

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 2017

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings:

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 2017 to Chief of Staff Reince Priebus regarding former National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (Ret.). Your letter requests information and/or documents in connection with a review by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Committee) of Lt. Gen. Flynn's disclosure of payments that he reportedly received from entities affiliated with the Russian and Turkish governments.

Requests 1 and 2 seek information and documents related to Lt. Gen. Flynn's security clearance, including excerpts from his Form SF-86 and certain "[i]nvestigative and adjudicative files." Lt. Gen. Flynn's security clearance was adjudicated and held by the Defense Intelligence Agency, a component of the Department of Defense. We therefore refer you to the Department of Defense for these materials.

Request 3 seeks documents "referring or relating to Lt. Gen. Flynn's contacts with foreign nationals," including "direct or indirect communications between Lt. Gen. Flynn and foreign government officials, representatives, affiliates, or agents." To the extent this request seeks documents pre-dating January 20, 2017, they generally would not be in the possession, custody, or control of this office.

With respect to documents post-dating January 20, Lt. Gen. Flynn likely had contacts with a significant number of foreign nationals in his official capacity as National Security Adviser. Many, if not all, documents relating to such contacts are likely to contain classified, sensitive, and/or confidential information. Moreover, it is unclear how such documents would be relevant to the stated purpose of the Committee's review, which according to your letter is to examine Lt. Gen. Flynn's disclosure of payments related to activities that occurred in 2015 and 2016, prior to his service in the White House. In light of these issues, we are unable to accommodate Request 3.

Finally, Requests 4 through 6 seek documents relating to Lt. Gen. Flynn's receipt of funds from foreign sources, efforts "to seek permission or approval" for any such payments, and

Chairman Jason Chaffetz & Ranking Member Elijah Cummings

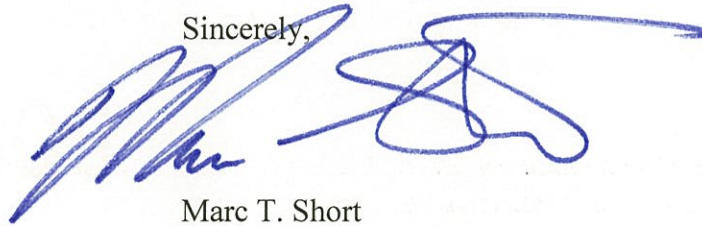
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any work with "Leading Authorities, Inc." As noted above, we understand the Committee's review and these requests to be focused on payments and activities that occurred in 2015 and 2016. Given that these activities and payments predate Lt. Gen. Flynn's service at the White House, this office is unable to conduct a search for responsive documents.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marc T. Short
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs