



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 29, 2020

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated December 31, 2020, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US; including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Lempert, Yael" (b)(6)
To:	Polaschik, Joan A (b)(6) Ratney, Michael A (b)(6) Satterfield, David M (b)(6) Lenderking, Timothy A (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
Date:	Mon, 18 Sep 2017 15:18:34 -0400

Interesting (and unusual) that the WH is releasing info about a State Dept official doing a briefing.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: White House Press Office [mailto:whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Lempert, Yael
Subject: UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2017

**UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

UPDATE: Brian Hook, Director of Policy Planning, State Department, will give an off camera press briefing at 5:00PM at the Press Filing Center in the Hilton Midtown

In the morning, President Donald J. Trump will depart Trump Tower en route to the United Nations. Later in the morning, the President will participate in the Reforming the United Nations: Management, Security, and Development meeting. The President will then depart the United Nations en route to the Lotte New York Palace Hotel. In the afternoon, the President will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. The President will then participate in an expanded meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. Later in the afternoon, the President will participate in an expanded meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France. In the evening, the President will attend a working dinner with Latin American leaders. The President will then depart Lotte New York Palace Hotel en route to Trump Tower.

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: CNN
Print: NYTimes
Radio: NPR

EDT

7:15AM Out-of-Town Travel Pool Call Time

9:20AM THE PRESIDENT departs Trump Tower en route to the United Nations

Trump Tower

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

9:25AM THE PRESIDENT arrives to the United Nations

United Nations

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

9:50AM THE PRESIDENT participates in the Reforming the United Nations: Management, Security, and Development meeting

Economic and Social Council Conference Room – United Nations

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

Hotel 10:50AM THE PRESIDENT departs the United Nations en route to Lotte New York Palace

United Nations

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

1:00PM THE PRESIDENT participates in a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

Hubbard 1 – Lotte New York Palace Hotel

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

1:15PM THE PRESIDENT participates in an expanded meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

Hubbard 1 – Lotte New York Palace Hotel

Closed Press

3:15PM THE PRESIDENT participates in an expanded meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France

Hubbard 1 – Lotte New York Palace Hotel

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

6:30PM THE PRESIDENT attends a working dinner with Latin American leaders

Reid Salon – Lotte New York Palace Hotel

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM Press Briefing with Brian Hook, Director of Policy Planning, State Department

Press Filing Center –Hilton Midtown

Off Camera

###

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Sender:	"Lempert, Yael" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Polaschik, Joan A (b)(6)
	Ratney, Michael A (b)(6)
	Satterfield, David M (b)(6)
	Lenderking, Timothy A (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Satterfield, David M (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am
Date:	Sun, 17 Sep 2017 13:04:55 -0400

Hotel reception. I will be waiting for u.

From: Satterfield, David M (b)(6)
Date: September 17, 2017 at 1:03:09 PM EDT
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

(b)(6) Upon arrival at the hotel, where do I go to get my room key?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Satterfield, David M
Subject: Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

Yes sir

From: Satterfield, David M (b)(6)
Date: September 17, 2017 at 11:40:16 AM EDT
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fw: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

For updated schedule, pls.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 11:24 AM
To: S_Current Trip; (b)(6)
Subject: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

Friends,

Attached and below please find an updated UNGA schedule.

Thanks,
S/ES UNGA Team

UNGA 72 (2017) SCHEDULE

THIS DRAFT SCHEDULE SHOULD NOT BE COPIED OR SCANNED.

Notional events are noted in *italics*.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

- 2:00 pm Secretary departs JBA ert New York
(Flight time: 50 mins, TC: 0 hrs)
- 2:50 pm Secretary arrives La Guardia Airport
- 3:00 pm Secretary departs LaGuardia Airport ert Palace Hotel (30-min drive)
- 3:30 pm Secretary Arrives Palace Hotel
- 3:30 pm Van transport from Palace Hotel to UN for Senior Staff who need photos
for UN badges
- 5:00 pm Bilateral Meeting with UNHCR Grandi (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4109, Floor 41
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Jacobson, A A/S Henshaw
 - Attendees: (P+1) UNHCR Grandi; Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Kelly Clements
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool camera spray at top
- 6:00 pm Working Dinner with Senior Staff at Palace Hotel (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4108, Floor 41
 - Participants: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Closed

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Monday, September 18, 2017

- 7:45 am Read time (15 mins)
- 8:00 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 8:30 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)
- 8:45 am Trilateral Meeting with India and Japan (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Thornton, A A/S Wells
 - Attendees: (P + 5) Japan: FM Kono + Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae; Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy Satoshi Suzuki; DG for Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Shigeki Takizaki; Executive Assistant to FM Jun Nanazawa; Deputy Director of Southwest Asia Division Maria Yamasaki; India: P + 5 (names TBD)
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Japanese
 - Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top
- 11:00 am (b)(5)
- 1:15 pm POTUS Bilateral with Israel (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks
- Note: Meeting will begin at 1:00 pm as 1-on-1 for 15 mins
- 2:00 pm (b)(5)
- 3:15 pm POTUS Bilateral with France (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Bossert, Dr. Hill
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

4:30 pm Secretary's Participation in the Ministerial Discussion on Syria (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk
- Attendees: (P + 1) FMs of UK, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Turkey, Qatar, KSA, UAE, Egypt, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, EU High Rep of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. +1 for each attendee on backbench.
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for French, Italian, and Arabic
- Press: Camera Spray at Top

6:30 pm POTUS Working Dinner with Latin American Leaders (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, First Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster (26 Attendees in total)
- Attendees: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Peru
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Pool Spray at top

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

7:15 am Read time (15 mins)

7:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)

8:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

8:15 am Secretary departs Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

Note: Early departure necessitated by (b)(7)(E), per DS

8:30 am Secretary arrives at UN

- Location: UN, Room D, Floor 1B

9:30 am POTUS Arrives UN (w/FLOTUS)

9:30 am (b)(5)

10:30 am Secretary attends POTUS Address to the UN General Assembly (45 mins)

- Location: General Assembly Hall, Second Floor
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Open

(b)(7)(E)

11:15 am

(b)(5)

1:00 pm Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres (15 mins)

- Location: UN, GA200B, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, Mr. Wachtel
- Attendees: P + 6
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Official Photo at top
- Credentials: Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.

1:15 pm Secretary attends Luncheon hosted by UN Secretary-General Guterres (90 mins)

- Location: UN, Delegate Lounge, Second Floor

- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool for opening remarks at top
- Credentials: UN Protocol will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event

3:00 pm Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral with UNGA President Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia (10 mins)

- Location: UN, GA0202 , Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Wachtel
- Attendees: P + 4
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Official Photo at top
- Credentials: UN Security will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.

