being a part of that?

A No.

Q Okay.

What do you recall about how the topic came to be? Had the news organizations reached out to the Secretary or to Philippe Reines or Victoria Nuland requesting her? Was she asked by the White House? Was it something that she volunteered to do? What can you tell us about the origin of that?

A And you're asking me what I knew at the time --

Q Yes.

A -- not what I know now.

What I remember -- I don't remember being on any email exchanges about this. I remember getting a call. And it wouldn't have been atypical for Philippe, our press secretary, to call me and say, hey, what do you think about the idea of -- you know, can we have the Secretary -- or should we talk about the Secretary being on the Sunday shows? And we had a discussion about it. It might have been a conference call with some of these, you know, other individuals I mentioned. It might have just been me and Philippe. But it was pretty

quickly determined that she would not.

Q Okay. And tell us about how that decision was reached. What was discussed? Who discussed it? What were the pros and cons being discussed?

A Well, I can tell you from my perspective, because that's what I remember, which was we had a pretty full set of ~~particularly~~^{priority} phone calls that we needed and that the Secretary wanted to -- both responsive and proactive phone calls that she needed to make throughout the weekend. And we were much more focused -- I was much more focused on just getting done what she needed to have done. And if I remember correctly, she was on the phone pretty much all weekend, certainly all day Saturday and maybe some part of Sunday too.

But it seemed to me, as somebody who had to determine what to, you know, put on her schedule, that we had other priorities, other things that she needed to be doing. I did also anticipate that she was going to go back to New York that weekend. And, lastly, it was a pretty rare occurrence that she would have done Sunday shows. I mean, it wasn't anything that was ever seen, really, as a priority by any of us, frankly.

Q Was there any part of this discussion that centered on the fact that when she had in the rare instances done Sunday talk shows before it had been about Libya?

A Are you telling me that?

Q Well, let me ask you that. Did you know that she had previously done the Sunday talk show circuit, if you will, regarding

Libya? Do you recall?

A You know, we had done the Sunday shows that year, I know that, and maybe one or two, but I don't remember the topic. I do remember that we went, yes, earlier in the year.

Q Do you recall that she did the Sunday talk shows right around the time of the U.N. resolution and when the President was going to make an address to the Nation regarding Libya?

A It could have been.

Q Could have been?

A Yeah. Yeah.

Q Okay.

~~Do you recall whether there was any --- back to September ---~~

A Yeah.

Q -- of 2012. Do you recall there being any part of the discussion of whether she should do the shows being the fact that she had done Sunday talk shows regarding Libya before? Do you remember that being discussed as a factor?

A Not at all.

Q Okay.

And, again, do you recall when the decision was made that she was not going to do them?

A I don't recall specifically when. But I do know that when it was raised with me, from my perspective, I immediately said, this will be very challenging to do, given everything else we're trying to do, in terms of these priority calls that needed to be done.

Q Do you know when the decision was made to have Ambassador Rice do the Sunday talk shows? Were you part of any of those discussions?

A I was not. And I typically wouldn't have been.

Q Okay.

In the days following that, did you learn anything -- so in the rest of the month of September into October, did you learn anything about how the decision was made to have Ambassador Rice go on the talk shows?

A I don't recall any conversations.

Q Okay. None at all?

A No. And, I mean, those typically wouldn't be conversations I would have been involved in. But I specifically. I don't specifically.

Q Do you know if anyone else was involved in those conversations, regardless of the specifics of the conversation?

A I can't speak to what other people were involved with. I don't know. I honestly don't know.

Q Did the Secretary weigh in as to whether she wanted to do the Sunday talk shows?

A I remember discussing it -- you know, we discussing it with her very briefly, and the answer was "no" almost immediately, from my memory.

Q Okay.

Now, you've stated that the Secretary made a variety of calls that

weekend. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And what were the nature of those calls? I mean, to whom? What were -- yeah.

A Wow, you're really -- you're really, like, testing my memory here.

Q I'm looking for more generally.

A You know, there would have been regional calls to other leaders in the Middle East. She may have called -- in fact, I'm sure she called the Libyan leadership and other, sort of, regional Arab leaders.

~~I recall there being some conversations with African leaders, as well. There was something going on in the region, and those calls needed to be addressed. And that, I think, might have even been prior to knowing about the attack, but it was.~~

I remember, that weekend, there just being so many calls that she had to make. I think she called the King of Morocco, for example, as a specific, I mean, just something that sticks out in my head. But those are the ones that I can recall.

Ms. Dunn. Do you have a document or something?

Ms. Jackson. Yeah.

Ms. Dunn. Okay. Given that, you know --

Ms. Jackson. We may circle back around to that.

Ms. Dunn. Okay.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I know you answered this, but let me ask it again because --

A Yeah.

Q -- I'm not exactly sure I remembered your answer. Did you stay in Washington that weekend, or did you travel -- I know you said you didn't travel back with the Secretary.

A Yes.

Q But did you travel back to New York?

A I did.

Q You did?

A I did.

Q Okay. Did you work with her at her New York residence that weekend on these calls?

A I don't think I was with her that -- I wasn't always with her. So I don't think I was there that weekend, no.

Q Okay.

I want to switch gears here for a moment because I have a few more questions. Or --

Mr. Pompeo. You keep going. You keep going.

Ms. Jackson. Are you sure?

Mr. Pompeo. Yes, of course.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

Ms. Dunn. I'm also just wondering, do you do breaks on the hour, or do you them on the 19s, when we started?

Ms. Jackson. I usually go for a full 60 minutes, but if you would like a break, we'll be happy to take one now.

Ms. Abedin. Oh, no, I'm fine.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Then I will go to, like, 19 after, and then I'd be done with my hour, and we would take a break and switch.

Ms. Dunn. Got it. Thank you.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Is that fine?

Ms. Dunn. Yeah, no, that's fine.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I want to step back to much earlier, in February and March of 2011, when the Arab Spring erupted --

A Okay.

Q -- and ask you what you recall about the discussions of the U.S. intervention in Libya.

A Well, anything related to the policy elements, I would not be able to be helpful in providing because I wasn't involved in those conversations. But in terms of her travel and her schedule, I can tell you what I remember. Is that what you're asking me?

Q We wanted to know what you knew and what you didn't know and then -- yes. And now we want to go into what you do know. Okay?

A Okay.

Q I just wanted to make clear what you would have been involved in and not involved in.

A Yes. In that time period or, frankly, any time period, any meetings as it related to policy would not have been my purview and would not have been what I was included in. But I certainly was

included in conversations about where she would go. I was part of those discussions about her travel.

Q And as to policy and as to Libya, in particular, who would have been the person that she discussed Libyan policy with?

A That would have been our -- well, it would have been a combination of leadership of the Department. It would have been our Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, Jeff Feltman, and, you know, our Deputy Secretary of State, Bill Burns, and Jake Sullivan, who was my co-Deputy Chief of Staff, and he did policy. I was operations, and he was policy.

Q Okay.

~~Now, the Department had a second Deputy Secretary; I believe at that time it was Thomas Nides. Or, at least, he changed --~~

A Was it Jack Lew or Tom? I think it would have been Tom, yes.

Q Okay. Regardless of who was in the position, did they have a policy role?

A I'm not sure how to answer that question. I mean, they certainly -- I mean, I experienced the person in that role as much more of a management deputy. Like, I certainly saw, you know, Bill Burns or Jim Steinberg as the Deputy Secretary of State who did policy, and the other was more of a management capacity.

Q Okay. And not to say that they didn't delve into policy --

A Yeah, no, yes. I just -- yeah, I'm not -- I'm not sure that -- I'm not sure that I saw that.

Q In the spring of 2011 and throughout 2011, we see a lot of documents where you are forwarding to Secretary Clinton information regarding Libya and what's happening in Libya, both in general news articles and in more specific substance from within the State Department. Do you recall that?

A Yes. Absolutely.

Q Okay. Tell us how you chose or you knew to forward things to the Secretary. Were you given direction to do so? Did you just know what was going on and did it of your own volition? We're just trying to understand why the information flowed in the way it did.

A You're talking about electronic?

Q Yes.

A Okay. So when she was in the office and when she was on the road, you know, most information that she got was on paper that was, you know, handed to her and that she handed back. And the same thing happened on the road. We had our line officers, whose responsibility was to create the paper, print it, and give it to her.

In instances where she might be at home for the evening or it was the weekend, I often did send her news alerts or just updates through the Department. She generally wanted to know what was going on, and it was my attempt to help keep her informed.

Q Okay. Would she communicate to you what areas of the world she was concerned about or wanted updates on?

A No. You know, I generally erred on sending her more rather than less. It wasn't specific. You know, for example, if it was a

news update, I would send it to her, regardless of the region in the world.

Q Okay. And how did you know to send her information on Libya? What was your thought process in deciding to send her information on Libya?

A I would have ~~send~~^{sent} her, if it was information on Somalia or London or the U.K., I mean, anywhere, I would have forwarded -- I would have likely forwarded it to her.

Q Okay.

Do you have any sense or recall as to whether the volume of information you sent her regarding Libya stayed constant, whether it ebbed and flowed? Was there a time where it tapered off? And, specifically, I'm looking at the period of 2011 and 2012.

A I remember -- I recall receiving just throughout her tenure lots of, you know, email updates about the status of, you know, countries around the world, and I sent them to her.

Certainly, in 2011, I mean, we were very heavily engaged in all aspects of what was happening in Libya. I mean, I can speak from my own perspective. The amount of time she spent at these international conferences and with the contact groups -- I mean, I think we had, I don't know, eight or nine trips in 2011 alone that were somehow related to Libya, I mean, starting in February, I think, of that year when she went to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Switzerland.

So, between that and then going to Paris and then going to London and then going back to Paris and then being in Istanbul and Rome and

the Emirates and then finally back in Paris and then ending up in Tripoli in October of that year, yes, I mean, it was a constant, you know, physical presence that she had in these meetings. And there was a lot of work done, you know, around that remotely. And so, sure, was I sending her updates on Libya? Absolutely.

As to the number and the volume, I couldn't guess, but it was probably -- I would speculate that there was probably a lot of updates that were coming in that I would be sending.

Q Okay.

And all of those cities that you just talked about, Paris three times and Rome --

A Yes, ma'am.

Q -- and Istanbul, were those all Libya-related meetings --

A Yes, ma'am.

Q -- that she attended?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay.

In February-March of 2011, were you aware that Chris Stevens was going to be selected to be the Envoy to -- and be sent to Benghazi and Envoy to Libya?

A I was not.

Q Okay. When did you first learn that?

A When I met him -- and if I'm remembering correctly, I think that was the first time I actually met Chris. When he attended a meeting with Mahmoud Jibril in Paris was the first time that the

Secretary was meeting with the opposition leader. And this would have been probably mid-March of 2011, and it's the first time I met Chris.

Q Okay. And that was before he went into Benghazi as the Envoy?

A I don't know at that point what his formal title was. But, at that point, it was, at least to me, clear -- that's why he was in the meeting -- that he was our representative to the TNC.

Q Okay.

Do you recall whether Ambassador Cretz was at that meeting?

A I think he was. I think he was, yes.

Q Okay.

~~And tell us what you know of why Chris Stevens was selected to go and be the representative to the rebels or the revolutionaries.~~

A I have absolutely no idea.

Q Okay. Do you know who made that decision?

A I would be speculating.

Q Okay.

Ms. Jackson. I see that I only have about 5 or 6 minutes left, and I believe Mr. Westmoreland has a couple of question. So he may want to jump back a little bit.

Mr. Westmoreland. I just want to go back to the scheduling for a minute.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. You talked to the Secretary, I guess, late in the afternoon of the 12th?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. Did she give you any scheduling request of what she felt like she needed to do for you to put on the calendar?

Ms. Abedin. From my recollection, sir, that first meeting that we had was to address what to do about the next few days in the immediate.

For example, we had the Foreign Minister of Morocco who had come in with an entire delegation, and we were doing a strategic dialogue meeting. And this had been a long-planned summit, if you will, that was taking place actually the next day, that Thursday, the 13th.

And we also had had a long-scheduled and delayed Eid reception, which was, you know, the end of the month of Ramadan, sort of, celebration.

And that purpose of that first meeting was what should we do about the next few days. And, you know, again, from my recollection, we pretty quickly decided that --

Mr. Westmoreland. Let me just --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. But would not the attack on a mission and the killing of the Ambassador and three other Americans, would not that have been a priority over -- I mean, this had just happened the day before.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. And if something like that had happened, you know, in my district, you know, I would have called scheduling and said, hey, look, I want to talk to the county commissioner where this

happened, I want to talk to the city council members, I'd like to make a phone call to the governor. I mean, you know, there are just --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- those things that I would think that she would have relayed to you, but she just basically wanted to continue with the schedule?

Ms. Abedin. Oh, no, sir. By the time I saw her, she had already done many of those things.

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay.

Ms. Abedin. Earlier in the day, she --

Mr. Westmoreland. So she'd have made all these high-priority contacts?

Ms. Abedin. She'd already made a -- she'd already made phone calls, as I understand. She had gone to the White House, met with the President. You know, they had a meeting about what was happening. The President returned to the State Department with her and spoke to State Department employees.

I apologize if I was mischaracterizing what her priority was. When the attack happened, I was not there. She consulted with the staff that was immediately in her presence, and they were the ones who executed -- I do not hold up executing anything, sir, as it related --

Mr. Westmoreland. No, I wasn't inferring that.

Ms. Abedin. No, no, I meant, like, as a matter of practice. You know, if it was --

Mr. Westmoreland. So when called you, she did give you -- or,

at some point, late afternoon --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- did she talk to you about rearranging anything on the schedule or prioritizing anything or --

Ms. Abedin. Well, Friday changed dramatically. I mean, really, you know, the -- she had spent the morning -- she had also spoken with family members that morning.

So it really was -- and, also, if I'm remembering correctly, you know, shortly after we met with her, she met to talk about the ceremony at Andrews, because our chief of protocol had to take the lead on organizing that, you know, amongst the other agencies. So, in the moment, it was: how do we properly honor; you know, reach out to the families; spoke at the Department.

But, yes, sir, there was this question: What should I do? We had obviously canceled whatever else she'd had on Friday. There were, as you can see, a few things that we kept. We did decide to move forward the next day with the meeting with the Moroccans and with the Eid reception, but --

Mr. Westmoreland. Did -- go ahead.

Ms. Abedin. No, that's okay. That's okay. I'll take your questioning.

Mr. Westmoreland. Well, You know, if I'm trying to get in touch with Mike --

Ms. Abedin. Yeah.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- and sometimes it's hard getting contact

Member to Member, I'll call my scheduler and say, can you call Mike's scheduler and set up a time where we can talk?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. And I can't imagine trying to get in touch with another ambassador or the President of a country or opposition leaders or whoever it is without, you know, scheduling a phone call.

Did you schedule any phone calls to these people that she was going to call either at the end of that week or over the weekend?

Ms. Abedin. So I would be overseeing -- typically, what I had done in the past was I was overseeing that operation. So, if I wasn't there, she would have just had the scheduler do that who was sitting in the building in addition to, you know, our deputy chief of staff, our chief of staff, all the staff that was with her, and said, you know, I need to call the family members, I need to call the leadership of Libya, which, you know, I think I --

Mr. Westmoreland. So she didn't call you and say you need to contact somebody. She was contacting other --

Ms. Abedin. Oh, no, sir. No, sir. Yeah, if she was in the office -- and I've mentioned [REDACTED] a few times -- she would pick up the phone -- it didn't matter if I was in the office or not. She would pick up the phone, and she would say, I would like to call, you know --

Mr. Westmoreland. But would you have been the one to say she's going home and I'm going to schedule phone -- you know, on Saturday and Sunday, we're scheduling phone calls?

Ms. Abedin. Ultimately, when she was going home, she would direct us. So, if I was with her, she'd tell me. If somebody else was with her, she'd tell them. I happened, in that particular time period, not to be there, so none of these directives were directed to me.

Mr. Westmoreland
~~Ms. Abedin~~. So the press secretary got the request -- because I know, you know, if we say something or, you know, something happens, you know, we have all the press people that calls our press girl, and, you know, she talks to my scheduler and to me about what's, you know, going on.

So they call this press person. And did he call and ask you, hey, does she have time to do these things?

Ms. Jackson. And you're talking about the Sunday talk shows?

Mr. Westmoreland. Yes, I'm talking about the -- I'm sorry. I'm talking about the Sunday talk shows.

Did he say, does she have time to do this? Or was it, do you want to talk to some of the policy people about her doing this? Would you have been his first phone call once he got those press things?

Ms. Abedin. Probably not.

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay.

Ms. Abedin. No. He would've probably consulted -- typically, he would've consulted with the policy team first.

Mr. Westmoreland. Well, how did you get in the loop, then?

Ms. Abedin. He'd probably call to say, we want to schedule, you know, what do you think, what else is happening.

Mr. Westmoreland. I know, but after he talked to the policy people, it seems pretty evident that the answer was, no, we're not going to do that.

Ms. Abedin. Yeah, we could have -- and it's possible that we were all on the same call. I just -- it wasn't something we spent a lot of time talking about. So, you know, could I have been on that same call with Jake? That wouldn't have been atypical, sir. It wouldn't have been atypical for the chief of staff, the deputy chief, and myself, for all to be on one phone call.

Mr. Westmoreland. So, just to be perfectly straight, in your opinion --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- these phone calls that weekend --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. -- that she had already made these priority calls, you said, you know, that night and the next morning, she had been on the phone talking to these different people. So the priority phone calls that she made on Saturday and Sunday were a lower priority than what the first calls were, I'm assuming, or either she couldn't get in touch with them.

And so did you all say, hey, this needs to be our priority rather than informing the American people of what happened in Benghazi that killed four Americans? And I guess that's my question to you. How did that -- you know, you said that these other phone calls were prioritized over doing the Sunday talk shows, right?

Ms. Abedin. That is correct, sir. But I also -- I think the Secretary has been pretty public about saying that she did not see the Sunday shows, as a matter of practice, to be a priority. But she had taken the opportunity --

Mr. Westmoreland. Well, seeing them, I can see them not be a priority. They're not a priority -- I don't get up on Sundays to go on a talk show.

Ms. Dunn. We should also clarify, because your initial testimony, just to be clear, was about your perception.

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Ms. Dunn. And so I think, if you're -- if you want to clarify --

Ms. Abedin. Yeah, no. I mean, yes, I can only speak to what I knew. And, you know -- and I think the only thing that I was going to add is she had made several public statements prior to Sunday on a number of occasions, the day after the attack, including on Friday at Andrews Air Force Base. And I think she communicated to the American people on a number of occasions.

And, again, I'm saying this from my perspective. I don't know that the Sunday shows are the only place where you can communicate to the American people. But I say that very respectfully, and that's just -- that's my opinion, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. Thank you.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you, sir.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. I see that our first hour is up.

Ms. Dunn. Great.

Ms. Jackson. And so we will go off the record and take a break.

Ms. Dunn. Thank you.

Ms. Jackson. And we'll resume in hopefully -- let's shoot for 10 minutes.

[Recess.]

Ms. Sawyer. Okay. We'll go back on the record.

Good morning, Ms. Abedin. Again, I'm Heather Sawyer. I'm with the Democratic members of the select committee. We, again, appreciate your willingness to be here, your willingness to be here voluntarily, and all of your efforts to make sure that this committee has information from you, including your documents, that will help our investigation.

The ranking member, Mr. Cummings, is here with us. I know he has some questions for you and wanted to also welcome you, so I'm going to turn it over to him.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you.

Mr. Cummings. Good morning.

Ms. Abedin. Good morning, sir.

Mr. Cummings. Ms. Abedin, I came here out of respect for you. I am going to be here for a while, and hopefully I'll get a chance to come back. I've got to run back to Baltimore and do some things in our district and prepare for next Thursday. But I do thank you for being here. And we appreciate your continued cooperation with the committee and your willingness to appear voluntarily to answer our questions.

And I want to be clear. We have voiced our objections to the chairman for calling you in based on our firm belief that you are being

targeted because of your relationship with Secretary Clinton, not because you can provide information about the Benghazi attacks, the subject that this committee is supposed to be investigating.

Our concerns are based on our understanding from previous witnesses brought before the committee and our review of the documents, that you are not a policy advisor on Libya or Benghazi and did not have a role in security for overseas posts, including the temporary mission facility in Benghazi.

I wanted to confirm that understanding and make sure the record is clear on your possible role, if any, with respect to legitimate questions that fall within the scope of the committee's jurisdiction.

~~Your title, Ms. Abedin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, might~~ lead some to believe that you did have an operational role in overseeing security for overseas posts. Was that the case?

[11:29 a.m.]

Ms. Abedin. That is not the case, sir.

Mr. Cummings. So you had no role with regard to operations?

Ms. Abedin. None at all.

Mr. Cummings. So you were never personally reviewing or responsible for assessing and managing security needs and assets for the temporary mission facility in Benghazi?

Ms. Abedin. That's correct, sir.

Mr. Cummings. Which division within the State Department is responsible for security at diplomatic posts?

Ms. Abedin. It was our Under Secretary for Management, along with the head of the DS bureau.

Mr. Cummings. So it is personnel with the diplomatic security who serve as the experts, I take it, for assessing and managing security needs and resources for the Department as opposed to the rest.

Ms. Abedin. That's correct, sir.

Mr. Cummings. I wanted also to ask you some questions about your involvement, if any, in policy decisions with regard to the State Department's presence in Benghazi.

In December 2011, a recommendation was sent to the Under Secretary for Management, Patrick Kennedy, to Main State Department presence in Benghazi. Did you participate in drafting that recommendation?

Ms. Abedin. I did not, sir.

Mr. Cummings. Were you someone who needed to sign off on the

recommendation before it went to the Under Secretary?

Ms. Abedin. No, I did not.

Mr. Cummings. Did you take part in his decision to approve that recommendation?

Ms. Abedin. I did not.

Mr. Cummings. The Accountability Review Board that investigated the attacks in Benghazi found that there were several troubling security incidents in Benghazi in the months before the September 11, 2012, attacks, including incidents at the temporary mission facility. Emergency action committees were convened to assess the security environment and make recommendations.

~~We understand that the emergency action committees are the main~~
tool used by post to review the security environment and make necessary adjustments to security posture. In our investigation, we have not seen any recommendation to depart from Benghazi. Are you aware of any emergency action committee recommendation that personnel in Benghazi should depart post?

Ms. Abedin. In that time, sir?

Mr. Cummings. Yes.

Ms. Abedin. I don't believe I was. It didn't mean that there wasn't a memo that may have crossed my desk or an email that I may have received, but those were not action items for me, so I would not have done anything about it.

Mr. Cummings. Some members have questioned why Ambassador Stevens was visiting Benghazi from Tripoli during the anniversary of

9/11, 2001, and the terrorist -- of the terrorist attacks. Do you know why Ambassador Stevens was there at that time? Do you know?

Ms. Abedin. I do not, sir.

Mr. Cummings. Do you have any reason to believe that Secretary Clinton sent him there at that time? Would you have knowledge of that?

Ms. Abedin. I wouldn't have knowledge. You'd have to ask her.

Mr. Cummings. Do you have any reason to believe that before she learned of the attacks, Secretary Clinton even knew that he was there?

Ms. Abedin. I wouldn't know how to answer that question, sir.

Mr. Cummings. So you -- why do you say that? I'm sorry.

Ms. Abedin. I don't -- I don't even -- or could you repeat the question, sir?

Mr. Cummings. Yeah. I said, do you have any reason to believe that before she learned of the attacks, and if you can't answer this, that's fine, just -- do you have any reason to believe that before she learned of the attacks, Secretary Clinton even knew that Ambassador Stevens was there?

Ms. Abedin. I don't know what she would have known and what she wouldn't have known.

Mr. Cummings. All right. Now, you were not with the Secretary on the night of the attacks, I understand, but you spoke with her the next morning. Is that correct?

Ms. Abedin. I spoke to her some time the next day, that is correct, yes, sir.

Mr. Cummings. One thing that is often overlooked is the fact that

Secretary Clinton, like others in the Department, lost members of her team, individuals who were a part of the State Department family, and I understand it's a very close family. Can you share with us on a personal level what that meant to her and what it meant to you and others?

Ms. Abedin. Well, I think, you know, I -- I'm not even sure I mentioned this yesterday -- earlier, rather, but I wasn't even aware that we'd lost Chris Stevens until I got the Department-wide email when I woke up to it the next morning. And I was stunned. I'd never experienced anything like that in all of my years in government service, and I just never had -- I never dealt with anything like that before, and, you know -- I'm really sorry.

Mr. Cummings. Take your time.

Ms. Jackson. Take your time.

Ms. Abedin. And when I came to the Department the next day, I think -- the general feeling, as I had mentioned earlier to Ms. Jackson, was I think everybody was just in shock, you know, [REDACTED], who I was very close to, I sat right next to her and had known, of course, for a very long time, and it was just hard to -- it was just hard to believe. These are people you're in meetings with every day, and you don't actually have --

Mr. Cummings. And --

Ms. Abedin. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Mr. Cummings. Let me ask you this: You had a chance to talk to Secretary Clinton. Is that right?

Ms. Abedin. I did.

Mr. Cummings. And what can you share about what you got from her? Did you have an impression of her feelings --

Ms. Abedin. As I --

Mr. Cummings. -- with regard to this tragedy?

Ms. Abedin. As I mentioned -- as I mentioned, I mean, I think we were all just trying to come to terms with what had happened. It was clear that the President's visit to the Department meant a lot to people there and people were talking about that. I know she was just -- I mean, I remember seeing people who were upset or crying. I think it had been a long time since, I think, even people in the building had remembered losing -- actually losing an Ambassador, but she was very -- she was very -- you know, she was upset and she was moved, but she was also very determined to find out what happened, and really, it was bringing the bodies home and doing it appropriately.

And I remember, and I was saying to Congressman Westmoreland, when we had a meeting after the scheduling meeting with our chief of protocol, or at least Pat Kennedy, I don't remember who, but it was how do we do the ceremony appropriately, how is it done in the best way, how do we take care of the families. It was -- that was our primary focus, was that ceremony, that was the single, you know, thing that I remember driving my mind, but she was -- I remember her being extremely affected, and I'm sure -- you know, I don't want to speak for her, but it was -- you know, this was one of her ambassadors. And so, it was a -- it was a hard few days where you were trying to reconcile what had happened and also just, you know, the Department, things were happening, things that

needed to get done.

Mr. Cummings. Did you believe that her feelings were genuine?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir, I did.

Mr. Cummings. And sincere?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Cummings. Secretary Clinton is sometimes accused of caring only about her public image, of doing things only to make herself look good to the American people. Did you feel that was true with how she responded to the attacks in Benghazi? And you know her. You've been with her a long time.

Ms. Abedin. From what I know about my boss, absolutely not. In fact, I feel it's the opposite with her. She focuses more on just getting the job done and making the choices that need to be made, and less about how it reflects on her. That is how I've experienced it in all the years I've worked for her.

Mr. Cummings. Now, Ms. Abedin, it's my understanding that the press was informed that you were being interviewed by the committee and given the time and the place of this interview.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cummings. I had previously expressed my concern to the chairman that the select committee is unfairly targeting witnesses with ties to Secretary Clinton for negative publicity and selective release of information. I raised similar concerns with regard to the chairman's treatment of Mr. Blumenthal, who was served with a unilateral subpoena despite being willing to appear voluntarily. There were numerous leaks

about his interview to the press, which resulted in inaccurate reporting by the press. The same thing happened again when Cheryl Mills was brought before the committee.

I suspect that you may share in that -- and I wasn't here when we opened up today. I suspect that you and your counsel may share some of these concerns, and I wanted to give you an opportunity to comment on that, particularly as you shared with us already that you were nervous about even being here.

Ms. Abedin. I --

Mr. Cummings. Let me ask it another way: Do you have any concern that following this interview, your testimony will be portrayed accurately by members of the committee, and that it will be fair?

Ms. Abedin. I can only hope that it will be. And as I said when I first arrived, I really do -- I really do want to be helpful if I can be, and if there are questions that I can answer, I want to be helpful to the committee, but -- and I do hope that it is represented accurately after I leave today.

Mr. Cummings. You had expressed --

Ms. Dunn. Yes. So --

Mr. Cummings. -- early on -- and I'm sorry I wasn't here.

Ms. Dunn. No. That's okay. So I had expressed concern about leaks of the testimony today. I conveyed these concerns yesterday to majority staff counsel, to Mr. Chipman. He gave me assurances in this regard. And I think I also speak for Mr. Rodriguez when I say that it is our fervent hope that there are no leaks of Ms. Abedin's testimony

today. It is -- she has made very clear, and I think is very obvious from her testimony thus far, how much she wants to be as helpful as possible, and I think it would undermine her effort were there to be selective leaks, or leaks at all about her testimony today.

Mr. Cummings. Very well.

Again, I want to thank you for being here. And I -- like I said, I came here out of respect for you. And as I said, I hope to get back. If I don't, thank you again for being here.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you, sir. I'm honored by your presence.

Ms. Sawyer. So why don't we go off the record.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Sawyer. We're back on the record.

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q I just wanted to pick up with some of the conversation you had in the prior round. I couldn't recall. I think you've already told us, but what day -- you were in New York. And then did you return physically to D.C. during that week?

A I did. I -- the next day.

Q Okay. You know, and a lot of the conversation thus far has focused pretty exclusively on Benghazi and kind of the attack in Benghazi, but do you have a recollection, do you recall hearing about protests elsewhere in the region?

A Yes, I did.

Q And to the best that you can recall, what did you hear, when did you hear it?

A I don't -- I don't remember the specific time, but it was in the days prior, we had heard about a trailer for a movie that was an anti-Muhammad movie that, I believe, had actually aired in Egypt, I think the trailer had aired in Egypt and the movie was -- was going to be coming out shortly thereafter, and that there had been a protest, some protests, but at least a specific protest in our embassy in Cairo, and that some of the perpetrators of that protest had said they were there because they were, you know, outraged, offended by the potential content of the movie based on the trailer that they'd seen.

So, yes, it -- and there may have been protests in other parts of the region. I remember Cairo specifically because that's where we had our embassy protest. And that was -- in the days around that time was prior to the attack, for sure.

Q Do you recall whether or not -- well, you said that some of the individuals at Cairo had indicated they were there over -- because of anger over the film.

A Yes.

Q Was that something that this government, the U.S. Government, had seen before, had experience with when something was deemed to be insulting to the Prophet Muhammad, that there would be unrest in other places in the world?

A Yes, yes. There were the -- there were the cartoon depictions, I can't remember where in Europe. I believe -- again, I don't want to make it up, because I don't remember, some were elsewhere in Europe, and that had caused some unrest. So, yes, it had been heard

of before.

Q And did you have an awareness at any point in time? You said that you knew about the protests in Cairo. Were you aware, at any point in time, that protesters there had also breached the wall of the embassy in Cairo?

A I obviously know now, or remember, you know. A lot of this I read afterwards. In the moment, I may have actual -- I may have, Heather, it may have been something that was an update that was presented at a morning meeting. It's possible I did, yes.

Q And, again, I under --

A I think, in fact, I remember that it was on the front page of The New York Times or something, or The Washington Post the next day, and it was this very arresting photo of the wall being breached or something like that. That's my memory.

Q So certainly for you, one of the ways you would hear about information was through just reading news reports?

A Oh, absolutely, and our news clips. We got a very robust set of press clips early every morning, which I would read, yes.

Q And certainly, while you would read them and you would see them, it was not your responsibility on behalf of the Secretary to be tracking those reports or collecting those reports. Is that accurate?

A That is accurate.

Q And that would be accurate about the news reports. I think my sense from even the ops alerts was it certainly wasn't -- it doesn't sound like you were necessarily on an initial distribution list, and

it certainly was not your responsibility, and in your role for the Secretary to be tracking ops alerts and making sure she was seeing the ops alerts?

A That's correct.

Q And the same would be true of intelligence briefings. It wouldn't be your responsibility to make sure that she was seeing all of the intelligence briefings, or even discussing the contents of the intelligence briefings with her. Is that accurate?

A That's 100 percent accurate.

Q But you certainly sometimes, it sounds like, would be certainly seeing, reading, tracking, and would have an understanding of the general context as to what was going on in the office?

A Exactly.

Ms. Dunn. Can we just take a brief pause for one second before you do --

Ms. Sawyer. Sure.

Ms. Dunn. I just wanted to mention something to Huma. If we can off the record, that would be great.

Ms. Sawyer. Yes. Sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Dunn. Back on the record. I think Huma had one thing that we wanted to make sure we mentioned before --

Ms. Sawyer. Yeah, sure. Please.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, Ms. Sawyer, I wanted to go back and note something Ms. Jackson asked me about earlier about the schedules in

the aftermath of the attack and suggest, you know, I do believe that they are probably available at the State Department. You know, I don't know how or where, but that it might be a resource or a place that you could go to find out, find the actual schedules.

Ms. Sawyer. Okay. Thank you.

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q So in terms of you mentioned there would be a compilation of news clips, you were shown kind of ops alerts. And I just want to go back for a moment to exhibit 1 just -- I think you might have a copy of it there.

A Oh, yes.

Q You were shown exhibit 1, which looked like operational alerts, which are providing an update as to what's happening. I just wanted to make sure it was clear for the record that there is a list, two lists there, you are not on that list. Is that -- at the top of this, the top line is dated October 23, 2012.

A Yes.

Q It's not apparently contemporaneous with the attacks, and it's sent to a group of folks that does not include you, correct?

A That's correct.

Q And so this piece that was -- I just assume you wouldn't know if this was a compilation of alerts, that it -- it doesn't appear to me that it's possible that as of the night of 9/11, this came out, given the date, but you wouldn't have been aware -- involved in any way of compiling these ops alerts or any involvement in compiling this

email?

A It would not be something in my purview, that's correct.

Q And then in addition to sending out kind of these types of reports from the operational center, we've also seen ops news tickers. Is that another function that the operations center provides, that they also send out news alerts through the operations center?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q And so it's possible that at the same time that they're sending out situational alerts, they're also sending out, you know, op ticker news alerts? Would that be accurate?

A That is accurate.

Q So we were talking about certainly some awareness of protests in Cairo. And you had said that was not, you know, the first time that the U.S. Government certainly had experience with unrest following activity that was deemed to offend the Prophet Muhammad or be offensive. Was the -- do you recall just there being generalized concerns about what might happen in the region?

A I don't recall any general concerns, aside from my own perspective, receiving or hearing about the news, but I think those conversations would have happened outside of my presence.

Q And from your perspective, were there concerns? Were there concerns that there might be unrest that happened in the region, certainly once you had heard about Cairo?

A I mean, in the moment, it may have -- I can't speak to what other people were concerned about, but it may have been top of mind,

particularly, as I mentioned to Ms. Jackson, with the Eid reception on Friday, Fridays typically being Friday prayer, so it's possible there was. I can't -- I just -- I don't remember, like, in the moment what we were thinking.

Q I'm going to show you what I'm going to mark as exhibit 3 for identification purposes.

A Okay.

[Abedin Exhibit No. 3

Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q I'm going to give you a moment to take a look at it.

A Okay.

Q And I'll just -- while you're looking at it, I'm just going to identify it for the record. It's a document that has a number down in the right-hand corner that just reads SCB0045311. It's a three-page document. It's an -- at the top it's an email that is from you, Ms. Abedin, it's addressed to H. It's dated September 14th, 2012 at 9:21 in the morning, and it -- and we'll talk about the contents. I want to give you a chance to take a look.

A Okay.

Q Okay? You set?

A Yes.

Q So at the very top, there's just an email from you, and we'll talk about the contents of that, but down below it appears, it's -- again, there's a line and then it says from ops alert, subject,

situation report, and then it has a number. And I assume that you were -- I mean, can you -- I guess you could explain for us, but my assumption was you were forwarding to the Secretary that ops alert.

A Yes, correct.

Q And then there's a brief comment from you at the top, and again, I'll have you explain that, but I did want to -- what was your sense of kind of what -- it's a situation report - the role that a situation report served?

A You're asking me what the role -- what role the situation report --

Q Just in general, before we -- we'll talk a little bit about the contents, but --

A I'm not sure I ever focused on the title of the updates. As you said, there were some that said ops alerts, some that said ops news ticker, some clearly that said situation report, but they were generally updates about things that were happening around the world. It didn't -- I don't know that I processed them necessarily differently, but this clearly was a report, as is reflected, of what was happening in the world.

Q And then under the line situation report number one, there's a Middle East protest monitoring group.

A Uh-huh.

Q Were you -- I assume you were not a part of that Middle East protest monitoring group?

A No.

Q So there's a number of -- down beneath it there's one, two -- 10, it looks like, countries that are identified, and then there's various updates.

A Yeah.

Q One is an update on Libya; one is an update on Egypt; there's an update on Yemen; Kuwait; Pakistan; Indonesia; Malaysia; Sudan; India; Iran. Some of those are reports of demonstrations and protests where they indicate that the gatherings were peaceful. So, for example, Malaysia, it talks about around 30 people gathered peacefully. Do you see --

A Yes.

Q -- that one there?

A Yes.

Q And then underneath Sudan, references a peaceful mass protest at the embassies in Khartoum. Some of them report the deployment of riot police to consulate. That seems to have happened in Pakistan. Do you see that reporting up at the top?

A Yes.

Q And then there's a note in the international reaction, which is down at the bottom of page 2, and the second bullet says, "The Arab League condemned the Benghazi attack and called on the U.S. Government to take a serious position against the film producers." So there's certainly some condemnation of what was a very violent attack, the attack in Benghazi. So that's included as well, correct?

A Correct.

Q So you forwarded this on to the Secretary, and you have a short note at the top, and I'll just read it for the record, it says, I'm giving you credit for inspiring the, quote, "peaceful," end quote, protests.

Do you have a recollection of kind of what you meant by that and why you said that?

A Yes, I do. I can -- I can speak to what I remembered at the time. This was a day after the Eid reception that we had at the State Department. And from a scheduling perspective, we weren't sure if we were going to move forward with that particular event, the event I was telling Ms. Jackson about earlier. And I know what was top of mind for me is that the Secretary had already, on a number of occasions, publicly said that there was -- you know, encouraged people to not protest, but regardless, saying that there was no -- that there was, you know, nothing that justified violence, just there was -- no matter what the source or the cause was, nothing justified violence, and that if people were to protest, and I'm not quoting her here, that's what was in my head is the message that she was sending was that if there are protests, they should be peaceful.

And in this particular instance, what I'm guessing is I was -- I had read this particular report and had seen all the places in the world where there were peaceful protests, and because she'd been calling for them, I was giving her credit for that.

Q And so from your perspective, did it seem that one of the goals in her public statements was certainly to lower the temperature

throughout the region with regard to the anger over this film?

A That was my experience of it. I -- I recognize that she was dealing with a whole host of issues, including that, but that was -- yes, that was certainly how I experienced it.

Q And one of the other things you specifically mentioned was the counterpart, that she certainly, from your perspective, was expressing that, nonetheless, nothing does justify violence. And so did -- was it your sense that was another part of an important goal for the Secretary?

A That's how I -- that's how I experienced it, based on what I had heard her -- heard her say in the several instances in the days leading up to, you know, this particular email.

Q And her concern there, her concern for helping prevent violence, further violence, did you feel that that was out of her concern for her personnel and other people, non-Americans as well, presumably, on the ground in these places?

A From what I know about my boss, that was one of her foremost concerns, yes, the security of her personnel in -- overseas, absolutely.

Q Did you ever get the sense that she actually was making those statements because she wanted to minimize or portray what happened in Benghazi as -- inaccurately?

A I can't speak to what she had in her mind or her intention, but, again, knowing her, absolutely not.

Q And with regard to the focus, this is dated September 14th,

that Friday.

A Yes.

Q We -- I think I counted them before, but there's a number of places here. So statements she was making and steps she was taking and things she was scheduling that week would not have only been focused on Benghazi. Is that fair to say?

A From my recollection of what she was doing, yes, ma'am, that's fair to say.

Q So I was going to just shift and show you another exhibit. So I'm going to show you another exhibit, which I will mark as exhibit 4 for identification purposes. And this one I will, again, just identify for the record while I give you guys an opportunity to take a look.

[Abedin Exhibit No. 4

Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q So while you're taking a look, down in the right-hand corner are the -- is the number SCB0045332. This is a two-page document. It is from [REDACTED] to Secretary Clinton, and it is dated September 15th, 2012, at 10:52 in the morning. You are not cc'd on that top line message. You are included earlier, however, in the chain earlier that day, 9:35 a.m.

So with regard to that top part, I understand you're not on it, but I think you had mentioned Ms. [REDACTED] before as someone you worked closely with on scheduling?

A Yes.

Q And that you would oversee some of the kind of longer term, broader --

A Yes.

Q -- but she would often kind of get into the actual logistics of setting up a daily, this is going to happen at 9:15 versus 9:30. Is that accurate?

A Yes. [REDACTED] -- yes. [REDACTED] was her primary personal assistant who traveled with her.

Q So at the top of this email is a message that goes from [REDACTED] to the -- I presume to the Secretary, it says to H, and I understand that to be Secretary Clinton's email?

A I would -- that's a fair assumption, given the content of the email.

Q Great. And that looks to me as if it blocks out -- in the middle of it, it has a block of time that runs from 12:00 to 3:00, starting at 12:00 with a U.K. FM Hague, and then it ends at 3:00 with Somali President Mohamoud. And it looked to me a schedule of calls that the Secretary was planning to do that day, Saturday, September 15th. Is that accurate?

A Yes.

Q And do you recall -- this might help. It has been 3-1/2 years, so I was hoping this would just help refresh your recollection as to whether these were the types of calls that were being scheduled, what relation, if any, they had to what was going on throughout that

region there. They indicate calls with the Libyan prime minister, the Turkish foreign minister, the Somali former transitional president, the Saudi foreign minister, the Israeli prime minister, the Egyptian foreign minister. And does that refresh your recollection as to whether or not these were related to what we saw in exhibit 3 about what was going on throughout that region?

A I don't remember the -- I wouldn't have remembered the content of the call sheets, but it is fair to suggest that, yeah, these calls were connected to the aftermath of the attacks, and also what was happening regionally.

Q So would it be fair to say that this is something -- this is a Saturday, it's a weekend -- that actually wasn't low priority, but seemed potentially high priority for her to be engaged in these types of calls with high ranking officials from other countries?

A I -- I do remember -- my recollection was actually -- doesn't entirely match this. I actually thought it was throughout a longer period of time. And she typically didn't have calls that short, but I -- that's just my recollection. I'm not going to challenge what's in this document. But, yes, that that weekend was focused on making phone calls to leaders around the world here.

Q And it indicates underneath one of the little ticklers there, that there's also a call still pending. Do you have any recollection of whether they were able to schedule it on Saturday, whether that call had to go forward on Sunday?

A That is the one call, as I mentioned to Ms. Jackson, that

I did remember potentially taking place that weekend. I -- my memory is it did take place. I don't know if it took place on Saturday or Sunday, but I do believe she did calls on both days, on both Saturday and Sunday.

Q And then the bullet beneath it indicates that King Juan Carlos of Spain called. There's then a note saying that there was a call inquiring after the status of embassies in the Middle East. We are working on a call sheet. So my impression from that would be that there was an ongoing effort, that you are correct in saying it may not have been -- this was not the sum total of the calls that the Secretary was involved in, either that weekend or maybe through the week. Is that a fair reading of what that says there?

A That is consistent with my memory. That's a fair reading, yes.

Q Up above the schedule, there's a reference to a pouch, and a few read items, and an action memo authorizing war powers resolution for Tunisia. So in addition to -- you know, we talked a little bit, and I think we'll talk a little bit more, just about the Secretary's work style and how she received information.

A Okay.

Q But you had mentioned that one way when she was not physically in the office would be that papers would be delivered to her. Is this an example of papers being delivered to her?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q And one of the things they mention is the war -- a potential

war powers resolution. So to the extent sensitive information had to come to the Secretary, was there a way to get her that sensitive information when she was not physically in the office?

A Yes, ma'am. In the -- if she was in Washington at home, a pouch was typically -- and actually, as is reflected in one of these exchanges, there was a locked pouch that was delivered to her residence by a courier from the operations center.

Q And that -- to the extent it included sensitive material, to the extent it included classified material, that would be how she would obtain and receive classified material while she was not in the office. Is that accurate?

A ~~Yes, unless it was going to be conveyed to her verbally.~~ And, in fact, this exchange notes [REDACTED] will be at the residence with the PDB. So that was also not atypical. So it was either in person, verbally, or in the pouch with paper from the courier.

Q And when you said sometimes it could be verbally, did she both have -- did she have a secure line? If she had to talk to someone, if the person who had the information that they needed to convey was not going to be face to face with her, did she have a secure line in her home to be able to do secure phone calls?

A Yes, she did.

Q So to the -- you know, one of the calls on this list at 12:15 says it's a call with the Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr.

A Yes.

Q And then just turning your attention back to exhibit 3,

there's a mention, the top line mention of the country that they discuss first is Egypt, and then there's -- in the second bullet there, it says there is a call for nationwide demonstrations.

And do you recall that even in Cairo you had said -- you know, you had heard about the unrest there, that in Cairo there were continued concerns about continuing protests throughout the week?

A Based on what I'm looking at, yes, that confirms what, and I believe my general sense was, as I said earlier, yes.

Q And did you have any particular sense of, you know, kind of where -- you know, this indicates nationwide demonstrations, but supported symbolic demonstrations at Tahrir Square. Did you get any sense of the scale of the problems in Egypt, in particular?

A In September of 2012, I -- you know, I -- to that specific time frame, I -- I don't know what my awareness would have been. I mean, the Arab Spring started a year and a half before, and so at any given -- I don't know what my level of awareness would have been in that moment.

Q And I wanted to just return to the conversation that was in the last hour of decisions being made about scheduling and certainly --

A Yes.

Q -- about whether the Ambass- -- whether the Secretary would appear on the Sunday talk shows.

A Yes.

Q And you had indicated in talking about how to convey

information to the American people that it certainly wasn't the only way to speak to the American people, and she had done so through the week. But in terms of figuring out priorities, would these concerns and considerations about some of the stuff we've been talking about, scheduling, would those have come into play in determining whether she had the time to appear on the Sunday talk shows?

A I am not -- you know, I wouldn't -- I want to be thoughtful about how I answer this, because it's not -- it's not that the only reason we weren't doing the Sunday shows, from my perspective, was she had other things to do. That was my primary concern. She has many calls that she has to make around the world, many of these people who -- I'm not certain, but I'm pretty sure she didn't reach most of these people earlier in the week, I'm not sure, but separate from that, in the brief conversation we at the staff level had about Sunday shows, I don't know that it was a, "This is a priority over this." I think the consideration of the shows was -- you know, was considered, not considered necessary for her to do or a priority for us, and by the way, we have all these other things to do.

From my perspective, this was the priority, was getting all these, you know, calls on her schedule, and -- and the Sunday shows, as I recollect, pretty quickly came up and went away.

Q So we -- we've talked a little bit about what was going on in your role in that. And just to be -- to make it clear, I think it has been clear, you know, there's -- in the investigations of the events in Benghazi, there has been, you know, a focus both on kind of what

was happening before in the run-up, and then what happened that night and then how the attacks there were talked about. And we've already talked, I think, and made perfectly clear kind of your limited role on the policy and the security, and I just want to make clear for the record. In terms of crafting statements, both drafting them, helping the Secretary finalize her statements, you were not involved in that as part of your work with the Secretary. Is that accurate?

A It wouldn't be unusual for draft statements of hers or speeches to also be in my inbox, you know, as one of the members of her senior staff in that office. It is likely I would have received drafts, but it was more for my informational purposes. Sometimes I read them, sometimes I didn't, but it, you know, really wasn't my job to edit them or finalize them. It was, frankly, more for a practical reason. So as the person who was with her the most, you know, her being able to check in and say, what's the status of this speech, and I'll say it's still in draft form. So I would have received them, but not necessarily done anything about them.

Q Yeah. And I certainly don't mean to suggest that it would be inappropriate if you read something and you thought, wow, that's really beautifully written or stay far away from that, you wouldn't comment, I presume you would feel free to comment if you saw something even though it wasn't your primary. Is that fair?

A That's fair. And I've -- yes, that's fair. I probably did.

Q And I just wanted to make clear that it was not really your

primary responsibility, your job, your role to be the primary drafter of statements, to be clearing on statements, to be coordinating with the Secretary as to the in-depth content of her statements. Is that fair?

A That's fair.

Q So shifting gears a little bit, just to get a sense of, based on your experience working with the Secretary at the State Department, if you could talk to us a little bit of how was it that she generally received information? Some people are very reliant on technology, emails, reading things on the computer, other people prefer paper. Where does the Secretary fall in that spectrum?

A She received information through a variety of ways, both on paper, verbally, and electronically. When she was in the office, it was a combination of in-person briefings for meetings; simultaneous to that, when she walked into the office every day, there was often a stack of folders on her desk with action items for her, things for her to sign, and those were hand in hand. She often had meetings throughout the day. That's when she was in the office.

When we were traveling, the paper documents continued by the executive assistant who was traveling with us, or the line officers, they would have folders in her room every night. She still had verbal, you know, in-person meetings with the staff traveling, and she often called back to the Department to speak with the -- with the leadership there, and she also, when she was traveling, would often receive information on her email, on her BlackBerry.

Q So she sounds like someone who's a pretty voracious reader of information. Is that accurate?

A That would be fair -- that would be fair to say, yes, ma'am.

Q So that would be one way, certainly, reading materials, either paper form, sometimes electronic form, that would be one way she would obtain information?

A That's -- that's correct.

Q And you indicated another way would be through face-to-face meetings, obviously often with staff, both when she's traveling and in the office, I presume.

A Yes.

Q Is that accurate?

A Yes.

Q And that stuff you talked a fair amount, I think in the last hour, about the range of meetings and the range of individuals certainly within the Department that she had access to and would meet with, it sounds like, both routinely. Is that fair and accurate to say?

A That's correct.

Q And certainly we talked some about some of those routine meetings with regional bureaus, with some of her policy team. In addition to kind of routine meetings, presumably, I mean, she's the boss, she is the Secretary of State. She could, at any point, call a meeting, convene a meeting around a particular issue that she wanted to take a deeper dive or get more information on. Is that accurate?

A Absolutely.

Q And you talked about travel and you talked -- because the specific discussion was around travel, I think, in the spring, including February in the spring.

A Of 20 --

Q 2011.

A Of 2011, yes.

Q And you said a lot of that travel was around meetings, discussions about Libya. So presumably, that travel and those meetings would be another source of both information and potential conversation with foreign leaders and others. Is that the purpose of those kinds of travel?

A Yes.

Q So all of those individuals would be sources of information as well as potentially people who were giving her advice. Is that true?

A Yes.

Q Some lobbying her pretty strongly to take a position one way or the other, or trying to advocate or negotiate in the normal course of, you know, what the Secretary does in making policy decisions?

A I would -- I would imagine so, yes.

Q Now, again, you were not -- I just want to, you know, be clear. I appreciate the operational insights you're giving us, not -- and understanding that your role wasn't kind of in being in those meetings or discussions for the deep dive on the policy. So we do appreciate the kind of operational oversight.

How would you describe in that context the Secretary's use of

email? We've seen some of her emails. Oftentimes she'll get an email and she'll forward it and say, please print, giving me the impression that oftentimes, even when she got something electronically, she preferred to read it in paper. So could you give us a sense of how she used email in the course of her doing business?

A I think it was mostly to -- so I just want to back up by saying I didn't actually -- I never really was privy to the email exchanges that she had, so as for my -- I can tell you about, you know, my email exchanges with her. It's hard to talk, I think, generally about how she used it, but my experience was she wasn't doing on a day-to-day basis, when we were traveling, a heavy amount of work on her email, because so much of it was verbal or on paper, but were we -- were we sending -- you know, I experienced it as sort of the day-to-day tasks, the, you know, what time am I starting tomorrow, just like the -- almost like general housekeeping that one would conduct, it's 2 o'clock in the morning, what time do I leave in the morning? Do you know where this is? So it was usually sort of, you know, after hours when we weren't physically -- physically with her. And then she did have people who had emailed her documents as like -- as you had suggested, and sometimes we'd print those so she could review those in paper form.

Q So trying to kind of assess what the -- what any given day was like for the Secretary or the information she actually looked at in the course of that day and the meetings she might have had and who she might have talked to, would I be able to get an accurate picture

of that simply by reviewing her email usage over the course of a day?

A Not being privy to what her inbox was, and -- but from my perspective, I would say not particularly when she was in Washington. You know, she didn't have access to her email when we were in the Department. Our office was a SCIF and so we didn't have our devices with us. So unless you had a computer at your desk, you really weren't -- and she did not -- you weren't emailing. So from my perspective, it is unlikely.

Q So on those days, certainly her email might have been sporadic, it wouldn't have been continuous, it wouldn't have been --

A Correct.

Q ~~-- and it, in any event, might not reflect the volume of~~ information that we talked about that was coming to her in person or through meetings, or in face-to-face conversations about particular policy issues facing her. Is that accurate?

A That is accurate.

Ms. Sawyer. I know that I'm hitting up on my time and that you guys deserve a break, so we should go off the record and we can talk about some of the logistics about how much more and whatnot.

[Discussion off the record.]

[1:31 p.m.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Let's go back on the record. I have 1:33, and we will start our next hour of questioning.

Ms. Abedin, welcome back.

A Thank you.

Q I want to follow up on some things you were asked about in the last hour, and also to follow up on some of the things we talked about in my first hour.

A Okay.

Q You had stated earlier that you met Chris Stevens for the first time in Paris. I believe that was in March of 2011. Is that timeframe about right?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And did you come across him again in your travels with the Secretary?

A I don't remember having seen Chris after that first encounter in Paris.

Q Okay. Did you ever see him at Main State back here in Washington, D.C.?

A He may have attended meetings, but I don't remember any specific meetings.

Q Okay. So that would have been the one and only time that you can recall meeting with him, or seeing him, meeting him?

A Yes. I mean, I'd have to check the schedules to see if in any of the, you know, the meetings we were having throughout, you know, in different countries, the Libya contact group meetings, if it was Chris Stevens or Ambassador Gene Cretz there. From my recollection, it was the Ambassador, Ambassador Cretz, but I don't know that definitively.

Q Okay. Did you ever email or have a phone conversation with Chris Stevens?

A I don't believe so, no.

Q Okay. To your knowledge, did the Secretary email with him or have phone conversations with him?

A ~~Well, you'd have to ask her about whether he emailed her.~~
There were no instances that I recall where I would have seen an email exchange. Phone conversations, I would imagine yes. But, you know, again, I'd want to check our schedules to see when, et cetera, but I don't remember.

Q Okay. Are those records kept by the State Department of the Secretary's calls with ambassadors and others?

A I would presume so. Those were documents that were housed at the State Department, yes.

Q Okay. And what type of documents would those be?

A You know, what I saw in my screen, you know, it was just in the -- it was like an Outlook calendar, and her assistant in the office would just update them on the computer.

Q Okay. And then if the call for whatever reason didn't go

through, would it be taken off or noted in some way that the call didn't go through?

A Yes. There was usually a revised schedule at the end of the day, so there was, you know, the schedule as it was finalized the night before. In some instances there were things that were left tentative, as it was in one of those days that we discussed. And [REDACTED] job was to reflect what actually took place in the course of the day.

Q Okay. It is my understanding that the Secretary traveled to Libya in October of 2011?

A Correct.

Q Do you recall that trip?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Did you accompany the Secretary on that trip?

A Yes, I did.

Q Okay. Do you recall whether Chris Stevens was in Tripoli during your visit there, your and the Secretary's visit there?

A I don't recall seeing Chris Stevens on that trip. I recall Gene Cretz.

Q Because our Embassy in Tripoli had reopened by then?

A Yes. If I remember correctly, it was the -- yes, it was the makeshift embassy that was the residence or the compound. But yes, we visited it, yes.

Q Okay.

A I remember that.

Q All right. And was that the only trip that the Secretary took to Libya during her tenure?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Were any other trips planned or discussed?

A Yes. We had talked about returning to Libya. As I had mentioned earlier, one of the things that we did at the State Department was have meetings with our senior leadership to talk about travel for the year.

Usually we met, you know, once or twice a year to do long term, what should we do this year, and the next 6 months, and certainly Libya had been on the list of countries to potentially visit.

Q Okay. And do you recall approximately when that was going to be, that second trip to Libya?

A It would have been in 2012.

Q Okay. Do you recall that the elections in Libya were in July of 2012?

A I remember that they were in the first half of the year, correct. Yes.

Q Okay. Was the trip to be before or after the elections?

A Oh, I, in fact, remember us talking about potentially going, having the conversations probably that summer. So, and usually, as I mentioned, we met twice a year to talk long term, so probably we would have met in December or January to like focus on the next 6 months. And then we probably regrouped in June, July, to talk about the rest of the year.

And, you know, from what I remember from my planning, I really had Libya as a potential for the fall, when we were likely to go back to the Middle East. We typically -- we'd been to the Middle East in the fall the first few years she was there, if I remember correctly, in 2009, and 2010, so it wouldn't have been atypical.

Q Okay. And do you recall what the purpose of the trip was, why Libya was on the schedule of places to visit?

A Well, I think, you know, it was obvious that the United States had, you know, played a very large role in trying to shepherd this transition to democracy, which was the will of the Libyan people. And the Secretary of State and the administration was quite involved. And so, as we did in 2011, it was showing her support for the transitional government at the time.

And, you know, from my perspective at that point the conversation we would've had is they've just had a successful Democratic election, we should go back and visit and, you know, check in, show our support for the new government.

Q When you were traveling with the Secretary in October of 2011 -- and I apologize for skipping back and forth between the 2 years -- were you in the meetings she had in Tripoli that day?

A No.

Q Okay. Would you typically attend the meetings when she would be traveling internationally?

A Not typically. Sometimes I did, sometimes I didn't.

Q Okay. We talked in the first hour about a lot of different

countries that she went to for the Libya contact group and other meetings that she attended where Libya was either the topic of conversation or one of many. Were you in those meetings typically with her?

A In the contact group meetings with the other ministers?

Q Yes.

A No, I typically would not be.

Q What type of meetings would you attend?

A In the Department or when we were traveling overseas?

Q When you were traveling. And again, looking at 2011 and 2012, that timeframe.

A ~~It honestly varied. Generally, you know, protocols called~~ for very often to match sides when you were in meetings with a foreign government. So they would say, you know, we're coming to the meeting and we're bringing nine people and your side should bring nine people. And we'd often -- a lot of times it was for parity, and members of the senior staff that were traveling on the plane were manifested in those meetings.

Typically a deputy chief of staff to the Secretary would have been manifested. That primarily was always -- was Jake Sullivan. Sometimes it was me. There was no -- you know, I was not necessary to the bilateral meeting, so I didn't necessarily sit in, but it didn't mean that sometimes I did.

Q You didn't have a role as even a note taker or recorder of due-outs or anything like that from the meetings?

A Not at all.

Q Okay. Did you know any of the members of the new Transitional National Council in Libya? Did you know any of the leaders? Had you met them before the revolution?

A I'm sorry, did I know any of the Libyans?

Q Yes.

A No.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q Through schooling. You've lived overseas.

A Oh, oh, yes.

Q I didn't know if you had --

A No, I did not. I did not know any of the Libyans, no.

Q Okay. Some of them had been in the United States before. I just wondered if your paths had ever crossed before.

A Oh, yes. No, ma'am. No, ma'am.

Q Okay. What about the Secretary? Did she know any of them, to your knowledge?

A Not to my knowledge she did not.

Q Okay. If you could pick up -- I'll just do them in order -- number four, which is the Saturday, September 15, 2012, I would call it a call schedule. Is that a fair way to depict what this email chain is about?

A Sure. Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. I just have a couple follow-up questions regarding

this. You talked about a pouch being delivered. Would a pouch be delivered to both her D.C. home and her New York home? Was there any distinction between a pouch being delivered?

A You're referring to when [REDACTED] emailed her?

Q Yes. At the top of the page it says, "A pouch with all of your call sheets and the schedule is En route to you."

A Oh, I see. The note from [REDACTED] to the Secretary?

Q Yes.

A Yes, it was typical when she was in Washington for a pouch to be delivered to her residence. It was less frequent at her residence in New York. Yes, it was less frequent.

Q Okay. I was just wondering if there was any way to tell whether she was in Washington or New York on Saturday the 15th.

A Well, from this and, you know, my attorney and I, this is when we looked at each other, it's very clear from this email that she was indeed in Washington. It refers to her residence in Washington on the second page.

Q So on the second page?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And who was [REDACTED]? It says [REDACTED] --

A [REDACTED] was the PDB briefer.

Q Presidential daily brief, briefer?

A Yes.

Q Was he a member of the national security staff, if you know?

I mean, was he a State Department official or --

A I think he was -- you know, I don't know.

Q Okay.

A [REDACTED]

Q Okay. What types of intelligence products did the Secretary read or get briefed on other than the presidential daily brief, if you know?

A I'm sorry. Can you ask me that question again?

Q What type of intelligence products, CIA cables, or finished intel products, or things like that did the Secretary routinely look at to know what was going on in the world from the intelligence standpoint other than the presidential daily brief?

A She received, both when we were in Washington and when we were traveling, regular folders and we always knew what the folders were because they were red. But they went directly to her from our executive assistant, who was both in the office -- and this is the senior, you know, the senior member in our office. So he and I actually shared a wall. And he would, throughout the day, frankly, take in the red folder, had documents in there for her to review, and he would take them back or she would bring them back to him. That's when we were in the office.

When we were traveling, typically it would be similar, usually at the beginning of the day and the end of the day. When she was in a foreign country and between meetings, she wasn't really getting documents like that. It was specific to when we were in a SCIF.

Q And you may not know, but if you do, do you know what type of intelligence products those were? Would they be from the agency? Would they be from the Department of Defense? Were they only State Department intelligence products, if you know?

A I was not privy to those documents. Those went directly to her and from her. And it was regular practice for those not to go, you know, through me or through any other staff member.

Q Even her senior policy adviser, like Mr. Sullivan?

A I don't know what documents Jake looked at. I would be speculating. But, you know, I'm sure he saw documents related to policy, but as to the specifics, I wouldn't know.

~~Q Okay. And if we could go back for a moment to exhibit number 3, the situation report from, I believe it's the 14th, Friday the 14th.~~

A Yes.

Q As I reviewed this document, I don't see any indication that any of the protests occurred -- or any of the protests that are described in here occurred prior to September 13. And perhaps I've missed it. But did you -- we had talked earlier about protests around the time of the attacks.

A Yes.

Q And the attacks were on the 11th. And I'm just trying to figure out if, from your recollection, the protests followed the Benghazi attack or predated it or preceded it.

A From my recollection, and I noted this when I was speaking

with you and also with Ms. Sawyer, we were planning the Eid reception. That was something that had been on the calendar prior to the attacks. And there were going to be a lot of Muslim leaders from around the country flying in to attend that.

So, you know, that's part of my, frankly, the trigger that I have to remember that the protests, as far as I remember, and the movie trailer, all of that occurred prior to the Benghazi attack. I don't think it was a long period of time, but that is my recollection, that we were aware of that. I was aware of the trailer. I had seen the news about the protests, specifically in Cairo. That's my memory.

Q Was that a protest in Cairo or multiple days worth of protests? To the best of your recollection, what do you recall?

A As I said to Ms. Sawyer, what stuck out in my mind was the protest in Cairo, and that image in the paper is what I do remember. Beyond that, you know, I don't -- you know, even that morning I couldn't tell you the morning of the attack that I was necessarily aware of where else there may have been a protest.

Q Okay. So you don't have any recollection that the first Cairo protest was the day of the attack in Benghazi?

A Are you telling me it was?

Q I'm asking if you have any recollection of that being true?

A I don't know if it was that day, but I feel like it was before the attack. That's the only thing I -- having had that knowledge.

Q Okay. We talked a little bit about the fact that the Secretary was planning another trip to Libya in the fall of 2012. Who

would you typically coordinate with for the Secretary to take a trip overseas?

A The planning process always started with our Deputy Secretary of State.

Q You had two. Which one?

A As I say, the you know, one for management and the other for policy, so that would either be Bill Burns or Jim Steinberg prior to Bill Burns. So we typically met with the Deputy Secretary of State, the Under Secretary for Political Affairs was Bill Burns originally and then thereafter it was Wendy Sherman. And then the leadership, you know, within our office, our chief of staff, my co-deputy, Jake Sullivan, the executive secretary, the executive assistant, and our scheduler.

And we would map out priorities for the year and sort of have a loose calendar which, you know, we would follow. But it was typical that I would check in with them, I would either email them. I saw all of them when we were in Washington. I saw them on a daily basis. So check in, any changes, any issues, but that's how we implemented the planning process.

Q Okay. From the documents that we've reviewed, we've seen a lot of emails back and forth between you and the Secretary regarding Libya in 2011. And then not so many in 2012. Is that your recollection of how it was?

A I can't explain why there wouldn't be in 2012. What I remember in 2011 is certainly we spent so much of our time traveling

around the world on behalf of -- you know, to go to these Libya meetings. So it wouldn't be atypical that I would have had a lot of emails. I shared with her, as it related to Libya. I can't explain why there wouldn't be any in -- or did you say there were any? There were very few in 2012.

Q A lesser number.

A A lesser number.

Q Yeah, okay. What were the hot spots as you recall in 2012 around the world?

A Well, there were Syria meetings starting, I think, in the first half of that year or first few months of that year, if I'm remembering correctly. I think I was on maternity leave. But we had -- I mean, Syria certainly comes to mind. And -- sorry, I'm really just trying to like place my years in my head.

It was Myanmar, now Burma, her engagement there. You know, I recall that. We were spending a lot of time -- she was spending a lot of time working on that. We were coordinating with the White House about a trip. I mean that's what comes to mind just off the top of my head.

Q Okay. What awareness or involvement -- let me just say, what awareness did you have about any discussions as to how long we were going to keep the mission open in Benghazi, Libya?

A None.

Q Did you know that we still had a presence in Benghazi?

A I'm sorry, at what point?

Q At the time of the attacks. Or was it a surprise to you that there was an attack in Benghazi? Were you aware we still had people there, given the reopening of the Embassy in Tripoli?

A You know, I'm sure I had a general awareness. You know, as you've probably seen in the documents, there were often emails sent to me with updates for the Secretary. You know, I had a top line focus like in the time, you know, what I needed to prioritize and send to her and -- but I didn't always read everything that was sent to me for her.

In the time of the attacks, was I aware? I'm sure I had a general awareness. I mean, we were talking about the trip. I'm sure I did. I mean, if I had to put myself back in that time, I'm sure I did, yes.

Q Okay. You said you had a top line focus of what was going on in the world to send things to the Secretary. Was that throughout your entire tenure with her when she was Secretary of State?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. So things that were hot and bubbling up you made sure she got the information on?

A If it was emailed to me, yes.

Q Yes. Okay. So you were sort of, I don't want to say -- not the filter -- but you were sort of the funnel to make sure that the top line information got to her?

A Only when she wasn't in the office or she wasn't on the road, I mean, you know, after hours, weekends when she might be at home in Washington or at home in New York. I would say it was a small number

of what she actually got because, as we discussed earlier, I think the vast majority of what she absorbed in terms of content and material on any matter, including something like Libya, she would have absorbed in the form of a printed document or a verbal briefing.

Q Okay. Were you personally aware of any of the security incidents that occurred in Benghazi in the summer of 2012, for instance when there was a hole blown in the wall of the compound there, or an RPG attack against the British Ambassador who was in Benghazi? Were you aware of those incidents as they occurred?

A I likely was. And, I mean, you're jogging my memory a little bit about the British Ambassador. It's very likely that I was, yes.

Q Okay. But as you sit here today you don't have a specific recollection of learning that information or passing it on or doing anything with that information?

A I don't have a specific recollection.

Q Okay. Was there anything that you would typically do with information that pertained to a significant security event at one of our embassies or posts around the world?

A No, ma'am. I mean, I think, you know, the daily life that we had we were constantly getting updates about what was happening at our embassy facilities frankly around the world, whether it was the Middle East or it was Asia or it was Pakistan or India. I mean, on a daily basis there were updates that were coming in.

It wasn't my responsibility or my purview to -- I didn't see those

as action items for me. And as I mentioned, if we were off campus, if she was, rather, off campus at home, I would ensure that she had that information. But I don't believe that was her primary source of information.

Q Okay. And what were her primary sources of information regarding security incidents around the world against our people or at our posts?

A You'd have to ask her that. I wasn't privy to a lot of what she saw.

Q Okay. Did the operations center -- I mean, we talked about the operations center alerts and things like that.

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Was that a mechanism that was used to push out information in urgent situations?

A To us as staff?

Q To the seventh floor principals of the organization.

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. Was there any other type of documents? Did the Diplomatic Security put out a daily, weekly, or a monthly briefing of any kind that you saw?

A I'm not aware of any regular document that the department of security would have put out. I'd be speculating if I said they did.

Q Okay. Did the assistant secretary for Diplomatic Security have regular meetings with the Secretary?

A They were present, yes, present at the weekly -- as I think

I discussed with you or Ms. Sawyer earlier -- our weekly Monday meeting with the senior leadership in the building, yes.

Q With the senior leaders or with the --

A And the Secretary was present, yes.

Q And that went down to the assistant secretary level?

A Yes.

Q We've talked about a couple of meetings. I want to make sure --

A Yes, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries, yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. And so the assistant secretary for Diplomatic Security was one of all the assistant secretaries that attended that meeting?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. Do you recall if the assistant secretary for Diplomatic Security attended the regional meetings?

A I don't remember.

Q Would there be some record of who attended those meetings? Were there agendas? Were there sign-in sheets? Were there --

A Yes, it is very likely on the Secretary's calendar. I don't recall there being agendas. The purpose was really for every assistant secretary to give the Secretary a verbal update on what was happening in their region. I don't remember the assistant secretary of the Diplomatic Security being in those meetings, but --

Q And those were also weekly meetings?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. Now, we know the Secretary was -- I think she still is -- the most traveled Secretary of State. Given that, how often or on average in a month how often would those weekly meetings occur, given her travel schedule?

A How many times in a month?

Q Right. Would it be -- you know, did she make sure that she made them every week or, you know, once a month? Every other week? Do you have a sense of how often they actually occurred?

A If she was in Washington, it was a given that she was present. If she was traveling -- I mean, we often traveled in sort of spurts. So she was gone for, you know -- it's one of the ways we tried to create her schedule so that she had time in the building to do the meetings that she needed to do. So it would be a week away but then we were there a week and then 3 days here. I mean, a lot of our trips were short trips and we came back. But, you know, they happened on a fairly regular basis.

Q Were there days of the week that she tried to be in the office as opposed to other days of the week? When you say she tried to --

A Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you. I apologize. I'm sorry.

We didn't entirely own her schedule in that a lot of the responsibilities she had when she was traveling was preexisting meetings. So if it was, you know, a regular meeting of ministers in Asia, the APEC meeting, for example, these were fixed meetings in

certain parts of the year. So we were really being reactive, and we would build, you know, stops in other countries around those trips that she had to be on.

But, you know, when she came into the building, one of the things that she conveyed to those of us who were helping her manage her schedule is she really wanted to be present as much as she possibly could be at the Department. And so we would do, you know, heavy travel but then also be in Washington for days at a time. And she was -- very often she'd come in and be in a meeting starting at 8:30 and then just go the entire day in meetings.

Q Did those standing meetings ever get pushed off to another day or rescheduled, or did they just -- did they stay standing?

A Rarely. Yeah. I mean, they were almost a -- you know, they were pretty regular.

And sorry, I'm just going to volunteer this, but I think they may have also happened whether she was there or not, like the Monday meeting, the big Monday meeting I was telling you about. I think the Deputy Secretary of State would run it when we were on the road.

Q Okay. And again, approximately how many people would be in that big Monday meeting?

A As I think I mentioned to Ms. Sawyer, I think there were anywhere between 30 or 40 people.

Q And approximately how long would that meeting last?

A An hour.

Q There was a lot of paperwork that flowed through the

department. Every Federal governmental agency has its own bureaucracy. We have seen things called information memorandums to the Secretary, and, in fact, I've got a copy of one. And I want to ask you a few questions about -- I'm going to mark it as Exhibit 5. It is a memo dated August 17th.

[Abedin Exhibit No. 5

Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q And I will note that it has been marked now unclassified and reproduced to this committee as redacted -- well, it says released in full but it also says at the bottom "reproduced to the Benghazi Select Committee redacted by State Department for public release by Congress." So if you would take a look at this. I have some questions about what some of the markings mean and the process.

I will also say for the record, this document bears document number C05390124.

Have you had an opportunity to review that document?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. Just generally, how would an information memo like this come to the Secretary? What's the flow of paperwork within the State Department for something to get to the Secretary?

A A document like this would -- if it was approved by -- let's see, it was sent by Beth Jones, so it would've been sent likely to our Deputy Secretary of State and then to the executive assistant in our office, you know, who oversaw the special assistants. Again, this is

the trio of people who managed all the paper.

Q And who was the executive secretary at the time?

A It was two people. It was Joe Macmanus and Alice Wells. I mean, they shifted -- Joe started and then he left and then it was Alice and then Joe came back.

Q Okay. So I won't ask you which one was in place on this particular day.

A I wouldn't remember.

Q Okay. So it would then flow through the executive assistant for the Secretary's review? Is that correct?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Now, I see on the top middle of the front page there's a circle with the letters "HRC" in there. Does that signify anything of importance? Is that a symbol to say that she's seen it and reviewed it?

A You'd have to ask Joe or the specials. I'm not sure what system they used. I mean, the information like this that went to her wouldn't have passed through me, so I don't know what HRC stands for, aside from it's my boss' initials.

Q Okay. Do you recall seeing that symbol on other documents that pass over her desk?

A If I did, I don't know that I would have paid much attention to it. So it's possible, yeah.

Q Was there another way that the Secretary indicated that she had reviewed information?

A Usually, you know, I'm used to documents, but I think for me I was more familiar handling the action memos that came up requesting that she do an event. And there was usually a cover sheet on top saying "approve, disapprove," and you'd pick it.

Q Right. But for information that just came to her, was --

A That's not something that went through me. I didn't oversee this, so I don't know.

Q And, again, Joe Macmanus or Alice Wells would be the people that we would need to talk to regarding the flow of this type of information?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q ~~Okay. In the summer of 2012, were you aware of a declining or deteriorating security situation in Libya?~~

A I think it was likely -- yes, it was part of my general awareness. As we discussed earlier, we were talking about visiting Libya later that year.

Q In your discussions with others regarding that trip, was the security of Libya a concern?

A You know, from what I recall, in an instance like this, I would have consulted with the senior leadership in the Department. And they -- you know, it's unlikely they would say we're worried about security. They would just say, you know, we're not sure yet or it's too soon to tell whether we can plan the trip or we'll get back to you. We're still talking about, you know, whether we do want to really recommend that she do this. I mean, that's the kind of information

I would probably -- you know, that's how I remember experiencing it.

Q And do you recall any of those types of conversations with regard to Libya in the summer of 2012?

A Just that we talked about going but that we weren't -- you know, we weren't sure. It was an evolving situation. This was a country that was going through a fairly significant transition, and we'd have to wait and see if we were going to confirm the trip in the fall.

But it was still early. I mean, we were talking about this probably in the middle of the summer, and we weren't talking about going until, I don't know, later in the fall.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q So Libya was in the category of "wait and see"?

A Yes. It was a country listed as a potential to visit but not one that I experienced as, you know, definitely we're going, but we should consider going.

Q Okay. Do you recall whether the Secretary received any -- in her normal course would receive requests for additional security at embassies or posts overseas? Was that the type of information that would come to her?

A I don't know. You'd have to ask her.

Q Okay. Those are not documents that you would see, action memos or things like that?

A Not typically. I mean, the documents that were

specifically sent to me were documents that said we want to go speak in Morocco next week at the Forum for the Future, yes or no. I mean, those were the kinds of documents that -- the paper that I received for my action.

Q Okay. Did the Secretary review cables written by ambassadors or sent in by ambassadors?

A I believe she did, yes.

Q Okay. All of them?

A I think she read what was given to her.

Q And who would make that choice as to what she should read?

A There was a whole process, a protocol at the Department. There was a lot of paper. There was a lot of paper. Even what it did come through, there was a lot of paper.

Q And that's my question.

A But, you know, I only know what was approved to go in there. You know, I can't say this particular person said yes or no. I know there was a chain of command at the Department, the Deputy Secretary, other people who would weigh in on whether a cable should go into her or not, you know, maybe the regional assistant secretary.

But by the time it reached us in the S office, I think the paper that went into her was paper that had been cleared elsewhere.

Q Okay. But would it -- I guess what I'm looking at is you've described a hierarchy, and I'd like to understand that hierarchy. Is everything that went to the Secretary from an overseas post, did it flow through a deputy secretary? And did it always flow through one

or could it be either one, and did it have to come through an Under Secretary? I'm just trying to understand to the best that you know what all those levels of review would be before it reached the Secretary.

A That wasn't a process that, certainly anybody in my position was privy to. What came into our office was the cleared documents for the Secretary to see. How many people and who they were that had to say, "yes, this goes to her," I don't know.

Q Do you at least know who the last person would be to clear it for the Secretary? Was it Deputy Secretary Burns, for instance?

A I think that would have happened before it came to our office, so I'd be guessing if I said it was Deputy Secretary Burns. I would imagine a lot of paper went to him, but I don't know if everything went to him either.

Q Okay. I'm going to jump around a little bit. I have a few -- well, I have one more topic and then I'm going to let you have some.

Mr. Pompeo. That's fine.

Ms. Jackson. I shouldn't say this, but because I have to.

I'm actually going to show you two documents that I'm going to mark exhibits 6 and 7.

[Abedin Exhibits Nos. 6 and 7

Were marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q And as you're reviewing that, for the record, exhibit 6 is

document number SCB0058547. It's an email chain at the top dated Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

And Exhibit 7 is document number 0045765, and it's an email dated Monday, October 29, 2012.

A Okay.

Q Have you had an opportunity?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Let me first go to Exhibit 7. Exhibit 7 dated Monday, October 29, 2012, from you to H., which I assume is Secretary Clinton; is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q Okay. And I would like to go to what I think is the third paragraph, but I want to read it into the record. It says, "Had a long visit with my friend who was in Benghazi. Will download in person but think very important for you to call [REDACTED], the injured DS officer. He is now well enough to talk."

First of all, was [REDACTED] one of the agents who was on the ground in Benghazi the night of the attack?

A Yes.

Q And he was significantly injured during the attack? Is that correct?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. In fact, he spent over a year at Walter Reed Hospital, if you know? Do you know?

A I know it was a significant period of time.

Q Okay. It also says here, "Had a long visit with my friend who was in Benghazi." Who was that?

A I had a friend from college who was in Benghazi that night.

Q On the night of the attack? The night of the attack?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. And was that -- was your friend a witness in any way to the attacks?

Ms. Abedin. I am not able to discuss that.

Ms. Dunn. Sharon, we should go off the record.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. We can.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Jackson. Let's go back on the record and pose --

Ms. Dunn. I'm sorry. Also -- I don't know if you do this -- do you want to strike your last question or --

Ms. Jackson. We don't follow the rules of evidence that closely.

Ms. Dunn. Got it.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q The question that we're going to pose to you is, in this email exchange, you're requesting or suggesting that the Secretary call the agent who was injured; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And to your knowledge, had the Secretary talked to Agent [REDACTED] up until this point?

A She had not.

Q She had not, okay.

Had she talked to any of the surviving agents of the attack?

A Before this --

Q Before this time.

A I don't believe she had.