3:15 pm Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

3:25 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel

3:30 pm

(b)(5)

4:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Qatar (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

5:00 pm Bilateral Meeting with Russian FM Lavrov (60 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4108, Floor 41
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, U/S Shannon, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Millard

- Attendees: P+ 5; Russians have requested P+8: Deputy MFA G.Gatilov, Ambassador A. Antonov, UN Perm Rep V. Nebenzya, Head of MFA Secretariat S. Butin, Official MFA Rep M. Zakharova, Director of Political Planning Department O. Stepanov, Deputy Director of the Department of North America Prozhogin, and K. Kirpichenko from Department of North America
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
- Press: Standing camera spray at the top, no remarks

7:00 pm Secretary attends Diplomatic Reception hosted by the President and First Lady (2 hrs)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed

Note: Vive President Pence will attend

Note: Pull-aside with Thai FM

- Location: TBD
- Interpretation: TBD

9:00 pm Dinner

- Location: Secretary's Suite

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

8:15 am Read time (15 mins)

8:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)

9:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:15 am POTUS Arrives Palace Hotel

9:15 am (b)(5)

9:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Jordan (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Mr. Bell
- Attendees: King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, Minister of Foreign and Expatriates' Affairs Ayman Hussein Safadi, Director of His Majesty's Office Jafar Abed Hassan, Ambassador Dina Khalil Kawar, UN Perm Rep Sima Salim Bahous, Director of Political Affairs Directorate Manar Munther Dabbas
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top

10:00 am

(b)(5)

10:30 am

POTUS Bilateral with Palestinian Authority (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Kushner, DNSA Powell, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top

11:30 am

Secretary attends POTUS/FLOTUS Meet and Greet with USUN Mission staff (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, First Floor
- Press: Official photos
- Order of events: Amb. Haley introduces FLOTUS, FLOTUS introduces POTUS

12:00 pm

(b)(5)

- 1:15 pm POTUS Lunch with African Leaders (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, A A/S Yamamoto, Mr. Sartor
 - Attendees: Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm (b)(5)

- 3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with the UK (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Dr. Hill
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

3:45 pm (b)(5)

- 4:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Egypt (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

5:45 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)

- 6:00 pm Joint Commission Meeting hosted by the EU (60 mins)
- Location: UN, UNSC Consultation Room, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook or U/S Shannon (P + 4 – one at table with S, three behind)
 - Attendees: EU, UK, France, Germany, China, Russia, and Iran
 - Interpretation: simultaneous
 - Press: Camera Spray at Top
 - Credentials: Event-specific overlay is required for attendees
- 7:00 pm Prep time for Press Event post EU Joint Commission Meeting (30 mins)
- Location: UN, Room TBD, Floor TBD
- 7:30 pm Press Event (30 mins)
- Location: UN, UNSC Stakeout, Second Floor
- 8:00 pm Secretary departs UN location ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
- 8:10 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel
- 8:30 pm Dinner
- Location: Secretary's Suite
- RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Thursday, September 21, 2017

- 8:00 am Read time (15 mins)
- 8:15 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 8:45 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:00 am (b)(5)

- 9:15 am POTUS Bilateral with Afghanistan (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor

- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Bossert, Ms. Curtis
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

10:00 am

(b)(5)

10:30 am

POTUS Bilateral with Ukraine (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Ms. Croft, NSC note taker, + State Dept Rep
- Attendees: President Petro Poroshenko, Head of the Presidential Administration Mr. Ihor Rainin, FM Pavlo Klimkin, Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, UN Perm Rep Volodymyr Yelchenko, Chief of the General Staff and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Mr. Viktor Muzhenko
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

11:00 am

(b)(5)

11:30 am

POTUS Bilateral with ROK (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

12:00 pm

(b)(5)

- Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger

12:15 pm POTUS Trilateral Working Lunch with Japan and ROK (60 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Drawing Room, Third Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Pool spray at top with POTUS remarks

1:15 pm

(b)(5)

1:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Japan (60 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm

(b)(5)

3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Turkey (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Mr. Buland
- Attendees: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chief of Defense General Hulusi Akar, FM Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Energy Berat Albayrak, Undersecretary of the National Intelligence Organization Mr. Hakan Fidan, UN Perm Rep Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

(Note: The current version of the POTUS schedule has no other UNGA-related events after this bilat.)

- 3:35 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)
- 3:50 pm Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia (remarks)
- Location: UN, UNSC, Second Floor
 - Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, Amb. Haley (requested), S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Open, TBC
- Note: Usual speaking length is 3-5 mins per participant, UNSC has offered 5-7 mins for Secretary's speaking slot
- 5:00 pm Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
- 5:15 pm Executive Time (1 hr, 45 mins)
- Location: Secretary's Suite
- 7:00 pm Secretary hosts EU Partners Dinner (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison or Drawing Room (TBD)
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin
 - Attendees: FMs from Germany, France, UK, EU (P+1)
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous or Whisper for French
 - Press: Official photographer at top
- Note: Event will begin with 15 min cocktail service, dinner to be served at 7:15 pm

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Bedminster

-
Friday, September 22, 2017

-
- 6:55 am Read time (15 mins)
- 7:10 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 7:40 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

- 7:50 am Depart Palace Hotel ert Ritz Hotel (25-min drive)
- 8:15 am Bilateral Working Breakfast with Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi (30 mins)
- Location: Ritz Carlton Hotel Battery Park
 - U.S. Participation: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Official photographers only
- Note: The Secretary will be exempt from screening, but senior staff will need to be screened to enter.
- 8:45 am Depart Ritz Carlton Hotel ert Palace Hotel (25-min drive)
- 9:30 am Secretary's participation in Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (75 mins) "Shaping the Peace" – The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Meeting on Iraq
- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk, Coordinator Sales (requested)
 - Attendees: (P + 1) the 29 other Coalition Small Group Minister-level heads of delegation: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, INTERPOL, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, NATO, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq Special Representative for the Secretary General Jan Kubis, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq Lise Grande
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Arabic, French, Italian, and Turkish
 - Press: Pool Camera Spray at top
- 11:00 am Secretary's Participation in C5+1 (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Wells

- Attendees: P+1 – Kazakh FM Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Tajik FM Sirodjiddin Aslov, Turkmen FM Rashid Meredov, Kyrgyz FM Yerlan Abdyldaev, and Uzbek FM Abdulaziz Kamilov accompanied by their respective ambassadors to the United States
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
- Press: Pool Camera spray at top

- 12:30 pm Lunch/Executive Time (2 hrs)
- Location: Secretary's Suite
- 2:30 pm Bilateral Meeting with Indian EAM Swaraj (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4109, Floor 41
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Wells
 - Attendees: Indians have requested P+6+notetaker: EAM Swaraj; FS Jaishankar; Indian UN Perm Rep; Indian Amb. Sarna; DCM Santosh Jha; J/S for Americas Mahawar; J/S for UN Tandon; notetaker
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top
- 3:30 pm Depart Palace Hotel ert LaGuardia Airport (30-min drive)
- 4:00 pm Arrive LaGuardia Airport
- 4:10 pm Depart New York ert JBA (Flight Time 50 mins, TC: 0)
- 5:00 pm Arrive JBA

-
Bilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72
The Secretary will participate in all POTUS bilats

(b)(5)

Multilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72

Hosted by the Secretary

1. Syria Like-Minded Meeting (NEA) – 9/18 at 4:30 pm
2. Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (NEA/SECI) –9/22 at 9:30 am
3. EU Partners Dinner (EUR) – 9/21 at 7:00 pm
4. C5+1 (Central Asian FMs) (SCA) – 9/22 at 11:00 am
5. US+Japan+India Trilateral (S/P) – 9/18 at 8:45 am

-
Hosted by Non-USG Entity or by USG Entity Other than S

1. Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia – 9/22 at 3:50 pm
2. Joint Commission Meeting hosted by EU (NEA and S/INI) – 9/20 at 6:00 pm

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Satterfield, David M (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Satterfield, David M <(b)(6)>
Subject:	Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 7:30 p.m.
Date:	Sun, 17 Sep 2017 19:51:43 -0400

Yes sir, left u a copy also in ur room.

From: Satterfield, David M <(b)(6)>
Date: September 17, 2017 at 7:51:06 PM EDT
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fw: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 7:30 p.m.

Latest

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 7:41 PM
To: S_Current Trip; (b)(6)
Subject: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 7:30 p.m.

Colleagues,

Attached and below please find an updated UNGA schedule.

Thanks,
S/ES UNGA Team

UNGA 72 (2017) SCHEDULE

THIS DRAFT SCHEDULE SHOULD NOT BE COPIED OR SCANNED.

Notional events are noted in *italics*.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

8:45 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert Russian Mission to the UN (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1

Mr. Brian Hook

(b)(6)

Interpreter
Photographer

- 8:55 pm Secretary Arrives Russian Mission to the UN
- 9:00 pm Bilateral Meeting with Russian FM Lavrov (60 mins)
- Location: Russian Mission to the UN
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook
 - Attendees: Russia: FM Lavrov, P+9 TBD
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Camera spray at top
- 10:05 pm Secretary departs Russian Mission to the UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
- MOTORCADE SAME AS PREVIOUS**
- 10:15 pm Secretary Arrives Palace Hotel
- RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Monday, September 18, 2017

- 7:45 am Read time (15 mins)
- 8:00 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 8:30 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)
- 8:45 am Trilateral Meeting with India and Japan (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Floor 2
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, AA/S Thornton, AA/S Wells
 - Attendees: (P + 5) Japan: FM Kono + Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae; Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy Satoshi Suzuki; Director General for Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Shigeki Takizaki; Executive Assistant to FM Jun Nanazawa; Deputy Director of Southwest Asia Division Maria Yamasaki; India: Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, Foreign Secretary Jaishankar S., Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Joint Secretary Mr. Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary and Spokesperson Mr. Raveesh Kumar, First Secretary Mr. Manharsinh Yadav
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Japanese

- Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top

9:15 am Executive Time (1 hr, 45 min)

- Location: Secretary's Suite

11:00 am

(b)(5)

1:15 pm

POTUS Bilateral with Israel (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, Deputy NSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

Note: Meeting will begin at 1:00 pm as 1-on-1 for 15 mins

2:00 pm

(b)(5)

3:15 pm

POTUS Bilateral with France (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Bossert, Dr. Hill
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

4:30 pm

Secretary's Participation in the Ministerial Discussion on Syria (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Floor 2
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, AA/S Satterfield, SPE McGurk
- Attendees: (P + 1) FMs of UK, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, EU High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. +1 for each attendee on backbench.
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for French, and Italian
- Press: Camera Spray at Top

- 6:30 pm POTUS Working Dinner with Latin American Leaders (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, Floor 1
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster (26 Attendees in total)
 - Attendees: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Peru
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Pool Spray at top

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

7:15 am Read time (15 mins)

7:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)

8:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

8:15 am Secretary departs Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
 Note: Early departure necessitated by (b)(7)(E) per DS

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
 COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1 Mr. R.C. Hammond
 Mr. Brian Hook

8:30 am Secretary arrives at UN
 • Location: UN, Room D, Floor 1B

9:30 am POTUS Arrives UN (w/FLOTUS)

- 9:30 am (b)(5)

10:30 am Secretary attends POTUS Address to the UN General Assembly (45 mins)

- Location: General Assembly Hall, Floor 2
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Open

	(b)(7)(E)
11:15 am	(b)(5)
1:00 pm	<p>Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres (15 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: UN, GA200B, Floor 2 • U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, Mr. Wachtel • Attendees: P + 6 • Interpretation: None • Press: Official Photo at top • Credentials: Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.
1:15 pm	<p>Secretary attends Luncheon hosted by UN Secretary-General Guterres (90 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: UN, Delegate Lounge, Floor 2 • U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley • Interpretation: None • Press: Pool for opening remarks at top • Credentials: UN Protocol will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event
3:00 pm	<p>Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral with UNGA President Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: UN, GA0202, Floor 2 • U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Wachtel • Attendees: P + 4 • Interpretation: None • Press: Official Photo at top • Credentials: UN Security will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.
3:15 pm	Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE SAME AS PREVIOUS

Note: Return from UN will be Joint Motorcade with POTUS, position in motorcade will be subject to change.

- 3:25 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel
- 3:30 pm (b)(5)
- 4:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Qatar (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, Deputy NSA Powell, Mr. Kushner
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Whisper if needed
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks
- 5:00 pm Bilateral Meeting with Russian FM Lavrov (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4108, Floor 41
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, U/S Shannon, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, AA/S Millard
 - Attendees: P+ 5; Russians have requested P+8: Deputy MFA G.Gatilov, Ambassador A. Antonov, UN Perm Rep V. Nebenzya, Head of MFA Secretariat S. Butin, Official MFA Rep M. Zakharova, Director of Political Planning Department O. Stepanov, Deputy Director of the Department of North America Prozhogin, and K. Kirpichenko from Department of North America
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
 - Press: Standing camera spray at the top, no remarks
- 7:00 pm Secretary attends Diplomatic Reception hosted by the President and First Lady (2 hrs)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Floor 2
 - Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Note: Vice President Pence will attend
- Note: Pull-aside with Thai FM
- Location: TBD
 - Interpretation: TBD

9:00 pm Dinner
 • Location: Secretary’s Suite

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

8:15 am Read time (15 mins)

8:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)

9:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:15 am POTUS Arrives Palace Hotel

9:15 am (b)(5)

9:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Jordan (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Mr. Bell
- Attendees: King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, Minister of Foreign and Expatriates’ Affairs Ayman Hussein Safadi, Director of His Majesty’s Office Jafar Abed Hassan, Ambassador Dina Khalil Kawar, UN Perm Rep Sima Salim Bahous, Director of Political Affairs Directorate Manar Munther Dabbas
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top

10:00 am (b)(5)

10:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Palestinian Authority (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Kushner, Deputy NSA Powell, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive

- Press: Pool Spray at top

11:30 am Secretary attends POTUS/FLOTUS Meet and Greet with USUN Mission staff (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, First Floor
- Press: Official photos
- Order of events: AMB Haley introduces FLOTUS, FLOTUS introduces POTUS