Q Okay. And then going to Exhibit 6, which is a series of emails between -- starting on October 25 through October 30, it essentially discusses the same thing, a call to Agent [REDACTED]; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q And so what is Exhibit 7, would have been your communication to her in the middle of all of this other communication. Is that a fair reading of these emails?

A That's a fair reading, yes.

Q Okay. Do you know when the Secretary talked to Agent [REDACTED], or did she?

A What I remember about the call to [REDACTED] is that there was an interest in calling him to see how he was doing, and the information that we were getting from Assistant Secretary Boswell prior to this date, was that he wasn't well enough to speak. And so it was something that we, you know, some of my colleagues were staying in touch with Assistant Secretary Boswell about to see when he was well enough to actually take a call from her.

I'm pretty certain she talked to him shortly after this email exchange. I don't remember the exact date, but I'm pretty certain she did.

Q Okay. And had she talked to the other agents by the end of October?

A Any of the other injured agents?

Q Surviving agents.

A Surviving agents, I don't believe so. I don't believe so, ma'am.

Q Okay. Did she talk to them, to your knowledge, at all during 2012?

A Not to my knowledge.

Ms. Jackson. I have about 10 minutes left so I'm cutting you a little short, but I will turn it over to you at this point because I'm ready to turn to a different topic.

Mr. Pompeo. Okay. We can do that. Great. Thank you.

First, Mr. Cummings spoke and indicated he had no idea why you were here. And I just want to assure you, we think there's a perfectly appropriate reason for you to be here consistent with our mission. He may or may not know, we have had a heck of a time getting documents from the State Department for this committee, and we have had a heck of a time identifying where all these documents are and who's got them and what emails were used.

And you were very close to the Secretary, and you were very involved in her daily life, both her official life and, as people are who are close, involved in things personal. And so I just want you -- we think you can help us identify how to complete this record so that we have a full and complete understanding of what took place.

So, Mr. Cummings is obviously entitled to his view, but I just thought it was appropriate for you to know that I view your time here as deeply appreciated but also necessary and highly relevant to what it is we're seeking to accomplish on behalf of the American people.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. Thank you. Thank you for being here today too.

The two email addresses -- and just coincidentally, in these two last documents that you just had a chance to review, a personal one the @clintonemail.com and then official State.Gov email. Were there any other email addresses under which you conducted business that was related to either Libya or Benghazi or the matters that we have discussed so far today?

Ms. Abedin. During my time at the State Department in that period?

Mr. Pompeo. Well, I guess more broadly. Any time.

Ms. Abedin. I had a personal Yahoo.com --

Mr. Pompeo. Let me stop. If it's an email that you used strictly for personal business, for nothing that's related to this, I am uninterested in that email address.

Ms. Abedin. You don't want my email? I'm offended, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. Duly noted.

Ms. Abedin. I did have, in addition to those two email addresses, I did have a Yahoo.com address that I occasionally used to forward some documents to print and also that I forwarded news clips to and those could've included news clips regarding Libya, so yes, there was an

additional one.

Mr. Pompeo. Okay. Great. Thank you.

Ms. Jackson. May I ask one follow up?

Mr. Pompeo. Of course, yeah.

Ms. Jackson. And during your search of your personal records to turn over to the State Department, did you search that account?

Ms. Abedin. I instructed my attorneys to go through all of my email records and documents and to do as thorough a search as possible for any potentially Federal records and to turn them over to the State Department. And to my knowledge, they did that.

Ms. Jackson. And including that Yahoo account?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Pompeo. Did you have a security clearance while you were working at the State Department?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. And do you have that security clearance now?

Ms. Abedin. I do not.

Mr. Pompeo. You do not. Was it withdrawn at the time you departed the State Department coincidental with that, or did you continue it sometime after your continued service? Or do you know exactly?

Ms. Abedin. I'm not sure when I ceased to have security clearance. To the best of my recollection, it didn't end the day she walked out but sometime thereafter.

Mr. Pompeo. Sometime thereafter. And what was that security clearance that you held? What level of security clearance? Was it secret? Top secret? Do you recall?

Ms. Abedin. I am fairly certain it was top secret as was the practice for anybody working within the S office because we worked in a SCIF.

Mr. Pompeo. Great. Thanks. Makes sense to me.

Were you interviewed by the ARB?

Ms. Abedin. I was not, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. Have you, in the lead up to today, have you had conversations with any of the other individuals that we have interviewed where you discussed the matters that either they discussed with us or you thought you might be discussing today?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, I have talked to some of my former colleagues and current colleagues, and it was to acknowledge that they were coming in or I was coming in. We wished each other good luck. But, you know, particularly since Jake Sullivan and I continue to work together on a daily basis, we determined early on that we would not discuss our appearances here.

Mr. Pompeo. So any of the conversations that you had were pro forma, good luck, not substantive with relative to their testimony or the testimony that you were contemplating providing us with today?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. And I guess the same question with respect to Mr. Blumenthal. Have you had a conversation with Mr. Blumenthal about

his testimony? Maybe you can tell us if you even know Mr. Blumenthal or have ever had a conversation with him? Maybe give us a little background.

Ms. Dunn. Before we enter Mr. Blumenthal, just because I think the record is now like a tiny bit unclear. I think you helped her address this a little bit, but your original question was have you discussed any of the substance?

Mr. Pompeo. Yes, of course.

Ms. Dunn. And you answered, "Yes, we talked to wish each other good luck and didn't discuss the substance." But because Ms. Abedin answered yes to your original question, I just want to make sure --

Mr. Pompeo. The correct answer would be no.

Ms. Dunn. -- that it's clear from her subsequent testimony that what she really meant was no.

Mr. Pompeo. I'm going to run outside and tell them she said yes.

Ms. Dunn. I appreciate you assisting her with that subsequently.

Mr. Pompeo. No worries.

Ms. Dunn. Okay. Go ahead. Sorry.

Mr. Pompeo. So same question. Maybe you can talk about your interactions with Mr. Blumenthal during your time at the State Department and then maybe subsequent to that as well. Would you break it down?

Ms. Abedin. I had really very few interactions. I've known Sid for a long time. I worked for Secretary Clinton for 19 years now, and I met Mr. Blumenthal at the White House when I was working there. He

was at the Clinton White House and the Clinton administration at the same time. So I've known him since then.

While I was at the State Department, in terms of physical interaction, it was very minimal. I'm struggling to think of when I actually physically saw him. I don't believe I had any phone conversations with him in that period. It's possible that there were periodic email exchanges, but from my recollection, those were mostly in the form of emails from Sid being forwarded to me to print.

Mr. Pompeo. Were you aware of the -- I want to say this in a way that doesn't -- Mr. Blumenthal wrote to the Secretary frequently. We've now seen those documents during this relevant time period. That's my characterization. I think there were a lot. They were directly related to intelligence prospects in Libya.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Pompeo. Were you aware that those communications were taking place? Were you ever copied on them, or did you know that Secretary Clinton was receiving that information from Mr. Blumenthal related to Libya in particular?

Ms. Abedin. I don't recall being copied on them, but I certainly do remember printing documents that were emails from Sid, yes.

Mr. Pompeo. In a similar way, were you aware of any communications that occurred prior to the departure of Mr. Qadhafi from power with respect to post-Qadhafi planning? That is, if we're successful, tell me what next steps -- were you involved in that at all? You might not have been in your role. But were you aware of

post-regime change planning that was taking place prior to the time that the regime was removed?

Ms. Abedin. I don't know. Certainly those were not conversations that I would have been involved in, but it's possible I had a top line awareness that there were some meetings going on. But I don't know.

Mr. Pompeo. I think that's all that I have, Sharon. Thank you.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you, sir.

Ms. Jackson. Well, and I think we're essentially out of time. We may have like 2 minutes, but it's not enough to start the next series of questions that I have, which are going to focus on the completeness of the record that we got from the State Department, which is a long area but it is my last area.

Ms. Abedin. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. So with that, I think we'll go off the record.

[Recess.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Let's go back on the record. It's 2:45. The minority staff have graciously conceded their next hour, so I'm going to continue with my questioning and hopefully this will make the day shorter than it could have been.

When Mr. Pompeo was here, he asked if you were interviewed by the ARB that was impaneled following the Benghazi attacks, and you said no. Did you provide any documents to the ARB?

A I was not asked to provide any, no.

Q Okay. Was there a memo that went out to all staff from Under Secretary Kennedy requesting that anybody who had information to provide it to the ARB? Do you recall that?

A I don't. If there was one, I don't remember receiving it.

Q Do you recall if the Secretary provided any documents to the ARB?

A I'm not aware of what she provided.

Q Okay. Who would have played a role in that if she were to provide documents to the ARB?

A It would have been our chief of staff, Cheryl Mills.

Q Okay. During the time that you worked with the Secretary, were you ever part of or privy to a conversation regarding complying with FOIA requests that particularly involved the Secretary's records?

A No, I wasn't aware that had ever happened. No.

Q Okay. So you were unaware that there had ever been a FOIA request regarding records of the Secretary individually?

A While we were at State or post State?

Q Let's start with while you were at the State Department.

A Not at all that I remember.

Q Okay. What about after you left the State Department?

A That was not something -- no, that wasn't something that happened outside her attorneys.

Q Okay. During the time that you were at the State Department, you were aware that the Secretary was using a personal email address; is that correct?

A I was, ma'am.

Q Were you aware that it was her exclusive means of electronic mail communications?

A Yes, I was.

Q Okay. And were you aware that that personal email account was maintained on a private server?

A I know it was an email address that was provided by the IT person in President Clinton's office. I'm not certain that I was aware of what server it was on or not on.

Q But it was not on a State Department server?

A That's correct.

Q So you were aware at least of that fact?

A Absolutely, yes.

Q Okay. I'm sorry, but I'm going to jump back just a minute. In September of 2012, following the attacks, there was the first congressional inquiry into documents relating to the Benghazi attack. Were you aware of that letter from a subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee?

A No. And it wouldn't have likely gone to me anyway, so I wasn't aware. You're reminding me of something I didn't remember.

Q Okay. So there were no discussions among the senior staff regarding complying with congressional requests for information regarding the Benghazi attacks?

A I want to be thoughtful about how I answer that. I think -- I know mostly in the context of the ARB I remember both the

Secretary and Cheryl saying that they wanted everybody to be very responsive to the committee. But in regards to any other inquiry, I have no specific recollections.

Q Okay. Do you have any generalized recollection that there was discussion of congressional inquiries into the Benghazi attacks?

A Yes. Yes, I'm sure I was aware at the time. But I think what was more top of mind for me was the ARB. I believe that that inquiry started fairly quickly.

Q Okay. And in the ARB, was there any discussion of the Secretary or others in senior leadership providing documents to the ARB?

A ~~Not any discussions that they included me in.~~ And I certainly -- I wasn't asked for any documents.

Q Okay. Have you subsequently been aware that there were conversations ongoing at that time regarding producing documents to the senior leadership to the ARB?

A I don't think it's something that we've talked about since then. It doesn't jog anything in my memory even post her time at the State Department related to a congressional inquiry.

Q Or the ARB?

A The ARB, yes. As I mentioned, I do remember there being this encouragement from our chief of staff and the Secretary that they wanted people who were asked to participate to be responsive and cooperative.

Q And did that responsiveness include their own records?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Do you recall that in December of 2012, Chairman Darrell Issa of the Oversight and Government Reform sent a letter to the State Department requesting information as to whether the Secretary used a personal email account? Do you recall the Department receiving that inquiry?

A No.

Q Okay. Do you recall any discussions that were had within the senior leadership of the State Department at that time of receipt of that request?

A Definitely not.

~~Q Okay. Do you recall anything about that letter coming in?~~

A Reading about it in the press, some months or a year thereafter.

Q Okay. But nothing at the time when you were still at the State Department?

A Definitely not.

Q Okay. You were asked by our minority colleagues about the Secretary's ability to conduct business at her residence. And I believe you said that she had a secure telephone there; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Did she have other equipment in one or both of residences?

A Yes, she did.

Q Okay. Let me just ask this, was the equipment the same in both of the residences?

A It was pretty similar, yes.

Q Okay. If you could just describe what did she have in her D.C. residence and what did she have in her New York residence.

A Certainly. In both residences, they basically established [REDACTED] in the present offices, the existing offices in the residence. So they took the door down and they replaced it with a door with a special lock in both houses. They installed fax machines, secure fax machines. If I recall, there were two phones; there was a white phone and then a yellow Cisco phone that had the two different levels of security.

Q So one up to the secret level and one to the top secret level?

A Correct. Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay.

A And she had the same setup in her New York residence as well, a secure fax machine as well as two different types of phones.

Q Okay. Did she have a safe?

A She did, yes.

Q At each residence?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And you said they made it into [REDACTED] Do you know whether it was accredited to hold up to top secret information?

A I wouldn't know the accreditation level, but I do know that they installed doors that had locks on them.

Q Were there windows in those rooms?

A Yes.

Q Did they do anything to the windows?

A I don't recall.

Q And I'm assuming that the State Department underwrote the cost for those upgrades for her?

A I don't know.

Q Do those rooms still exist today the way they did at the time?

A No, ma'am. They brought her existing doors out of storage and replaced them, and they took all the equipment.

Q Okay. Did she have a regular fax machine at one or both of the residences?

A If I remember -- and I think they still exist -- she had one unit that was a printer, copier, and fax machine in both residences.

Q Did she have a computer in either of those rooms?

A She did.

Q Okay. Did she have a computer capable of processing classified information?

A She did not.

Q Okay. So it was a regular computer in there?

A Correct.

Q Okay.

A But I should clarify that these were computers that she did not use. They existed before she became Secretary of State and they for the most part were dormant and --

Q So they were her personal computers?

A They were her personal computers, yes.

Q Okay.

A And, Ms. Jackson, I apologize, I forgot to mention, they did install in her Washington residence the ability to do, you know, VTC. I don't know how to --

Mr. Rodriguez. SVTCS, the secure video.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, the video. I don't know if it was secure, but the video capability.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Video teleconferences?

A Yes. We didn't use it, but it did exist. It was there. I forgot to mention that.

Q ~~You have no knowledge as to whether that could go to the~~ classified level?

A I have no recollection of having used it, but it was there.

Q Okay. And in these rooms they sort of built out for her use?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Did she use those pieces of equipment to receive information, the secure phones, the secure faxes. You've told us about not using the VTC, but were the other modes of communication used?

A She absolutely used the secure phones. You know, she was often home in either residence over the weekends and she made calls and received calls on those phones, yes. The secure fax was deployed very little, mostly because we often had technical challenges receiving the faxes. She sometimes struggled with the equipment and --

Q I believe I've seen an email where you have said, "Don't ever use the fax machine."

A Yes. It was so maddening to try and execute it without there being some challenge, so, you know, secure faxes, we pretty quickly gave up on. And when she was in Washington, it was very convenient to have a pouch delivered. She often had a pouch delivered anyway. She lived in very close proximity to the State Department so we would just ask those documents to be included in the pouch.

Q Okay. And was there a way to deliver documents to her in New York?

A Yes, there was a courier from the U.S./U.N. facility was able to do it there, but sometimes we, you know, had to struggle with the secure fax machine to get her document.

Q When she traveled, did a secure phone -- I assume that there was a secure phone and fax and other things on the plane when she traveled, but when she would be in hotels, were there secure communications available to her?

A On most occasions that I remember, yes. It's very common for there to be a phone installed, a black phone in the suite. And then they would have secure equipment in our -- I apologize. I'm losing the word -- in our staff office, you know, the control room as well.

Q Did they have like a command center or something like that?

A Yes. Yes. We called it a control room.

Q Control room?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Did she have a classified email account assigned to her by the State Department?

A She did not.

Q At any level, secret or top secret?

A No.

Q Was there someone who had an account on her behalf on those systems?

A Not that I'm aware of, no.

Q Okay. Did she have a secure Blackberry?

A She did not.

Q Did anyone carry one on her behalf?

A No.

Q Okay. Did she have a secure cell phone?

A Oh, interesting question. There may have been a secure cell phone that -- yes, on occasion. Yes.

Q That would travel with her?

A That would be with whoever, you know, whatever special assistant or, you know -- yes. Yes. I forgot about that.

[3:00 p.m.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q And did that routinely travel with her?

A We didn't need to use it very often because she was always within close enough proximity with an actual hard line secure phone, but now that you've asked me, I actually do remember that on occasion there was a secure cell phone. I travel -- it was a little box. A couple of times I traveled with it or assistant traveled with it, yes.

Q So is it accurate to say or to summarize that it probably -- that it generally travelled with her but it was not used much?

A Yes.

Q Okay. I would assume that it was in the checklist of things that got packed when you traveled overseas.

Okay. Let's go back to the personal email account and the non-State Department server. When did you first learn that the Secretary was going to use a personal email account as Secretary of State?

A Well, we -- you know, she'd had an email account that she used prior to arriving at the State Department, and obviously, I was aware of that. I communicated with her on that device, and that continued through her time at State.

Q So during the time that she was a Senator, she only used a personal email account?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. When did you first learn that it was going to change from the prior personal account to the clintonemail.com account?

A So once the President asked Secretary Clinton to serve as Secretary of State, it was at the conclusion of 2008, the presidential campaign was over, and her Senate office was transitioning. So for my purposes, I'm talking about my transition at this point, I reached out to the IT, the person that did IT in President Clinton's office. I'd always had an email account that was provided to me by the Clintons and so I said I'm losing my hillaryclinton.com email, what can I use?

Q Let me just stop you right there. The hillaryclinton.com, was that the one that you had been using?

A Yes, ma'am. That was prior to arriving at the State Department. That was provided to me by the political entity associated with the Secretary.

Q Okay. And how long had you had that email address?

A Since we left the White -- well, I probably had -- first it was called @friendsofhillary.com, that transitioned -- that was right when we left the White House, and then that transitioned to hillaryclinton.com once she opened her presidential committee.

Q Okay. And the William Jefferson Clinton office maintained that email address, that domain name, hillaryclinton.com, or did her political campaign?

A Her political campaign, yes.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q So to your knowledge, there was a server associated with her political campaign?

A I would have -- yes. I mean, I would have assumed so. It wouldn't have been something I paid attention to, but yes, ma'am.

Q But when there was a problem, you didn't call the William Jefferson Clinton office?

A I usually called Justin. He was our go-to guy. He always was, you know, I'm having a problem, can you help me fix it, and he always did, so that wasn't --

Q And who is Justin?

A ~~Justin Cooper worked in President Clinton's office, and he~~ handled a lot of IT issues that would arise from time to time.

Q And you used him even when you had the political campaign for Mrs. Clinton running for President?

A I was on the road a lot. I used -- you know, Justin was an easy go-to call. I certainly called him when the then Senator was having challenges with her email, yes. When in need, he was my point of contact.

Q Okay. And just to be clear, she never had a senate.gov account, email account when she was Senator?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. So moving forward to the end of 2008 to early 2009 when you were aware that she was going to become Secretary of State, take us through those steps.

A So as I was saying earlier, I reached out and said I'm losing these two email addresses. You know, what can I use to continue doing emails as it related to Clinton family matters, and he suggested that I use that clintonemail.com address, and so that's what I did.

Q Was that something that Just -- and by he, you're talking about Justin Cooper, right?

A I am referring to Justin, correct. That's my recollection, but yes.

Q Was that something that he was setting up as something new, or did it exist?

A I'm not certain if it existed or not, but around the same time, that's when, you know, obviously, she went from her AT&T Blackberry email to Clinton email. It all happened around the same period of time.

Q Okay. Did Secretary Clinton have a email address under the domain name hillaryclinton. -- it's hard to say hillaryclinton@hillaryclinton.com, but do you understand what I mean?

A Yes, ma'am. She did not.

Q She did not. She just had her AT&T account?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q So it was something@at&t.net, or something like that?

A Exactly.

Q And do you recall approximately when this was that you were having these conversations with Justin Cooper and the setup or the transfer to clintonemail.com?

A I don't remember the exact timeframe, but it was once I knew that I was about to lose two email addresses and trying to figure out what I was going to do.