12:00 pm

(b)(5)

1:15 pm POTUS Lunch with African Leaders (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Floor 2
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, AA/S Yamamoto, Mr. Sartor
- Attendees: Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm

(b)(5)

3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with the United Kingdom (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Dr. Hill
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

3:45 pm

(b)(5)

4:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Egypt (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Deputy NSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

5:45 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1 Mr. R.C. Hammond
Mr. Brian Hook

5:55 pm Secretary Arrives UN

6:00 pm Joint Commission Meeting hosted by the EU (60 mins)

- Location: UN, UNSC Consultation Room, Floor 2
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, U/S Shannon (TBD)
(P + 4 – one at table with S, three behind)
- Attendees: EU, UK, France, Germany, China, Russia, and Iran
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Camera Spray at Top
- Credentials: Event-specific overlay is required for attendees

7:00 pm Secretary departs UN location ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE SAME AS PREVIOUS

7:10 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel

7:15 pm Prep time for Press Event post EU Joint Commission Meeting (30 mins)

- Location: Secretary's Suite

7:50 pm Press Event (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel

8:30 pm Dinner

- Location: Secretary's Suite

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Thursday, September 21, 2017

8:00 am Read time (15 mins)

8:15 am Breakfast (30 mins)

8:45 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:00 am

(b)(5)

9:15 am

POTUS Bilateral with Afghanistan (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Bossert, Ms. Curtis
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

10:00 am

(b)(5)

10:30 am

POTUS Bilateral with Ukraine (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Ms. Croft, NSC not taker, + State Dept Rep
- Attendees: President Petro Poroshenko, Head of the Presidential Administration Mr. Ihor Rainin, FM Pavlo Klimkin, Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, UN Perm Rep Volodymyr Yelchenko, Chief of the General Staff and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Mr. Viktor Muzhenko
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

11:00 am

(b)(5)

- 11:30 am POTUS Bilateral with ROK (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

12:00 pm (b)(5)

- 12:15 pm POTUS Trilateral Working Lunch with Japan and ROK (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Drawing Room, Floor 3
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

1:15 pm (b)(5)

- 1:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Japan (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm (b)(5)

- 3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Turkey (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Floor 5
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, AMB Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Mr. Buland

- Attendees: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chief of Defense General Hulusi Akar, FM Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Energy Berat Albayrak, Undersecretary of the National Intelligence Organization Mr. Hakan Fidan, UN Perm Rep Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

(NOTE: The current version of the POTUS schedule has no other UNGA-related events after this bilat.)

3:35 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1 Mr. Brian Hook
Ms. Heather Nauert

3:50 pm Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia (remarks)

- Location: UN, UNSC, Second Floor
- Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, AMB Haley, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Open, TBC

Note: Usual speaking length is 3-5 mins per participant, UNSC has offered 5-7 mins for Secretary's speaking slot

5:00 pm Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

MOTORCADE SAME AS PREVIOUS

5:15 pm Executive Time (1 hr, 45 mins)

- Location: Secretary's Suite

7:00 pm Secretary hosts EU Partners Dinner (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison or Drawing Room (TBD)
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin
- Attendees: FMs from Germany, France, UK, EU (P+1)
- Interpretation: Simultaneous or Whisper for French
- Press: Official Photographer at top

Note: Event will begin with 15 min cocktail service, dinner to be served at 7:15 pm

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Bedminster

Friday, September 22, 2017

6:55 am Read time (15 mins)
7:10 am Breakfast (30 mins)
7:40 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)
7:50 am Depart Palace Hotel ert Ritz Hotel (25-min drive)

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1 Mr. R.C. Hammond
Mr. Brian Hook
SPE Brett McGurk
AA/S David Satterfield

8:15 am Bilateral Working Breakfast with Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi (30 mins)

- Location: Ritz Carlton Hotel Battery Park
- U.S. Participation: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, AA/S Satterfield, SPE McGurk
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Official photographers only

Note: The Secretary will be exempt from screening, but senior staff will need to be screened to enter.

8:45 am Depart Ritz Carlton Hotel ert Palace Hotel (25-min drive)

MOTORCADE SAME AS PREVIOUS

9:30 am Secretary's participation in Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (75 mins) "Shaping the Peace" – The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Meeting on Iraq

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Floor 2
- U.S. Participants: (P + 4) Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, SPE McGurk, Coordinator Sales
- Attendees: (P + 1) the 29 other Coalition Small Group Minister-level heads of delegation: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark,

Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, INTERPOL, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, NATO, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq Special Representative for the Secretary General Jan Kubis, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq Lise Grande

- Interpretation: Simultaneous for Arabic, French, Italian, and Turkish
- Press: Pool Camera Spray at top

- 11:00 am Secretary’s Participation in C5+1 (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Floor 2
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, AA/S Wells
 - Attendees: P+1 – Kazakh FM Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Tajik FM Sirodjiddin Aslov, Turkmen FM Rashid Meredov, Kyrgyz FM Yerlan Abdyl daev, and Uzbek FM Abdulaziz Kamilov accompanied by their respective ambassadors to the U.S.
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
 - Press: Pool Camera spray at top
- 12:30 pm Lunch/Executive Time (2 hrs)
- Location: Secretary’s Suite
- 2:30 pm Bilateral Meeting with Indian EAM Swaraj (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4109, Floor 41
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, AA/S Wells
 - Attendees: Indians have requested P+6+notetaker: EAM Swaraj; FS Jaishankar; Indian UN Perm Rep; Indian Ambassador Sarna; DCM Santosh Jha; J/S for Americas Mahawar; J/S for UN Tandon; notetaker
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top
- 3:30 pm Depart Palace Hotel ert LaGuardia Airport (30-min drive)

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Limo SECRETARY TILLERSON
COS Margaret Peterlin

Staff Van 1 TBD

- 4:00 pm Arrive LaGuardia Airport

4:10 pm Depart New York ert JBA (Flight Time 50 mins, TC: 0)

5:00 pm Arrive JBA

-
Bilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72

The Secretary will participate in all POTUS bilats

(b)(5)

Multilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72

Hosted by the Secretary

1. Syria Like-Minded Meeting (NEA) – 9/18 at 4:30 pm
2. Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (NEA/SECI) –9/22 at 9:30 am
3. EU Partners Dinner (EUR) – 9/21 at 7:00 pm
4. C5+1 (Central Asian FMs) (SCA) – 9/22 at 11:00 am
5. US+Japan+India Trilateral (S/P) – 9/18 at 8:45 am

-
Hosted by Non-USG Entity or by USG Entity Other than S

1. Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia – 9/22 at 3:50 pm
2. Joint Commission Meeting hosted by EU (NEA and S/INI) – 9/20 at 6:00 pm

Official - SBU
 UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Satterfield, David M (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Satterfield, David M (b)(6) NEA-DAS-DL <NEA_DAS-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Office Directors-DL <NEAOfficeDirectorsDL@state.gov>; NEA-Deputy Directors-DL <NEADeputyDirectorsDL@state.gov>; NEA-MAG-DL <NEA-MAG-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Egypt <NEA-Egypt@state.gov>; NEA-IPA-DL <NEA-IPA-DL@state.gov>; NEA-LEV-DL <NEA-LEV-DL@state.gov>; NEA-ARP-DL <NEA-ARP-DL@state.gov>; NEA-I-Clearances <NEA-I-Clearances@state.gov>; NEA-IRAN-DL <NEA-IRAN-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Press-DL <NEA-Press-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL <NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL@state.gov>; (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	UNGA: NEA meeting tracker for evening of 09/24/2018
Date:	Tue, 25 Sep 2018 00:42:42 +0000

Greetings NEA-

Attached is the latest draft of the NEA meeting tracker for UNGA. As always, if you notice something missing or out of what, please let the NEA-UNGA-Coordinators distro know. Look for an update early tomorrow morning that reflects scheduling changes that have cropped up overnight.

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Satterfield, David M (b)(6) NEA-DAS-DL <NEA_DAS-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Office Directors-DL <NEAOfficeDirectorsDL@state.gov>; NEA-Deputy Directors-DL <NEADeputyDirectorsDL@state.gov>; NEA-MAG-DL <NEA-MAG-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Egypt <NEA-Egypt@state.gov>; NEA-IPA-DL <NEA-IPA-DL@state.gov>; NEA-LEV-DL <NEA-LEV-DL@state.gov>; NEA-ARP-DL <NEA-ARP-DL@state.gov>; NEA-I-Clearances <NEA-I-Clearances@state.gov>; NEA-IRAN-DL <NEA-IRAN-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Press-DL <NEA-Press-DL@state.gov>; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL <NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL@state.gov>;

	(b)(6)	
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NEA UNGA Schedule Tracker						
as of 09/24/2018 @ 2031						
Key:	POTUS/White House	S	D / P	AA/S	DAS	
* = notetaker will be on standby outside meeting						
Time	Event	Location	Principal	Other Participants	Notetaker	
Tuesday, September 25						
TBD	Jeffrey broadcast interviews	Palace	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A	
TBD	Tueller broadcast interviews	TBD	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A	
0730-0830	Lempert breakfast w/ Crompton	TBD	Lempert	N/A	N/A	
0800-0830	Jeffrey w/ Zohar Palti	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn	(b)(6)	
0850-0900	Pre-brief for P for Kohler	P Suite	Satterfield	Lempert	N/A	
(b)(7)(E)						
0900-0940	P w/ UN PESG Kohler	UN GA 1B141A	P	Satterfield, Lempert	(b)(6)	
0930-1030	Votel w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace Hotel	Votel	Lenderking, Tueller	TBC	
1000-1030	Rayburn w/ UN Syria Human. Coord	Maxwell	Rayburn	N/A	(b)(6)	
1000-1100	Satterfield w/ Zohar Palti	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz		
1100-1200	Lempert w/ Amb. Baali	Algerian Mission	Lempert	TBA		
1215-1300	Satterfield w/ UN Coord Mladenov	UN S-34MM3	Satterfield	N/A		
0900-1530	United Against a Nuclear Iran (UANI)	Westin Grand Central	N/A	Peek		N/A
1200-1300	SR Hook panel @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	SR Hook	N/A		N/A
1330-1430	Satterfield w/ Israel MFA DG Rotem	Palace?	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)	
1400-1430	Jeffrey w/ Alon Ushpiz	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn		
1430-1500	Satterfield w/ Spain MENA DG Martinez	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner		
(b)(7)(E)						
1500-1530	S, NSA speech @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	S, NSA Bolton	N/A	N/A	
1500-1600	NSC Sartor w/ FM Siala	Libyan Mission	Sartor	N/A	(b)(6)	
(b)(7)(E)						
1700-1730	Lenderking w/ UNHCR Lise Grande	Palace Hotel	Lenderking	TBD	(b)(6)	
1700-1800	Satterfield w/ Alon Ushpiz	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz		
1900-1930	Satterfield w/ Jordan FM Safadi	Trump Tower 1506	Satterfield	Rayburn		
Wednesday, September 26						
0830-0930	Satterfield w/ German MENA DG Ackerman	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner	(b)(6)	
(b)(7)(E)						
0915-1000	POTUS w/ Netanyahu	UN HQ, Conf Rm C	POTUS+6	S	N/A	
0930-1030	P w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace (4202)	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	(b)(6)	
1030-1130	EU Syria Ministerial	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	N/A	N/A	
1030-1100	Lenderking Press Roundtable	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A	
1100-1130	Lenderking Broadcast Interviews	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A	
(b)(7)(E)						
1230-1300	D w/ Qatar FM MbAR	Qatari Mission	D	Satterfield? Lenderking?	TBD	
1245-1330	Jeffrey Broadcast Interviews	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A	
1400-1500	CT Sales w/ FM Siala	Libya Mission	CT Sales	TBD	(b)(6)	
1400-1530	EEAS Red Sea Cooperation Event	German House, UN Plaza	N/A	Lenderking		
1430-1500	P w/ UNSE de Mistura	S34MM1	P	Satterfield TBC, Cohen, Jeffrey, Skinner		
1630-1700	P w/ UN U/S DiCarlo	S3516	P	Satterfield, USUN Hunter		
1830-2030	Sheikh AbZ Reception	Morgan Library	Satterfield	Lenderking	N/A	
2000-2130	Satterfield w/ Neil Crompton	Match 65	Satterfield	N/A	N/A	
2000-2030	Jeffrey interview w/ Reuters	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A	
2000-UTC	Palestinian Meeting on Peace Plan	Grand Hyatt	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Thursday, September 27						
0800-0830	UK-hosted Iraq Breakfast	1 Beekman Place	TBD	Peek	TBD	
(b)(7)(E)						
1030-1130	Satterfield w/ Jerome Bonnafont, Nicola de Riviere	French Mission	Satterfield	TBD	(b)(6)	
1200-1230	Satterfield w/ FM Bassil	UN, TBD	Satterfield	Rayburn?	N/A	
1230-1400	Yemen Quad Ministerial	1 Beekman Place	P	N/A	(b)(6)	
1330-1430	Syria Ministerial	French Mission	S	Satterfield, Jeffrey		
1500-1600	Syria Detentions Event	TBD	Jeffrey	Rayburn		
1530-1600	P w/ Morocco FM Bourita	USUN Conf. Room C	P	Satterfield TBC		