Q And I guess my question is, why were you going to lose them? Could they not continue or who made the decision that they were not going --

A Well, she was no longer -- sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you, Ms. Jackson. I apologize. But she was no longer going to be Senator, so obviously our Senate email accounts were going to be defunct, and her campaign committee was essentially shutting down. We were all going to lose our hillaryclinton.com email addresses within a short period of time.

Q So that leaves me to infer, but please correct me if I'm wrong, that those email addresses, the hillaryclinton.com addresses were not associated with their family foundation and business and things like that?

A Well, the foundation was a whole separate -- and I, you know, and I you know, I never had a foundation email account, but I used my hillaryclinton.com account for anything as it related to the family, in addition to anything related to the campaign at that time.

Q Okay. And did you say you had two accounts there?

A I'm sorry --

Q With her campaign?

A It was friendsofhillary that sort of morphed into hillaryclinton.com.

Q But they were not simultaneous?

A I think what happened is, when she went from being senator with having a political action committee and then went to deciding she's running for President, the friendsofhillary.com emails just sort morphed into -- or I don't know how to really explain it, but I guess they were -- anyone who emailed me at friendsofhillary.com I would get on the hillaryclinton.com email address. Does that make sense?

Q Actually it does, but I don't know why.

Do you know who came up with the name of clintonemail.com?

A I do not recall, no.

Q Okay. Just came to you as that?

A Yes. I'm not the most tech savvy person, so yes, in my recollection is I got a brand new Blackberry in the mail and it had a working phone number and an email address, and I was very happy.

Q Did it come with a contact list?

A I don't know.

Q I'm asking if some of the other --

A I would suppose that the contacts they had in my hillaryclinton.com Blackberry were transposed to the clintonemail.com. That's a safe -- yeah, that's safe to assume. I would have probably been frustrated if not.

Q And for those people who had an email address at hillaryclinton.com, did they get new email addresses at clintonemail.com? I think I said that right.

A No, no.

Q They did not?

A No.

Q Do you know how many did? How many people did? Obviously the Secretary did and you did.

A I think the only additional person was Chelsea.

Q What if any discussions did you have with the Secretary regarding the use of this new email address as her exclusive means of electronic communication as Secretary of State?

A I don't recall having many conversations. It was a natural progression from what she was doing previously, and she continued to do so.

Q And I just want to be precise here. You said you don't remember many conversations. Were there any conversations?

A I don't remember any conversations. I think those of us who were part of her senior leadership at the State Department all regret that we didn't think about it more, but we really didn't.

Q When she went in as Secretary of State, had they set up a state.gov account for her in anticipation of her arrival?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Did you or did anyone, to your knowledge, communicate with the State Department that she would not be using -- did you or others tell the IT department or the executive secretary or the executive assistant that she did not want one?

A I don't remember anyone discussing it with us. You know, we were coming into a bureaucracy. I don't know that they

necessarily -- I don't know that they necessarily assumed or approached us, assuming that the Secretary of State would have a state.gov email address. I'm not sure that the former Secretary had a state.gov email address. I don't know that it was the normal course of business for the Department, but I'm supposing on their behalf. I don't think it was automatic. I certainly don't remember anyone approaching me about giving her a state.gov email.

Q Okay. At any time prior to her becoming Secretary of State, did you have any conversation with her about using personal email versus official email as First Lady or as Senator or at any time in your past tenure with her?

A Certainly not as First Lady. You know, even as Senator, I don't recall. It doesn't mean it's out of the realm of possibility, but I don't recall any specific conversations with her.

Q Do you recall when she came in as Senator, whether they had set up an email account for her at a senate.gov address?

A No.

Q No recollection, or no, they did not?

A No, they did not.

Q Okay. Were you involved at all in the server being relocated to the New York -- well, first of all, let me ask you this. Was a server relocated to the New York residence?

A I have subsequently learned that's the case, but I wasn't aware at the time, no.

Q When did you learn?

A I think in the last year or so or the last -- I don't want to put a timeframe on it, but as all of this has become public, learning -- it wasn't something that was discussed with me before it's become public.

Q Okay. When problems arose during the time that she was Secretary of State, and I can't imagine that there's an electronic system out there that didn't have a problem or two, during this tenure, who did you call?

A When problems arose for myself?

Q For yourself or on behalf of the Secretary with the clintonemail.com account?

A If it was related to clintonemail.com, I would ^{call} ~~called~~ Justin.

Q Justin Cooper?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. If it wasn't related to clintonemail.com, under what sort of problems would you encounter?

A If it was the state.gov email, it would just be that it wasn't working, which happened from time to time that the state.gov system was down.

Q Okay. Did you ever call anybody other than Justin Cooper when problems arose?

A Outside of Clinton email?

Q Yeah.

A For state.gov, I would ask one of the assistants in the

office, I would say my Blackberry isn't working, can you help me get it fixed, and they would go to somebody in our IT department.

Q Good. And then back to the clintonemail.com address, did you call anyone other than Justin when problems arose?

A I think there was a period, and it may have been -- my memory is fuzzy on this, so I apologize, but at one point we -- I would call Bryan Pagliano, but I don't remember if that was pre or post, but I mean, Justin was my primary person.

Q Okay. And did Justin work at the State Department?

A He did not.

Q Okay. And where did he work?

A He worked in President Clinton's office.

Q In New York?

A In New York.

Q The Harlem office?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay. So you had no involvement in the redirection of the campaign server to the New York home?

A No.

Q Okay. Do you now understand that it was in the New York home?

A Yes.

Q Okay. It wasn't in some other building. It was in their residence in Chappaqua, New York?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Have you subsequently learned who was involved in the relocation of the server to the Chappaqua, New York residence?

A I actually don't know that I do.

Q Okay. Was it Bryan Pagliano?

A It may have been Bryan, but I would -- I'm guessing.

Q Okay. And why would he be in the realm of possible persons to have done that? What was his role? How did you know him?

A I knew him previously from the campaign, the presidential campaign. He worked on her 2008 presidential campaign, so I knew Bryan from there.

Q And did he run the IT systems for that campaign?

A I don't know if he ran the IT systems, but he was one of the people who worked on IT systems in 2008.

Q Was he like the head person, or where did he fall in the hierarchy of IT folks?

A I don't know. We had a lot of people in 2008, and I was never really at headquarters, so for me it was a name and email address, and I would say I need help.

Q Okay. And he was in New York?

A That would have been -- he would have been in Washington, actually. Our headquarters were in Virginia specifically in 2008.

Q Okay. Do you know how the personal email account and the private server were funded?

A I don't.

Q No information on who paid the registration fees for the

domain name or paid for the relocation of the server to the Chappaqua, New York home?

A No.

Ms. Sawyer. Yeah, I certainly appreciate the witness' willingness to answer every single question put before her, but I am -- and I certainly will give you the latitude to finish, particularly because both she and her counsel are obviously being cooperative, but I just would caution you that we have gotten very far afield in completing the record when we are talking about how it was financed.

Ms. Jackson. I understand that that's your position, and we have a different one, and I will continue asking questions in my hour.

Ms. Sawyer. ~~Could you at least give us some foundational sense as how that's related to the investigation into the attacks in Benghazi?~~

Ms. Jackson. I will continue asking questions in my hour.

Ms. Sawyer. Okay. And I just want the record to very clearly reflect, since we did see a letter in the public domain indicating that we have never objected in the context as to how the investigation is being run, that I am clearly objecting, and I appreciate the willingness to answer on behalf of Democratic Members to the questions that are going far beyond determining whether or not we have a complete record as to the documents that are in the -- Ms. Abedin's custody and control related to Benghazi and the attacks in Benghazi.

And we also don't agree with the scope of how far back, but I understand as was said in the last hour already that to the best of her knowledge and ability, any documents that were in her custody or

control related to Libya or Benghazi have been now turned over to the State Department. I mean, can I just clarify if that is accurate?

Ms. Abedin. That is accurate, yes, ma'am.

Ms. Sawyer. Okay. That's fine.

Ms. Jackson. And I would also note for the record, we had no objection from the witness or the counsel to that, and those are the only objections that are allowed in a transcribed interview, and we have not objected to any question posed by minority counsel.

Ms. Sawyer. That's fine. And I just want to read from the letter sent from the chairman to the ranking member the following sentence.

Ms. Jackson. Ms. Sawyer, you will have the opportunity to ask questions during your hour.

Ms. Sawyer. That's fine. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Ms. Dunn. Since we have interruption in the questioning, in any event, there's at least one thing that I think the witness should probably make clear about her email use, so I don't know how much more questioning we're going to do about that, but -- so Huma, if there's anything that you want to make clear, you should do that.

Ms. Abedin. I think the only thing I wanted to clarify is I myself did the vast majority, the vast, vast majority of my work as it related to the State Department on my state.gov email, I think, and I think my documents would reflect that work that was conducted on Clinton email was minimal compared to the amount of work I did.

I just generally want to say, like I always try to do the right thing, I always try to do things the way I was told I had to do them

and listen to the instructions, so that's the only other point I wanted to make about my email use.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q We've talked about a Yahoo account you had and the clintonemail.com account. Were there any other domain names maintained on that server, to your knowledge?

A I'm not sure my Yahoo account was maintained on any server.

Q I'm sorry. I didn't mean to imply that it was. I'm trying to identify the scope of email accounts and then, as a corollary to that, were they maintained on the server that the clintonemail.com was maintained? It's kind of a two-part.

~~You know what, let me just withdraw it and start all over because~~
I think I just complicated it by putting two things together.

A Okay.

Q You've identified for us two personal email accounts, a Yahoo account and a clintonemail.com account; is that correct?

A I had one personal account, which was my Yahoo account, and I had a Clinton email account that was provided to me by the Clintons that I used for their personal emails about their personal matters, but that was the distinction.

Q Okay. Were you aware that the Secretary used -- well, let me ask this. How many different email addresses are you aware of that the Secretary used?

A I am aware of two, the one that she used when she first arrived at the State Department and then after the subsequent incident

where her email address was made public while she was Secretary of State, that email address has changed.

Q Okay. The first one was hdr22@clintonemail.com?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q That was the one she used during the duration of being Secretary of State?

A That's what she used until that was made public, and then that was changed.

Q And how was that made public?

A I think somebody -- oh, gosh, I'm sorry. You're testing my memory, but it was -- I believe it was somebody else's emails that became public, and it had identified her email address, and her email address was then made public.

Q Recognition is often better than recall, so do you recall that it was Sid Blumental's email address that was hacked?

A Yes. Yes. Yes.

Q Okay. And at that time she changed to a different email address?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Had there been any other email addresses used by the Secretary from 2009 forward, to your knowledge?

A In that time period --

Q From 2009 forward.

A Yes, it was those two, yes.

Q And as of today, is she still using one of those two?

Ms. Dunn. Can we go off the record?

Ms. Jackson. Sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q We've talked about the `hdr22@clintonemail.com`, and then after the Sid Blumenthal hack, a different email address has been used. From 2009 forward, have there been any other email addresses used by the Secretary?

A While she was at State?

Q Well, let's start there, while she was at State?

A So there was those two at State, so she transitioned from the AT&T Blackberry that happened around the same time as she started at State. She had the `hdr22`, she used that, solely that address until the hacking incident, and then we changed the address to another `@clintonemail.com`, and --

Q And then, more recently, has there been yet another one? Not what it is, just has there been?

Ms. Dunn. So I'd be more comfortable if we went off the record and talked about this.

Ms. Jackson. Sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Jackson. All right. Let's go back on the record.

Mr. Westmoreland. Can I ask a couple before you go on?

Ms. Jackson. Yes, you may.

Mr. Westmoreland. If I get out of bounds, somebody pull a flag.

But you said the IT person -- and this is going back a little bit, and I think you identified he was Justin, but was he from Mr. Clinton's office? I mean, did he work for Mr. Clinton?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. And you said the [REDACTED].

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. And I think you mentioned that that was actually the President's office that they [REDACTED].

Ms. Abedin. No, sir. No, sir. Actually, the President had a separate office in the New York -- actually, he had separate offices in both residences. These were offices that were specific to the Secretary at both residences --

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay.

Ms. Abedin. And those were [REDACTED].

Mr. Westmoreland. So it was not his office. It was just a office that was [REDACTED]?

Ms. Abedin. They were her offices, and they were her offices prior to her becoming Secretary of State, but in both residences, they each had their own --

Mr. Westmoreland. Sure.

Ms. Abedin. -- their own offices.

Mr. Westmoreland. But the server wasn't in [REDACTED], that you know of?

Ms. Abedin. I don't -- I actually, sir, even till today, don't know physically where that server was.

Mr. Westmoreland. That's all.

Ms. Abedin. I don't know.

Mr. Westmoreland. Now, when you were talking about [REDACTED], and you said you don't know who paid for it, if it was the State Department or private or whatever?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. But the upgrades included a secure phone and a secure fax and some of the other things that you mentioned.

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. But those would have had to have come from the State Department, right?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, they did, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay. And do you know if it was ever restored back to the -- I mean, you said they took down a door, you know.

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. I'm sure they added some stuff.

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. But did the contractor or the State come in and put it back to this original condition?

Ms. Abedin. They did, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. And you said that she had a personal email while she was a Senator?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. And, was it on the same server that was used when she got the clinton.com, or do you know?

Ms. Abedin. I don't know. I don't know if that email address was housed on that server already.

Mr. Westmoreland. So it could have been two different servers. I mean, they wouldn't have wiped one clean and then say, okay, we got all the Senate stuff out of the way and now we're going to use it for this, but you --

Ms. Abedin. I really don't -- I really don't know.

Mr. Westmoreland. Now, the other thing is, you said when you got your Blackberry, that it had a phone number and an email address, and you think possibly, probably so, it had your contact list?

Ms. Abedin. Yes.

Mr. Westmoreland. Was that the Blackberry that came from the Clintons or was that the Blackberry that came from the State Department?

Ms. Abedin. It was the Blackberry that came from the Clinton office. I had two. I operated on two Blackberries when I was at the State Department.

Mr. Westmoreland. Yeah. So, but the one you're talking about that already had the --

Ms. Abedin. Yes, yes, that would have been the personal one.

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay. And you said that Yahoo, clinton.com, and .gov was the three emails that you had, your personal and the Clinton one, and you said you used it for personal, right?

Ms. Abedin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Westmoreland. Now, did you do personal work? I mean, if you are only doing it for personal, were you doing personal work for Ms.

Clinton while you were at the State Department, or was this just to say, hey, how you doing or how's Chelsea and what did you all have dinner, or let's get together or something like that? I mean, was it work related or just -- I mean, kind of explain that.

Ms. Abedin. Of course. It was work related for me, but it was more often than not personal for them, just given my job responsibilities, you know, especially planning her schedule, knowing when to coordinate, knowing, you know, where her husband was or her daughter was. It wasn't atypical for them to say FYI, you know, is the Secretary scheduled to be in Washington tomorrow because the President's going to be there and will they be spending the night together. I mean, they, you know, both traveled a lot. It was coordinating for those purposes.

And absolutely, it would not have been atypical, sir, for somebody from the President's office to email and say, you know, does her schedule end in time tomorrow for her to have dinner with the President in New York when she lands, so yes, it was related to coordinating all three of their schedules.

Mr. Westmoreland. Now, the President didn't email, correct?

Ms. Abedin. That's correct.

Mr. Westmoreland. Okay. So who would have been emailing you for the President to find out where you all were going -- when they were going to have dinner? I mean, I'm confused, I guess.

Ms. Abedin. He had a staff, sir. He has a scheduler.

Mr. Westmoreland. Oh, so his so staff emailed.

Ms. Abedin. Yes. Yes, yes, yes. I apologize if I wasn't clear. I was not emailing --

Mr. Westmoreland. No, that's okay. But would his staff not have had your State Department address or they didn't think it was appropriate to ask you do what you were doing over at the State Department address?

Ms. Abedin. They absolutely did have my state.gov address, and on occasion, I was emailed there as well. But I think for, frankly, it seemed more appropriate to have those kinds of exchanges on the systems that we'd always used, and like I said, it was primarily to coordinate, and it was not communications with the President directly. It was with his staff.

Mr. Westmoreland. Well, I've got to leave, and it's certainly nice to meet you. Thank you.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you. It was nice to meet you as well.

Ms. Dunn. Thank you.

Mr. Westmoreland. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Ms. Jackson. Thank you, sir.

Ms. Dunn. Do you know when we started this?

Ms. Jackson. Quarter till.

Ms. Dunn. Great. Thank you.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q All right. Let's return to Mr. Pagliano. When did you first meet him?

A Sometime probably -- sometime around the beginning of her presidential campaign in 2007, 2008. I don't remember -- I don't

remember the first time I met him.

Q Okay. Did Mr. Pagliano become an employee of the State Department?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And where did he work and what did he do?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Did he do IT related services for the State Department?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Did you have any involvement -- did you know he was coming to the State Department?

A ~~I'm not sure I did, but he was there. I do know he was there.~~

Q Okay. Did he also perform work for the Clintons during the time that you were at the State Department?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Well, I guess I want to go back to you said you would call Justin Cooper, or there was a period of time when you called Bryan Pagliano. So can you explain to me what you called him about and what was he to do?

A I'm not clear on the timing. It's very fuzzy in my head. There was a period of time, that I would have called Bryan for the same thing I would have called Justin for, it's not working, can you help me, but I'm very fuzzy on what that time period is.

Q But obviously you were at the State Department because before then he was working for the campaign. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And at what --

A It's not necessarily -- actually, I want to revise that, or at least clarify that. I'm not sure if it was when we were at State, and I guess I really should probably think about it. Justin was my main point of contact over the years. Bryan, at some point, was -- I just am ~~not~~ fuzzy -- I'm just fuzzy on when.

Q Okay.

A I mean, it may have been after we left the State Department when I say I'm fuzzy. It may have actually been after we left the State Department.

Q ~~And how would you communicate with him?~~

A Probably through [REDACTED], through her assistant, or I would have emailed him.

Q Okay.

A If it was a problem with her email.

Q With the Secretary's email?

A Yes.

Q You would have emailed him to fix it?

A Possibly, yes.

Q Did he have an email -- clintonemail.com account?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Okay. And what account did you have in your Blackberry, your contacts for him?

A I don't remember. I don't remember.

Q Do you still have those contacts?

A I probably do.

Q Is he still in your contacts?

A He may be. I haven't been in touch with him for a long time.

Q Okay. Would you be willing to provide that information to the committee as to what email address is in your contacts for him?

A I am happy to provide whatever contact information I have, yes.

Q Okay. Were there ever times when the system went down, the clintonemail.com address went down and during the time you were at the State Department?

A Yes.

Q And do you recall how often that occurred?

A Oh, I don't recall it happening often. In fact, I feel like it was a big deal when it did happen. I specifically remember one instance one summer, I don't remember which year specifically, when it went down. There was a big storm.

Q Was that Hurricane Sandy?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. Does it refresh your recollection to know that that happened in 2012?

A I'm sorry, what do you mean?

Q Well, when Hurricane Sandy occurred.

A Okay.

Q You said one summer.

A Oh, okay.

Q In fact, if you would go back to exhibit 7 and take a look at that and see if that refreshes your recollection.

A Yeah. Yes.

Q Okay. Is that when you're talking about that the system went down?

A I'm not sure it was.

Q Okay. And when was the date in that again?

A This is October 29, 2012. I'm not sure it was. It was the summer.

Q Okay. Do you recall the system going down at the time of Hurricane Sandy?

A I don't.

Q You don't recall that Bryan Pagliano had to go out and do some repairs to the system in New York?

A Are you telling me that?

Q I'm asking you if you recall that.

A I'm not aware that that happened.

Q Okay. At any time while you were at the State Department and Secretary Clinton was the Secretary of State, do you recall any intrusion or breach of data or the system otherwise going down and having the loss of data on the system?

A In the state.gov system?

Q No, where the clintonemail.com account was housed.

A No, I'm not.

Q Okay. Were you aware of any cyber threats to the system that housed the clintonemail.com?

A I am not.

Q Do you know whether that system, the system that housed the clintonemail.com, had encryption capabilities?

A I am not.

Q Did you ever encrypt information that would go onto that system, encrypt a document that was attached to an email, or anything like that?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Have you ever encrypted a document?

A I don't know what that means.

Q Like password protect it in some way or anything like that?