1730-1830	Satterfield w/ Italy DG Cardi, DDG Gori	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		(b)(6)
1830-1900	Satterfield w/ ICRC Pres. Maurer	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		
1930-UTC	Lenderking dinner w/ Qatar UN Del.	Estatorio Milos	Lenderking	N/A	N/A
Friday, September 28, 2017					
0800-0900	GCC+2 Ministerial	Palace Hotel, Reid Salon	S	Satterfield	(b)(6)
0900-0920	Jeffrey interview w/ WSJ	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
1030-1100	Lenderking w/ Reem al-Hashimy	UAE Mission	Lenderking	TBA	(b)(6)
1300-1400	GCC+2 Roundtable	Foreign Press Center	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
1400-1430	Satterfield w/ UK PermRep Pierce	UK Mission	Satterfield	Cohen	(b)(6)
1530-1600	Satterfield w/ Yusuf bin Allawi	TBD	Satterfield	Lenderking	
1800-1830	Satterfield w/ Min Gargash	UAE Mission	Satterfield	Lenderking	
Saturday, September 29, 2017					
PENDING MEETINGS					
TBD	P w/ Algeria FM Messahel	Algerian Mission	P	Satterfield?	(b)(6)
TBD	P w/ Saudi FM Jubeir	TBD	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	
TBD	Satterfield w/ Egypt FM Shoukry	TBD	Satterfield	Lempert	
TBD	Lenderking w/ WFP Beasley	TBD	Lenderking	TBD	

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tue, 25 Sep 2018 00:42:42 +0000
To: Satterfield, David M;NEA-DAS-DL;NEA-Office Directors-DL;NEA-Deputy Directors-DL;NEA-MAG-DL;NEA-Egypt;NEA-IPA-DL;NEA-LEV-DL;NEA-ARP-DL;NEA-I-Clearances;NEA-IRAN-DL;NEA-Press-DL;NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL;(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: UNGA: NEA meeting tracker for evening of 09/24/2018
Attachments: 20180924_NEA_Meeting_Tracker.xlsx

Greetings NEA-

Attached is the latest draft of the NEA meeting tracker for UNGA. As always, if you notice something missing or out of what, please let the NEA-UNGA-Coordinators distro know. Look for an update early tomorrow morning that reflects scheduling changes that have cropped up overnight.

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
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NEA UNGA Schedule Tracker					
as of 09/24/2018 @ 2031					
Key:	POTUS/White House	S	D / P	AA/S	DAS
* = notetaker will be on standby outside meeting					
Time	Event	Location	Principal	Other Participants	Notetaker
Tuesday, September 25					
TBD	Jeffrey broadcast interviews	Palace	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A
TBD	Tueller broadcast interviews	TBD	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A
0730-0830	Lempert breakfast w/ Crompton	TBD	Lempert	N/A	N/A
0800-0830	Jeffrey w/ Zohar Palti	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn	(b)(6)
0850-0900	Pre-brief for P for Kohler	P Suite	Satterfield	Lempert	N/A
(b)(7)(E)					
0900-0940	P w/ UN PESG Kohler	UN GA 1B141A	P	Satterfield, Lempert	(b)(6)
0930-1030	Votel w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace Hotel	Votel	Lenderking, Tueller	TBC
1000-1030	Rayburn w/ UN Syria Human. Coord	Maxwell	Rayburn	N/A	(b)(6)
1000-1100	Satterfield w/ Zohar Palti	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
1100-1200	Lempert w/ Amb. Baali	Algerian Mission	Lempert	TBA	
1215-1300	Satterfield w/ UN Coord Mladenov	UN S-34MM3	Satterfield	N/A	
0900-1530	United Against a Nuclear Iran (UANI)	Westin Grand Central	N/A	Peek	
1200-1300	SR Hook panel @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	SR Hook	N/A	N/A
1330-1430	Satterfield w/ Israel MFA DG Rotem	Palace?	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
1400-1430	Jeffrey w/ Alon Ushpiz	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn	
1430-1500	Satterfield w/ Spain MENA DG Martinez	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner	
(b)(7)(E)					
1500-1530	S, NSA speech @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	S, NSA Bolton	N/A	N/A
1500-1600	NSC Sartor w/ FM Siala	Libyan Mission	Sartor	N/A	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
1700-1730	Lenderking w/ UNHCR Lise Grande	Palace Hotel	Lenderking	TBD	(b)(6)
1700-1800	Satterfield w/ Alon Ushpiz	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
1900-1930	Satterfield w/ Jordan FM Safadi	Trump Tower 1506	Satterfield	Rayburn	(b)(6)
Wednesday, September 26					
0830-0930	Satterfield w/ German MENA DG Ackerman	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
0915-1000	POTUS w/ Netanyahu	UN HQ, Conf Rm C	POTUS+6	S	N/A
0930-1030	P w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace (4202)	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	(b)(6)
1030-1130	EU Syria Ministerial	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	N/A	N/A
1030-1100	Lenderking Press Roundtable	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
1100-1130	Lenderking Broadcast Interviews	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
(b)(7)(E)					
1230-1300	D w/ Qatar FM MbAR	Qatari Mission	D	Satterfield? Lenderking?	TBD
1245-1330	Jeffrey Broadcast Interviews	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
1400-1500	CT Sales w/ FM Siala	Libya Mission	CT Sales	TBD	(b)(6)
1400-1530	EEAS Red Sea Cooperation Event	German House, UN Plaza	N/A	Lenderking	
1430-1500	P w/ UNSE de Mistura	S34MM1	P	Satterfield TBC, Cohen, Jeffrey, Skinner	N/A
1630-1700	P w/ UN U/S DiCarlo	S3516	P	Satterfield, USUN Hunter	
1830-2030	Sheikh AbZ Reception	Morgan Library	Satterfield	Lenderking	N/A
2000-2130	Satterfield w/ Neil Crompton	Match 65	Satterfield	N/A	N/A
2000-2030	Jeffrey interview w/ Reuters	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
2000-UTC	Palestinian Meeting on Peace Plan	Grand Hyatt	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thursday, September 27					
0800-0830	UK-hosted Iraq Breakfast	1 Beekman Place	TBD	Peek	TBD
(b)(7)(E)					
1030-1130	Satterfield w/ Jerome Bonnafont, Nicola de Riviere	French Mission	Satterfield	TBD	(b)(6)
1200-1230	Satterfield w/ FM Basil	UN, TBD	Satterfield	Rayburn?	N/A
1230-1400	Yemen Quad Ministerial	1 Beekman Place	P	N/A	(b)(6)
1330-1430	Syria Ministerial	French Mission	S	Satterfield, Jeffrey	
1500-1600	Syria Detentions Event	TBD	Jeffrey	Rayburn	
1530-1600	P w/ Morocco FM Bourita	USUN Conf. Room C	P	Satterfield TBC	

1730-1830	Satterfield w/ Italy DG Cardi, DDG Gori	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		Annabel Lee
1830-1900	Satterfield w/ ICRC Pres. Maurer	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		(b)(6)
1930-UTC	Lenderking dinner w/ Qatar UN Del.	Estatorio Milos	Lenderking	N/A	N/A
Friday, September 28, 2017					
0800-0900	GCC+2 Ministerial	Palace Hotel, Reid Salon	S	Satterfield	DAS Lenderking (TBC)
0900-0920	Jeffrey interview w/ WSJ	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
1030-1100	Lenderking w/ Reem al-Hashimy	UAE Mission	Lenderking	TBA	(b)(6)
1300-1400	GCC+2 Roundtable	Foreign Press Center	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
1400-1430	Satterfield w/ UK PermRep Pierce	UK Mission	Satterfield	Cohen	(b)(6)
1530-1600	Satterfield w/ Yusuf bin Allawi	TBD	Satterfield	Lenderking	
1800-1830	Satterfield w/ Min Gargash	UAE Mission	Satterfield	Lenderking	
Saturday, September 29, 2017					
PENDING MEETINGS					
TBD	(b)(5)	Algerian Mission	P	Satterfield?	(b)(6)
TBD		TBD	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	
TBD		TBD	Satterfield	Lempert	
TBD		TBD	Lenderking	TBD	

From:	"Satterfield, David M" (b)(6)
To:	Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth N (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am
Date:	Sun, 17 Sep 2017 12:59:00 -0400

That's what I assumed. Thanks!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth N
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Satterfield, David M
Subject: RE: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

Ambassador:

Traditionally, these dinners have been the Secretary's political staff. As soon as I have information on participation, I will let you know if you are expected, but I would imagine you could make other plans.

Thanks,
 Elizabeth

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Satterfield, David M (b)(6); Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth N
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

Good afternoon, Sir – Connecting you with Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, who has more information on participation.

Kind regards,
 (b)(6)

(b)(6)
 Executive Secretariat, S/ES-S, U.S. Department of State
 Line: (b)(6) Direct: (b)(6) | BB: (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Satterfield, David M
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 12:40 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

(b)(6)

Will Bureau A/S's be attending the "Senior Staff Working Dinner" tonight?

Thanks, DMS

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 11:24 AM
To: S_Current Trip; (b)(6)
Subject: UNGA 72 Draft Schedule, updated as of 9/17/17 11:00 am

Friends,

Attached and below please find an updated UNGA schedule.

Thanks,
S/ES UNGA Team

UNGA 72 (2017) SCHEDULE

THIS DRAFT SCHEDULE SHOULD NOT BE COPIED OR SCANNED.

Notional events are noted in *italics*.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

2:00 pm	Secretary departs JBA ert New York (Flight time: 50 mins, TC: 0 hrs)
2:50 pm	Secretary arrives La Guardia Airport
3:00 pm	Secretary departs LaGuardia Airport ert Palace Hotel (30-min drive)
3:30 pm	Secretary Arrives Palace Hotel
3:30 pm	Van transport from Palace Hotel to UN for Senior Staff who need photos for UN badges
5:00 pm	Bilateral Meeting with UNHCR Grandi (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4109, Floor 41
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Jacobson, A A/S Henshaw
- Attendees: (P+1) UNHCR Grandi; Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Kelly Clements
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool camera spray at top

6:00 pm Working Dinner with Senior Staff at Palace Hotel (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4108, Floor 41
- Participants: TBD
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Closed

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Monday, September 18, 2017

7:45 am Read time (15 mins)

8:00 am Breakfast (30 mins)

8:30 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

8:45 am Trilateral Meeting with India and Japan (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Thornton, A A/S Wells
- Attendees: (P + 5) Japan: FM Kono + Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae; Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy Satoshi Suzuki; DG for Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Shigeki Takizaki; Executive Assistant to FM Jun Nanazawa; Deputy Director of Southwest Asia Division Maria Yamasaki; India: P + 5 (names TBD)
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for Japanese
- Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top

11:00 am

(b)(5)

- Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner

1:15 pm POTUS Bilateral with Israel (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

Note: Meeting will begin at 1:00 pm as 1-on-1 for 15 mins

2:00 pm

(b)(5)

3:15 pm POTUS Bilateral with France (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Bossert, Dr. Hill
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

4:30 pm Secretary's Participation in the Ministerial Discussion on Syria (90 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk
- Attendees: (P + 1) FMs of UK, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Turkey, Qatar, KSA, UAE, Egypt, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, EU High Rep of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. +1 for each attendee on backbench.
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for French, Italian, and Arabic
- Press: Camera Spray at Top

- 6:30 pm POTUS Working Dinner with Latin American Leaders (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, First Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster (26 Attendees in total)
 - Attendees: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Peru
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Pool Spray at top

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

- 7:15 am Read time (15 mins)
- 7:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 8:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)
- 8:15 am Secretary departs Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
 Note: Early departure necessitated by (b)(7)(E), per DS
- 8:30 am Secretary arrives at UN
- Location: UN, Room D, Floor 1B

9:30 am POTUS Arrives UN (w/FLOTUS)

9:30 am (b)(5)

- 10:30 am Secretary attends POTUS Address to the UN General Assembly (45 mins)
- Location: General Assembly Hall, Second Floor
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Open

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

11:15 am

(b)(5)

1:00 pm

Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres (15 mins)

- Location: UN, GA200B, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, Mr. Wachtel
- Attendees: P + 6
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Official Photo at top
- Credentials: Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.

1:15 pm

Secretary attends Luncheon hosted by UN Secretary-General Guterres (90 mins)

- Location: UN, Delegate Lounge, Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool for opening remarks at top
- Credentials: UN Protocol will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event

3:00 pm

Secretary attends POTUS Bilateral with UNGA President Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia (10 mins)

- Location: UN, GA0202 , Second Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Wachtel
- Attendees: P + 4
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Official Photo at top

- Credentials: UN Security will escort principals; Second floor overlay for staff outside of event.

3:15 pm Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

3:25 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel

3:30 pm (b)(5)



4:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Qatar (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

5:00 pm Bilateral Meeting with Russian FM Lavrov (60 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4108, Floor 41
- U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, U/S Shannon, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Millard
- Attendees: P+ 5; Russians have requested P+8: Deputy MFA G.Gatilov, Ambassador A. Antonov, UN Perm Rep V. Nebenzya, Head of MFA Secretariat S. Butin, Official MFA Rep M. Zakharova, Director of Political Planning Department O. Stepanov, Deputy Director of the Department of North America Prozhogin, and K. Kirpichenko from Department of North America
- Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
- Press: Standing camera spray at the top, no remarks

7:00 pm Secretary attends Diplomatic Reception hosted by the President and First Lady (2 hrs)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
- Interpretation: Whisper if needed

Note: Vive President Pence will attend

Note: Pull-aside with Thai FM

- Location: TBD
- Interpretation: TBD

9:00 pm Dinner

- Location: Secretary's Suite

RON Palace Hotel
 POTUS RON Trump Tower

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

8:15 am Read time (15 mins)

8:30 am Breakfast (30 mins)

9:00 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:15 am POTUS Arrives Palace Hotel

9:15 am (b)(5)

9:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Jordan (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Mr. Bell
- Attendees: King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, Minister of Foreign and Expatriates' Affairs Ayman Hussein Safadi, Director of His Majesty's Office Jafar Abed Hassan, Ambassador Dina Khalil Kawar, UN Perm Rep Sima Salim Bahous, Director of Political Affairs Directorate Manar Munther Dabbas
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top