A No, not that -- no.

Q Okay. Do you know who provided the physical security for the server and related equipment in the New York home?

A I don't.

Q Who, among the senior staff at the State Department, was aware that former Secretary Clinton used a personal email address?

A It was pretty common knowledge amongst senior staff.

Q Okay. And when you say senior staff, how far down the organizational chart are you going? Deputy secretaries?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Under secretaries?

A Yes.

Q All of the under secretaries have her personal email account?

A I am not sure if all of them did but certainly many did.

Q Okay. And can you recall which ones did?

A No.

Q Did Wendy Sherman?

A She would have, yes. That makes sense.

Q Did Patrick Kennedy?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Would the Under -- I can't remember them all. They had letters. R, N.

A I still refer to them by their letters.

Q Okay. Was there an R, Under Secretary for R?

A Yes.

Q Was that like press, public affairs, public something like that?

A Yes, that was Judith McHale.

Q Yes. Do you recall if she had the --

A I'm fairly certain she did.

Q Okay. What are some other letters that you recall? We can back into this.

A Well, let's see. So the deputy secretary certainly would have, the Under Secretary for Political Affairs would have likely had it, pretty certain did. The Under Secretary for, you know, Public Affairs is, as you relayed, did. I know some of the assistant

secretaries had her email.

Q Which ones do you recall had her?

A You know, the ones I remember were the Under Secretary -- I'm sorry, the assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, Jeff Feltman, but beyond that, maybe Phil Gordon did, you know, European Affairs Assistant Secretary, but now I'm just guessing and assuming, but there were certainly -- there were certainly leadership in our department that had her email, and then obviously everyone within the Secretary's office had her email.

Q Okay. Who, among the other heads of the executive branch, had her personal email account, like Secretary Gates, then Secretary Panetta, Director Petraeus, people from the White House, were there other leaders in the executive branch that had her personal email address?

A I know she communicated with leadership at the White House.

Q By email?

A By email, yes, ma'am. I really did not, you know, have the capacity -- I didn't read who was sending her emails, but I do know in some instances people asked for her email and we provided it. I don't know about General Petraeus or Secretary Gates. I honestly don't. She saw many of these people on a regular basis in meetings at the White House, so I'm not sure that they actually emailed each other.

Q Okay. Who, among the White House staff, requested her email address?

A From what I recollect, the chief of staff and --

Q And at what times, which chief of staff?

A ^{Rahm}~~Ron~~ Emanuel, shortly after we arrived, and I know David Axelrod communicated on -- or at least had requested, you know, had asked for her email address.

Q And were those given -- was the email address given to those two individuals?

A Yes, anyone who asked for her email address, for the most part, received it.

Q Do you recall anyone who was denied it?

A No, I don't.

Q Okay. Were ambassadors given her email address?

A I don't know. I don't believe so. I think it was -- it wouldn't probably have been protocol either for an ambassador to email the Secretary of State directly. They typically went through, you know, the chain of command and reported in to the relevant assistant secretary.

Q Do you recall whether the general counsel or the legal advisor to the State Department had her personal email account?

A Harold Koh, I suspect, did.

Q You don't recall precisely whether he did or not?

A I don't, but I -- I mean, I'm sure he did.

Q Do you know whether he was consulted by the Secretary before she exclusively used her personal email account at the State Department?

A Do I know if he was consulted?

Q Uh-huh.

A I don't.

Q At any time, did he raise any concerns about her use of a personal email account?

A Not to me, that I remember.

Q Of all of the people that we've talked about, the deputy secretaries, the select under secretaries, a few assistant secretaries, at any time did anyone raise any type of concern about the Secretary exclusively use -- let me state that differently.

At any time did any of these individuals voice any type of concern over the secretary's use of a personal email account?

A No.

Q Okay. Did any of these individuals know that the Secretary was exclusively using a personal email account?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Okay. Do you know whether the Secretary or anyone on her behalf consulted with the National Archives and Record Administration regarding the exclusive use of a personal email?

A I don't believe so.

Q Do you believe that did not happen?

A I certainly did not do it on her behalf.

Q Okay. Do you know whether she told officials at the White House that it was going to be her exclusive means of electronic communication?

A I can't speak to what she told the White House.

Q Were you ever present when she denied or deflected any inquiry in that regard?

A No.

Q Was the Secretary, what is known as an original classification authority with respect to classified information?

A I don't know.

Q When did you first become aware that the Department was requesting or notified Secretary Clinton that they were going to ask for the return of her records or knew that they didn't have her universe of records?

A You know, I've thought about this a lot because there has been so much news about this recently, and I've tried to fix in my head when I first became aware, I think, I had full awareness about what the Department had requested and what the committee had requested earlier this year when our campaign team was being, you know, informed about what transpired in the last year. But prior to that, it was something that was being handled by her attorneys, so I didn't really have much awareness.

Q Okay. And specifically when you say her attorneys, who are you referring to?

A David Kendall.

Q Okay. Were you talking with Cheryl Mills at all?

A Was I talking to Cheryl about?

Q The State Department's request for Secretary Clinton's --

A No.

Q What about a Heather Samuelson?

A Of course I know Heather, but no.

Q Is she currently working on the campaign?

A No.

Q Okay. Do you know where she is currently?

A Physically?

Q Yes. I mean what city, what state?

A I think she's still in Washington.

Q Not New York?

A She's not in New York, no. She's not in New York.

~~Q Do you know if she played any role in the return of the Secretary's records to the State Department?~~

A I'm not aware of what role Heather played.

Q To your knowledge?

A To my knowledge, yes.

Q Do you know what if any role Cheryl Mills played?

A I don't know specifically. I don't know what role Cheryl would have played. I know Cheryl was one of the Secretary's attorneys.

Q Okay. I do want to try and nail down the timing of when you knew that the Secretary's records were not with the State Department. I know I'm running out of time, but it's also my last topic.

Mr. Rodriguez. How much longer do you think you'll be?

Ms. Dunn. Do you want a break?

Mr. Rodriguez. Do you know how much longer you'll be?

Ms. Jackson. 5 minutes maybe.

Mr. Rodriguez. You have about 5 minutes in you?

Ms. Abedin. No, I do, but I'm not sure I'm going to be able to satisfy your answers here.

Ms. Jackson. You know what, let's go off the record. Let's take a break and --

Ms. Dunn. Yeah.

[Recess.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Okay. Let's go back on the record. It is 4 minutes after 4:00. I am going to continue with my questioning to wrap up this session, then we're going to turn it over to my minority colleagues, and then we're going to transfer down to a short, very, very short classified setting for just a few questions.

So right when we broke, I was talking to you about the request for the review and return of records of the Secretary to the State Department, and I believe I was asking you as to when that was. Do you have any idea of like what season it was, was it spring, was it summer, was it fall, can you connect it to any other event and try and give me a better sense of when you first learned?

A Yeah. I've really been trying to rack my brain about what I knew in the time and what I've known subsequently, but in the period where that request had gone to her, it had really been handled by her attorneys.

It wasn't something that was certainly discussed with me or shared with me, and I wasn't involved in the process of retrieving anything, so I'm not sure that I knew the full extent until earlier this year when, you know, as part of the campaign staff we were being briefed on what the attorneys were going to make public about what had transpired in the last year.

Q Okay. So you first learned, for, sure earlier this year, is that correct, so early --

A Definitely about what had happened and the period of time when a letter was sent by the State Department and these FOIA requests, like all these things that have now become very obvious --

Q Uh-huh.

A -- I don't think was on my radar until it really had to ^{be} ~~meet~~ for the purposes of the campaign really.

Q Okay. And was that then before or after the New York Times ran the article? I'm just still trying to get a sense of when.

A Which -- I'm sorry, which article --

Q About her exclusive use of a personal email address during her tenure as Secretary of State, which I recall being on March 2nd?

A Was that the first time it was reported?

Q That is my recollection, but --

Ms. Dunn. Do you have the article?

Ms. Jackson. Not with me.

Ms. Abedin. Well, obviously I knew that she had used only that email account, so that wouldn't have been news to me. So are you asking

me when I knew --

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q About the request for the return of records, the review and return of records, was it before or after it became public knowledge that she had exclusively used her personal email account during her tenure as Secretary of State?

A From my recollection, it was once -- and frankly, the only reason that anybody from the campaign needed to know anything about this is because there were press requests asking a whole series of questions. I actually do not recall that it was the New York Times that had written that first article, but I know there were news reports earlier this year, and then subsequently there were questions being asked. We were planning events for her as it related to the campaign, and then all of a sudden we now had to deal with a new set of questions from the press about what had transpired in the last year, and that's why her lawyers were consulted.

They then relayed the relevant information to the communications team at the campaign, and those were the talking points that -- then the talking points were put together by our communications team, and so at that point, yes, yes, ma'am, absolutely, I was aware it was listed there when she got the request and what her lawyers did and that the documents had been provided.

Q But I guess from your long history with the Secretary, I see you in sort of a different role, and you had essentially the family email account, the clintonemail.com?

A Sure, yeah.

Q And so I understand that the campaign officials were told, but weren't you told before then?

A Who would have told me?

Q The Secretary herself.

A Absolutely not.

Q Okay. Cheryl Mills?

A I don't ever recall Cheryl mentioning that to me.

Q Okay. Philippe Reines?

A I don't recall Philippe Reines mentioning it to me.

Q No one asked you about your own clintonemail.com account in connection with the Secretary's return of records?

A No.

Q Okay. So the first time you knew that anybody knew you had a clintonemail.com account was when they requested you to look at your records, or did you know before then?

A I'm sorry, can you ask me that question again --

Q Yeah, it was a little complicated. At some point you were asked to return your own records, to go through your own personal records and return them to the State Department.

A That's correct, yes.

Q Okay. How did you get your clintonemail.com account records? Were you able to still access that account?

A I didn't do it myself. I asked my attorneys. I gave them my devices and my documents and I asked them to make the review and

collect everything that I had and to turn over any potential Federal records.

Q So that account was still active in the sense that it could be accessed without going to a server or an Internet service provider?

A I'm not sure that the account was still active, but -- because I had transitioned to a new email, but I certainly, you know, clearly did have emails on my devices that were relevant, and as I understand, they were all turned over, yes.

Q All right. Prior to you being contacted, did you know ahead of time that you were going to be -- well, let me ask this. How did you first become aware that you personally were going to be requested to review your records?

A To review and return?

Q Yes.

A I read a news article.

Q Okay. That was before the letter arrived?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Okay.

A I read a news article that said that my records and other members of the senior team identified by name, had been asked to review and return their Federal records. I had not received any such request. I contacted my lawyers and said there's a news article saying that I have been asked to do this, but no one has actually asked me to do this.

They inquired on my behalf, and sure enough, it turns out that a request had been sent in March of this year for the review and return

of records in my personal possession.

It never made it to me because the requests were sent to an old mailing address and to old email addresses, so my attorneys were able to reach out to the Department, and I did officially receive the request in May of this year.

Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge or awareness of the methodology that was used by Secretary Clinton's representatives in how they reviewed her records for return to the State Department?

A I don't. They did not consult with me. You'd have to ask them.

Q Do you know how many people worked on that project?

A I have no idea.

Q There have been various media accounts about the server being maintained by a company known as Platte River. Have you read those accounts?

A Yes, I have.

Q Prior to reading those accounts, did you have any awareness of Platte River as a company involved with the server maintaining those emails?

A Yes, ma'am, I did.

Q Okay. Tell us what your involvement was and your awareness was of that.

A I was informed, I believe it was, after we left State Department or around that time, I don't remember a date specifically, that Platte River Networks was going to take over responsibility for

the IT needs of the family.

Q Okay. And who was it being transferred from to Platte River?

A That's a good question. I would imagine from the system that was, you know, an internal -- I guess an internal system that was managed by the President's personal office to a company, an outside company.

Q Did Bryan Pagliano have any involvement in that?

A He may have, yes, that's possible.

Q Okay. In maintaining the server prior to its being transferred to Platte River?

A I don't remember the Bryan period. I want to check. I mean, I feel like this is knowable. I just don't remember. I apologize. I didn't prepare for that, so I don't know. I know Bryan. I know there's a period where he was in and out of our universe. I really wouldn't be doing service till I've given you accurate information by saying yes.

Q Okay. And what records would you have available to you that you could access? Would that be emails or telephone calls, call logs?

A I think I would call somebody and say, hey, when did Bryan do this? I don't even know who. I'd probably call somebody in the President's office. I don't -- you know.

Ms. Dunn. I think it's pretty clear it's not within her recollection. Thank you.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Who was involved in the selection of Platte River?

A I wasn't part of the process, so I was informed after they had been selected.

Q Okay. And do you know who made that decision?

A I don't know who made the decision. I know I was informed by the President's office and by Chelsea's office.

Q Do you know if there was any vetting done of the company before it was chosen?

A You'd have to ask their offices.

Q Okay. Do you know who in their offices was involved in that? Who was the person who informed you?

A It was the President's chief of staff and Chelsea's chief of staff.

Q And who are those individuals?

A Tina Flournoy and Bari Lurie.

Q Do you know whether the server was physically shipped to Platte River, or was the information electronically transmitted?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Do you know where the data is from that server today?

A I don't.

Q Okay. Do you know whether the Secretary has retained any copies of -- either electronic or hard copy of the information that was taken from the server?

A I think you'd have to ask David Kendall. I really don't know.

Q You don't know. You've not had any conversations with the Secretary or anyone about that?

A I will tell you one thing for certain, Ms. Jackson, she does not have these conversations with me.

Ms. Jackson. That's it. I think that might be all my questions, and I will turn it over to the minority staff.

Ms. Abedin. Thank you.

Ms. Sawyer. Go off the record just for a second while we shift.

[Recess.]

[4:21 p.m.]

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q We'll go back on the record. It's 4:20. And thank you for your incredible patience with us today and all the answers to our many questions.

You know, during the last round, and I just need to take just a moment, you know, I had voiced a concern, an objection to the line of questioning that you were being asked. You probably recall from very early in the day, there was a preamble that indicated that we were not deemed to be able to object. We've been very judicious in our objections, not only in this interview, but certainly in other interviews.

You know, nonetheless, with regard to this and to make sure that the record is perfectly clear, and particularly in light of public statements, and I'm just going to, in the record, read the letter sent to the ranking member on October 8th, it's dated October 7th, we received it the 8th, that says, quote -- from Chairman Gowdy, quote, "And because your staff has participated fully in each transcribed interview and deposition, you know we have done exactly that." The "exactly that" is run the committee in a fair and bipartisan manner and followed the facts wherever they may lead. "Not once in any of these conversations have you ever questioned the motivations of the committee's work or questioned our mission to uncover the facts surrounding the Benghazi terrorist attacks."

So I just need to make clear for the record, we lodged an objection, certainly during the course of the questioning. We understand fully and appreciate your desire to answer every single question put before you. Thank you for that. That does not mean that by being in the room, being here that we agree that that is within the legitimate scope of this committee's jurisdiction. I feel like the questions that you were asked during almost the entirety the last round fell outside the scope of our legitimate jurisdiction. We do thank you for answering them. We understand the desire to be able to say you've answered every question that Congress has put to you, so thank you for that. And I'll now just proceed to some --

A Thank you. Thank you so much.

Q I'll just proceed to just mostly following up on some of the conversation you've already had today.

A Okay.

Q And I'll try to be efficient. We certainly, again, want to be respectful of your time.

So during the last hour, there was some conversation about certain outages that might have occurred on the email that the Secretary was using during her time as Secretary of State, the personal email account. You know, just taking a step back for a second, would you characterize yourself as someone who is kind of tech savvy, technology knowledgeable, or not?

A I would say very definitively not.

Q So overall and generally, and not getting into the technical

details, did you feel that your ability to just communicate in terms of the reliability was reasonably good on the account that the Secretary was using on her personal email account?

A From -- you know, from my memory, it was -- it was fairly reliable. There -- it was -- you know, there were instances where it wasn't working for a period; there was a delay by a couple of hours or something. I'm not saying there was never any technical issues at all in the 4 years, but it felt like we had just as many, if not many more instances, with State.gov going down for a period. So it wasn't exclusive to one email or another.

Q Right. I mean, I recall you talking a little bit about a particular problem and difficulty you had had with a fax machine --

A Yes.

Q -- and that --

A Yes.

Q -- seemed to me that that was a State Department fax setup, because it sounded like it was the secure fax.

A That's correct.

Q It's not that the State system would have been perfect either. Is that fair to say?

A That is fair to say, in my opinion, yes.

Q And in either case, if you encountered a problem, you were not going to be the technology person to solve the problem. Is that fair?

A That's fair.

Q So you were also asked about a particular potential outage of a server or of the account during Hurricane Sandy, and you said you didn't -- I'm not sure -- I'm not sure if you said you didn't recall if it happened or if you think it didn't happen, but is it possible that there was an outage that you would not recall, either during that instance or at some other time?

A It is possible. I was not aware until Ms. Jackson mentioned what had happened in October of 2012. That was not top of mind to me. I -- in my recollection, actually had been a summer and I thought it was a year earlier. I wasn't aware of that one, or I didn't remember that one.

Q When you say a summer or a year earlier, are you referring to Hurricane Sandy or a problem with the server?

A Well, this was Hurricane Sandy, so there was an August, either the year before or 2 years prior that -- and I -- it must have been 2000 -- let me think about this for a second. So it would have been 2011, by my recollection. The only instance that I remember that we had an issue with Clinton email going down, I had thought was in 2011, in August 2011, for a period. I certainly didn't remember this, and maybe --

Q And either way, Hurricane Sandy, I had to ask my colleague, was fall of 2012. So that one itself was 3 years ago.

A Yeah.

Q And then the other one, to the extent you had a recollection, would have been more than 4 --

A Yes.

Q -- years ago?

A Yes.

Q So understandably, to the extent that you have done your best throughout the day to recall specifics of 3, or potentially longer ago, certainly you have done your best to answer our questions to the best of your knowledge, I assume.

A As best as I can -- as best as I can remember, and as I said, it's just -- it's very -- it's very fuzzy, and I'm not sure that it was her BlackBerry that wasn't working or her Clinton email. I can't even pinpoint it to that if it was a period in August her BlackBerry wasn't working or that Clinton email wasn't working, if that makes sense.

Q Now, shifting gears a little bit, there was some discussion about the process for the Accountability Review Board.

A Yes.

Q Just to be clear, you weren't, in any formal way, responsible for helping coordinate any kind of interaction with the Accountability Review Board, were you?

A No, ma'am.

Q So to the extent there was a process for both seeking documents broadly throughout the State Department and obtaining those documents, you would not have been involved in that process?

A No, ma'am.

Q Just briefly returning to exhibit 5, which was a document

that -- it's probably in your stack. Give me a moment. You spoke with my colleague about that document. It's titled, "Information Memo for the Secretary." Do you -- I have heard the term "information memo" and also the term "action memo" used. I think you mentioned very briefly, not in relation to anything substantive, but the word "action memo" came up earlier in the day.

A Yes.

Q Can you explain for us what the difference would be between an information memo and an action memo?

A From my recollection, the action memos actually required a response from the Secretary or whoever that particular memo was directed to, and there was usually a cover sheet that said action memo for, you know, Huma Abedin, and then it would have a summary of what the request was. In my case, it was very often -- almost always it was signing off on an event or a request for a phone call, whatever it was, and then there was a line that said "approve" and there was a line that said "disapprove."

For the Secretary, I know there were definitely memos I saw that were of a -- you know, a different level. She wasn't getting action memos that related to, you know, scheduling events, but it was a decision that a department needed, and would say "approve," "disapprove."

That's how I experienced action memos, it required a response from whoever received it.

Information memos, you know, like the one I have in front of me

often was to give an update about something happening from whoever the email, in this case, the acting Assistant Secretary.

Q And so an information memo would not, in the same way that an action memo would, require a response or action from the Secretary. Is that fair, one fair distinction?

A Yes.

Q And certainly, the way you describe an action memo, if one were seeking to get a response or action taken by the Secretary herself, an action memo would certainly be one formal mechanism for doing that and ensuring that happened. Is that fair?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q So you were asked a few questions about Sidney Blumenthal. Did -- in the course of -- did Mr. Blumenthal ever email you directly?

A Yes, yes. He had in the past; not recently, but certainly in years prior to being at the State Department, he certainly did, yes.

Q Did he email you at all while you were at the State Department, to the best of your recollection?

A I don't -- I don't recall, once we were at State, him emailing me, but I think that's mostly because he was -- he had the ability to email the Secretary directly. Whenever he emailed me in the past, it was to pass a message to the Secretary.

Q Did the Secretary ever talk to you about the emails that she was receiving from Mr. Blumenthal?

A No.

Q Did she ever indicate to you that she was asking him to send

her information in particular?

A No, not that I recall.

Q Did she ever ask you to take any action on Mr. Blumenthal's behalf?

A I've -- I'm --

Q And by asking that, I'm not -- like, if she said, can you get Sid on the phone, I'm not talking about that. I mean, more, did she ask you to reach out to anyone on his behalf and make a connection for him? Did she ask you to schedule a meeting for him that was not with her, that was with anyone within the State Department or anyone outside the State Department?

A She did not.

Q Is there anything inherently wrong or inappropriate with someone who is not inside the State Department sending the Secretary or any other Department official information?

A In my opinion, ~~not~~^{no}. And it was, you know, as I think has been now publicly disclosed in the Secretary's email, she had -- he wasn't the only person outside the State Department who was emailing her.

Q Well, one person that I saw who did email her, at least sometimes, was Anne-Marie Slaughter.

A Yes.

Q Do you know Anne-Marie Slaughter?

A Yes, I do.

Q Did your -- can you just briefly explain kind of who she

is?

A Yes. She and I actually started at the State Department at the same time. She was our director of policy planning for the first -- I believe she was there for the first 2 years, maybe 2-1/2, before Jake Sullivan replaced her, and so I saw her on a -- on a daily basis. The policy planning director was very present in all of our senior staff meetings.

Q Would there have been -- did she also sometimes email you as well as the Secretary, or --

A She did. In fact, I -- as I recall, she cc'd me fairly often when she emailed the Secretary.

Q And was there anything inappropriate when she would email the Secretary about her emailing the Secretary?

A Certainly I didn't experience that. That wasn't my experience either when she was at State or after she left State, but I know she continued to email her after she left.

Q Did you have any sense, either from being included on threads or talking or emailing with Ms. Slaughter yourself as to what her purpose was in sending emails and information to the Secretary?

A You know, from the way I experienced it, it was just sending information, thoughts, ideas. I'm -- you know, suspect Ms. Slaughter knew the Secretary welcomed information, and so she thought it would be helpful.

Q Did you ever get the sense, or do you have any reason to believe that the Secretary was relying heavily on Ms. Slaughter's

opinion above and beyond anyone else's when she was making particular policy decisions?

A I have no specific reason to believe that.

Q Would you have -- do you have any evidence or reason to believe that the Secretary was relying heavily on Mr. Blumenthal's information or advice that he might send her?

A No, ma'am, I don't. I had no reason to believe that.

Q So I wanted to -- all right. In the same letter that I referenced moments ago when I was making clear for the record our concerns about some of the questions you had been asked, in that same letter, Chairman Gowdy states the following, quote, "The fact that former Secretary Clinton relied so heavily on an individual for the Libyan intervention, her quintessential foreign policy initiative, whom the White House explicitly prohibited from working at the State Department is mind-boggling," end quote. The individual he is referring to in that letter is Mr. Blumenthal.

So just as a starting place, is it, from your perspective, accurate to claim that it was a fact that the Secretary relied heavily on Mr. Blumenthal for the Libyan intervention?

A Not from my perspective, no, ma'am.

Q And that he relied -- we talked I think at great length in several of the prior rounds about the number of people and the number of meetings and the extensive travel meeting with people outside the United States that the Secretary undertook with regard particularly to Libya, I assume for other policy decisions as well. Do you have

any reason to believe that she relied on him as a substitute, or to the exclusion of all those other people she was meeting and talking with?

A You know, Ms. Sawyer, I will just tell you, from my perspective, what I saw, which is that she was physically very present and engaged in meetings, both in the interagency process, both at State, the interagency process, and abroad with her foreign counterparts on all matters related to Libya. She received so much paper on a regular basis that she consumed and returned both on the high side and the low side, and I know that related to documents, you know, related to Libya.

In the time, honestly what Sid sent seemed to be, and I was not on all those emails, it seemed to me, as one other person on the outside, who was sending her updates. He certainly wasn't -- or suggestions or ideas, or whatever was in the content of those emails. It didn't appear to me that he was the only person doing that, and I certainly didn't witness the Secretary in the time asking -- she certainly did not ask me to act on anything that Sid had sent. Obviously, I have learned since then that she had shared with other people in the Department some parts of emails that he had sent.

Q In that same letter, there's the kind of further allegation that the reason that Mr. Blumenthal was sending information with particular regard to Libya and, quote, "pushing Secretary Clinton to war in Libya," end quote, was because Mr. Blumenthal stood to benefit personally from contracts with, quote, "a government that would exist only after a successful U.S. intervention in Libya that deposed

Qadhafi," end quote.

Did you see any evidence whatsoever that the Secretary took action on Mr. Blumenthal's behalf in order to try to further -- and not taking as a given the validity of the allegation about a business interest, but to further business interests in Libya?

A So I'm not comfortable speaking on behalf of the Secretary, but from what I know about her, she would absolutely not do that.

Q Just one final question on this. You know, Chairman Gowdy has publicly said and publicly said after Mr. Blumenthal's deposition, he raised the question and he stated it as, quote, "You have an intelligence apparatus at your disposal. We have a CIA. Why would you not rely on your own vetted sourced intelligence agency?" End quote. The "you" there is the Secretary, in this instance, Secretary Clinton.

Do you have any evidence or reason to believe that Secretary Clinton did not actually rely on her vetted sourced intelligence that was available to her?

A I have no reason to believe that. As somebody who was familiar with her schedule and saw how much time she spent in meetings at the White House and in high-level meetings at the State Department and on these, you know, confidential phone calls, I have no reason ~~not~~ to believe that.

Q You likely have seen reported in the news the issue -- one issue that has come up is this, something I was not familiar with, which is in the FOIA process, the potential retroactive upgrading of

information in documents or emails to being classified that was not previously handled or marked as classified. I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions about that.

While you were at the State Department, and regardless of what system you were using or whose email you were sending it to, to the best of your knowledge, did you ever send on an unclassified network materials that were clearly marked as classified?

A I did not do that.

Q Now, some time -- you know, through the course of the day, you've explained that you would often forward on to the Secretary information other people had asked you to forward, sometimes things that you were collecting and tasked with forwarding, and that at times, you did not read in depth the substance of what you were sending on. Is that kind of a fair characterization of your role for the Secretary?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q So in those instances, would you be relying -- if you were certainly forwarding on something to someone else, would you be relying on the sender to have determined and to have marked something as classified if it was, indeed, classified?

A Yes. I always -- I did. I relied on them.

Q And to have used the classified system, if indeed it was classified, material that they had deemed and judged at the time to be classified?

A I didn't have the capability to forward those messages to her, so that -- I'm sorry. Maybe I didn't understand your question.

I'm sorry.

Q Well, that -- that is helpful, because I may not -- so to the extent someone did need or want to send the Secretary something that was clearly marked, designated at the time classified, that would not have come to you. Is that accurate?

A It -- it could have come to me on the classified on the high side, but I would have had no way to forward that to the Secretary, because you couldn't forward on the high side to an unclassified email account.

Q And so to the extent someone sent something to you to be forwarded on the low side --

A Yes.

Q -- obviously it seems unlikely that they would have then sent it if it was clearly marked classified. Is that just a fair --

A That's a --

Q -- presumption?

A Yes, that's fair.

Q And you did say you were relying on the sender --

A Yes.

Q -- to make the determination. And presumably, sometimes those senders were people who did have classification authority, and certainly, also people who had a fair amount of experience within the State Department handling information that obviously must have dealt with communications with foreign officials and other type of information that the State Department routinely deals with. Is that

fair?

A Yes, that is. I mean, it was one of the things that we were really struck by when we joined the State Department, is that, you know, it was a group of, you know, very dedicated professionals to ensuring that sensitive information was treated and handled properly, which is why I think, number one, we had so many people, but also that there was a very clear line of authority about who was able to give her that paper, and that it was returned to them and that they were responsible for every document that went into her and that came out that was -- that was on the high side.

So going back to your question about what I would have been emailed on the high side, just to -- anybody in the Department would know that if they were trying to communicate something on the high side to the Secretary, it was likely being done on paper and going up through the -- you know, the protocol channels of how she got paper on a regular basis, not by email.

Q And you've certainly explained some of the process. Based on your experience, interactions with her and the way she was handling both receiving the information by paper and how she used her email, did you feel that the Secretary herself took seriously her obligation to safeguard classified information, information that was clearly deemed, marked, and designated as classified when in her possession or when she received it?

A From what I viewed of her practices, yes.

Q During -- when you were explaining to us a little bit of

your own email practices and usage, you had indicated that you used the account that the State Department had provided for you when you were there.

A Yes.

Q And you said that, I think in just explaining to us, you said, you know, I do try always to do the right thing. And I just wanted to explore that with you a little bit, because I think that some could read that as you having then said that you believed that at the time she did it and made the decisions, that the Secretary wasn't trying to do the right thing, and I just wanted to get a sense as to whether or not that's what you were trying to convey.

A Oh, no. I mean, not at all. I was only speaking on -- I was only speaking on my own behalf in terms of my own practices. I think, you know, she has said it, you know, I will repeat it again, I know other members of our senior team probably feel the same way, we all regret that we didn't -- we weren't more conscious about her email practices or the device or the account that she used when she joined the State Department. It just wasn't anything that we gave much thought to. She has publicly said she did it as a matter of convenience. In hindsight, none of us would have made the same choice, but it was -- you know, it was a mistake, she's clearly said it. And I -- I wasn't comparing that to my own -- my own email practices.

Q And certainly, you were not conveying your belief that what she did was in any way against the law or unlawful to have used personal email for work-related purposes?

A When we were at the State Department, it was not out of the ordinary for people to be using their Gmail accounts. I certainly understood that I was allowed to use personal email. I was not aware of any rules that I was not allowed to. In fact, I recall times when the State.gov email was not working and we would get emails saying you need to use your -- you know, your personal email for this period of time. But for my own work and -- you know, I'm not sure I have actually mentioned this to you or Ms. Jackson. When we traveled, which was a large percentage of the time, I really -- my primary device for work was my State Department BlackBerry. I emailed on that, I did my calls on that, I was on the go constantly, and so I did the vast majority of my work on State.gov, but I certainly did not understand that I couldn't use Clinton email, and people were absolutely emailing me at that address.

Q And so to the extent that the Department might prefer or encourage or ask employees to use the State.gov account when feasible, when possible, and understanding there might be times when that just wasn't --

A Right.

Q -- it certainly was not something that you were ever told was completely prohibited and not allowed?

A That is correct.

Q You know, I think -- you know, the other thing that I think your counselor mentioned at the outset about both the events in Benghazi, which I think you've indicated is somewhat true also about

how you were communicating with the Secretary over the time, the emails, et cetera, in terms of figuring out exactly when you knew, what you knew, contemporaneous versus what you've read in the press, you know, I just want to give you the opportunity in the same way that I did to have you assure us that, to the extent we have asked you to search your memory without the benefit potentially of documents before you that might refresh your recollection, to the extent you've received something 3 years ago or 2 years ago or 1 year ago, from me a week ago, that you might not recall, that you have certainly done your best to be as accurate as you can with regard to your answers?

A Yes, ma'am. I have done the best I can to the best of my recollection to answer your questions, particularly as it relates to that period of time at the State Department.

Q Great. I'm going to shift gears a little bit.

A Okay.

Q I'm going to ask you some questions that -- you know, we're now at least the eighth congressional investigation since the attacks. You know, I think all members of the committee want to ensure that this is the last investigation into the Benghazi attacks. And we, therefore, are asking every witness a series of allegations that have been made publicly since the attacks.

We have called before the committee a number of witnesses who have firsthand information about some aspects of what happened in Benghazi, so not all of these questions will fall within your purview. We are asking everyone in part, because we want to make sure that we have left

no stone unturned. We're also asking about these allegations because we have asked for them to be put to rest and taken off the table. We have talked with our majority colleagues. They have still indicated they're investigating all of them and that none of them are off the table.

So I will ask you a series of questions. To the extent you have firsthand information, we'll explore that. So I'll just proceed. I just ask you to bear with me a little bit. I don't want to read too quickly for the court reporter, and I -- there's about a dozen of these or so.

A Okay.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary of State Clinton intentionally blocked military action on the night of the attacks. One Congressman has speculated that, quote, "Secretary Clinton told Leon Panetta to stand down, and this resulted in the Defense Department not sending more assets to help in Benghazi."

Do you have any evidence that Secretary of State Clinton ordered Secretary of Defense Panetta to stand down on the night of the attacks?

A No, ma'am.

Q Do you have any evidence that Secretary of State Clinton issued any kind of order to Secretary of Defense Panetta on the night of the attacks?

A Can you ask that question again? I'm sorry.

Q Do you have any evidence that Secretary of State Clinton issued any kind of order to Secretary of Defense Panetta on the night

of the attacks?

A Not that I'm aware.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary Clinton personally signed an April 2012 cable denying security to Libya. The Washington Post fact-checker evaluated this claim and gave it four Pinocchios, its highest award for false claims.

Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton personally signed an April 2012 cable denying security resources to Libya?

A No, ma'am.

Q Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton was personally involved in providing specific instruction on day-to-day security resources in Benghazi?

A No, ma'am.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary Clinton misrepresented or fabricated intelligence on the risks posed by Qadhafi to his own people in order to garner support for military operations in Libya in spring 2011.

Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton misrepresented or fabricated intelligence on the risks posed by Qadhafi to his own people in order to garner support for military operations in Libya in spring of 2011?

A No, I do not.

Q It has been alleged that the U.S. Mission in Benghazi included transferring weapons to Syrian rebels or to other countries. A bipartisan report issued by the House Permanent Select Committee on

Intelligence found that, quote, "The CIA was not collecting and shipping arms from Libya to Syria," end quote, and they found no support for this allegation.

Do you have any evidence to contradict the House Intelligence Committee's bipartisan report finding that the CIA was not shipping arms from Libya to Syria?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that the U.S. facilities in Benghazi were being used to facilitate weapons transfers from Libya to Syria or to any other foreign country?

A No.

Q A team of CIA security personnel was temporarily delayed from departing the annex to assist the Special Mission Compound, and there have been a number of allegations about the cause of and appropriateness of that delay. The House Intelligence Committee issued a bipartisan report concluding that the team was not ordered to, quote, "stand down," but that instead, there were tactical disagreements on the ground over how quickly to depart.

Do you have any evidence that would contradict the House Intelligence Committee's finding that there was no stand-down order to CIA personnel?

A I do not.

Q Putting aside whether you personally agree with the decision to delay temporarily or think it was the right decision, do you have any evidence that there was a bad or improper reason behind

the temporary delay of the CIA's security personnel who departed the annex to assist the Special Mission Compound?

A No.

Q A concern has been raised by one individual that in the course of producing documents to the Accountability Review Board, damaging documents may have been removed or scrubbed out of that production.

Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department removed or scrubbed damaging documents from the materials that were provided to the Accountability Review Board?

A Absolutely not.

Q Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department directed anyone else at the State Department to remove or scrub damaging documents from the materials that were provided to the Accountability Review Board?

A No.

Q Let me ask these questions also for documents that were provided to Congress.

A Okay.

Q Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department removed or scrubbed damaging documents from the materials that were provided to Congress?

A No, I do not.

Q It has been alleged that CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell altered unclassified talking points about the Benghazi attacks for

political reasons, and that he then misrepresented his actions when he told Congress that the CIA, quote, "faithfully performed our duties in accordance with the highest standards of objectivity and non-partisanship."

Do you have any evidence that CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell gave false or intentionally misleading testimony to Congress about the Benghazi talking points?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you have any evidence that CIA Deputy Director Morell altered the talking points provided to Congress for political reasons?

A No, I do not.

Q It has been alleged that Ambassador Susan Rice made a, quote, "intentional misrepresentation," end quote, when she spoke on the Sunday talk shows about the Benghazi attacks.

Do you have any evidence that Ambassador Rice intentionally misrepresented the facts about the Benghazi attacks on the Sunday talk shows?

A No, I do not.

Q It has been alleged that the President of the United States was, quote, "virtually AWOL as Commander in Chief," end quote, on the night of the attacks and that he was missing in action.

Do you have any evidence to support the allegation that the President was virtually AWOL as Commander in Chief or missing in action on the night of the attacks?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that a team of four military personnel at Embassy Tripoli on the night of the attacks who were considering flying on the second plane to Benghazi were ordered by their superiors, to, quote, "stand down," meaning to cease all operations. Military officials have stated that those four individuals were instead ordered, quote, to remain in place in Tripoli to provide security and medical assistance in their current location. A Republican staff report issued by the House Armed Services Committee found that, quote, "there was no stand-down order issued to U.S. military personnel in Tripoli who sought to join the fight in Benghazi," end quote.

Do you have any evidence to contradict the conclusion of the House Armed Services Committee that there was no stand-down order issued to U.S. personnel in Tripoli who sought to join the fight in Benghazi?

A No, I do not.

Q It has been alleged that the military failed to deploy assets on the night of the attack that would have saved lives. Former Republican Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon, the former chair of the House Armed Services Committee, conducted a review of the attacks, after which he stated, quote, "Given where the troops were, how quickly the thing all happened and how quickly it dissipated, we probably couldn't have done more than we did," end quote.

Do you have any evidence to contradict Congressman McKeon's conclusion?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that the Pentagon had military

assets available to them on the night of the attacks that could have saved lives but that the Pentagon leadership intentionally decided not to deploy?

A No, I do not.

Q I think that concludes our questioning. Again, we do appreciate your appearance here today, your willingness to answer all the questions.

I also want to make perfectly clear, I think you had mentioned at the outset your years of public service, I know that certainly I think all of the Members truly appreciate that service in the name of our country, and we thank you for that as well.

A Thank you, Ms. Sawyer.

Can I just say one -- is there -- is it possible for me to say one quick thing to both of you -- to both of you before this ends? Is that okay?

Ms. Jackson. Uh-huh.

Ms. Sawyer. Yes.

Ms. Abedin. I -- you know, I have worked for Secretary Clinton for a long time, it's almost 20 years, and I -- I recognize that I was asked a lot of questions about her today, about her practices and her intentions and the work that she did. And as somebody who knows her really well, the one thing I do feel really compelled to say is I really do have a tremendous amount of respect, not just for her personally, but professionally, for the -- for her work ethic, for the work that she's done on behalf of this country, and with how proudly she served

at the State Department and -- and really wanted to advance the interests of this country in her capacity as Secretary of State. And I was really proud to work for her and with all the other, you know, foreign service officers and diplomats at the State Department.

And I really hope I was able to provide some assistance to you today. And -- and thank you for -- thank you for taking the time that you took with me today. Appreciate that.

Ms. Sawyer. You're welcome. We're off the record.

[Whereupon, at 5:01 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date

Errata Sheet

Select Committee on Benghazi

The witness reviewed the accompanying transcript and certified its accuracy by providing the following corrections. These corrections are reflected in the transcript as identified below.

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>ALL CORRECTIONS MADE BY WITNESS</u>
20	19	Replaced "wondering around" with "wandering around."
31	10	Replaced "the head of H&L" with "the head of H and L" in reference to the Bureau of Legislative Affairs (H) and the Office of the Legal Advisor (L).
35	24	Inserted "and" after "press secretary."
37	5	Replaced "particularly" with "priority."
45	6	Replaced "send" with "sent."
52	6	Replaced "Ms. Abedin" with "Mr. Westmoreland."
140	12	Replaced "called" with "call."
154	7	Deleted "not."
160	3	Replaced "Ron" with "Rahm."
165	13	Replaced "meet" with "be."
180	16	Replaced "not" with "no."
184	21	Deleted "not."