10:00 am (b)(5)

(b)(5)

- 10:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Palestinian Authority (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Kushner, DNSA Powell, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top
- 11:30 am Secretary attends POTUS/FLOTUS Meet and Greet with USUN Mission staff (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison Room, First Floor
 - Press: Official photos
 - Order of events: Amb. Haley introduces FLOTUS, FLOTUS introduces POTUS

12:00 pm

(b)(5)

- 1:15 pm POTUS Lunch with African Leaders (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, General Kelly, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, A A/S Yamamoto, Mr. Sartor
 - Attendees: Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm

(b)(5)

- 3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with the UK (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Cohn, Dr. Hill
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

3:45 pm (b)(5)

- 4:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Egypt (45 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, DNSA Powell, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Greenblatt, Dr. Bell
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

5:45 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)

- 6:00 pm Joint Commission Meeting hosted by the EU (60 mins)
- Location: UN, UNSC Consultation Room, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook or U/S Shannon (P + 4 – one at table with S, three behind)
 - Attendees: EU, UK, France, Germany, China, Russia, and Iran
 - Interpretation: simultaneous
 - Press: Camera Spray at Top
 - Credentials: Event-specific overlay is required for attendees

- 7:00 pm Prep time for Press Event post EU Joint Commission Meeting (30 mins)
- Location: UN, Room TBD, Floor TBD

- 7:30 pm Press Event (30 mins)
- Location: UN, UNSC Stakeout, Second Floor

8:00 pm Secretary departs UN location ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)

8:10 pm Secretary arrives Palace Hotel

8:30 pm Dinner

- Location: Secretary's Suite

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Trump Tower

Thursday, September 21, 2017

8:00 am Read time (15 mins)

8:15 am Breakfast (30 mins)

8:45 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)

9:00 am (b)(5)

9:15 am POTUS Bilateral with Afghanistan (45 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Bossert, Ms. Curtis
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

10:00 am (b)(5)

10:30 am POTUS Bilateral with Ukraine (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor

- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Ms. Croft, NSC note taker, + State Dept Rep
- Attendees: President Petro Poroshenko, Head of the Presidential Administration Mr. Ihor Rainin, FM Pavlo Klimkin, Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, UN Perm Rep Volodymyr Yelchenko, Chief of the General Staff and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Mr. Viktor Muzhenko
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

11:00 am

(b)(5)

11:30 am

POTUS Bilateral with ROK (30 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
- Interpretation: Consecutive
- Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

12:00 pm

(b)(5)

12:15 pm

POTUS Trilateral Working Lunch with Japan and ROK (60 mins)

- Location: Palace Hotel, Drawing Room, Third Floor
- U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
- Attendees: TBD
- Interpretation: Simultaneous
- Press: Pool spray at top with POTUS remarks

1:15 pm

(b)(5)

- Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger

- 1:30 pm POTUS Bilateral with Japan (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Mr. Pottinger
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

2:30 pm (b)(5)

- 3:00 pm POTUS Bilateral with Turkey (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Hubbard 1, Fifth Floor
 - U.S. Participants: President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, Amb. Haley, NSA McMaster, Dr. Hill, Mr. Buland
 - Attendees: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chief of Defense General Hulusi Akar, FM Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Energy Berat Albayrak, Undersecretary of the National Intelligence Organization Mr. Hakan Fidan, UN Perm Rep Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu
 - Interpretation: Consecutive
 - Press: Pool Spray at top with POTUS remarks

(Note: The current version of the POTUS schedule has no other UNGA-related events after this bilat.)

- 3:35 pm Secretary departs Palace Hotel ert UN (10-min drive)
- 3:50 pm Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia (remarks)
- Location: UN, UNSC, Second Floor
 - Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, Amb. Haley (requested), S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous
 - Press: Open, TBC

Note: Usual speaking length is 3-5 mins per participant, UNSC has offered 5-7 mins for Secretary's speaking slot

- 5:00 pm Secretary departs UN ert Palace Hotel (10-min drive)
- 5:15 pm Executive Time (1 hr, 45 mins)
- Location: Secretary's Suite
- 7:00 pm Secretary hosts EU Partners Dinner (90 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Madison or Drawing Room (TBD)
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin
 - Attendees: FMs from Germany, France, UK, EU (P+1)
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous or Whisper for French
 - Press: Official photographer at top
- Note: Event will begin with 15 min cocktail service, dinner to be served at 7:15 pm

RON Palace Hotel
POTUS RON Bedminster

Friday, September 22, 2017

- 6:55 am Read time (15 mins)
- 7:10 am Breakfast (30 mins)
- 7:40 am Morning Briefing Time (10 mins)
- 7:50 am Depart Palace Hotel ert Ritz Hotel (25-min drive)
- 8:15 am Bilateral Working Breakfast with Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi (30 mins)
- Location: Ritz Carlton Hotel Battery Park
 - U.S. Participation: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk
 - Attendees: TBD
 - Interpretation: None
 - Press: Official photographers only
- Note: The Secretary will be exempt from screening, but senior staff will need to be screened to enter.
- 8:45 am Depart Ritz Carlton Hotel ert Palace Hotel (25-min drive)

- 9:30 am Secretary's participation in Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (75 mins) "Shaping the Peace" – The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Meeting on Iraq
- Location: Palace Hotel, Villard Ballroom, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Ms. Nauert, A A/S Satterfield, S/E McGurk, Coordinator Sales (requested)
 - Attendees: (P + 1) the 29 other Coalition Small Group Minister-level heads of delegation: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, INTERPOL, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, NATO, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq Special Representative for the Secretary General Jan Kubis, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq Lise Grande
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Arabic, French, Italian, and Turkish
 - Press: Pool Camera Spray at top
- 11:00 am Secretary's Participation in C5+1 (60 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Reid Salon, Second Floor
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Wells
 - Attendees: P+1 – Kazakh FM Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Tajik FM Sirodjiddin Aslov, Turkmen FM Rashid Meredov, Kyrgyz FM Yerlan Abdyl daev, and Uzbek FM Abdulaziz Kamilov accompanied by their respective ambassadors to the United States
 - Interpretation: Simultaneous for Russian
 - Press: Pool Camera spray at top
- 12:30 pm Lunch/Executive Time (2 hrs)
- Location: Secretary's Suite
- 2:30 pm Bilateral Meeting with Indian EAM Swaraj (30 mins)
- Location: Palace Hotel, Room 4109, Floor 41
 - U.S. Participants: Secretary Tillerson, COS Peterlin, S/P Hook, Mr. Hammond, A A/S Wells

- Attendees: Indians have requested P+6+notetaker: EAM Swaraj; FS Jaishankar; Indian UN Perm Rep; Indian Amb. Sarna; DCM Santosh Jha; J/S for Americas Mahawar; J/S for UN Tandon; notetaker
- Interpretation: None
- Press: Pool Camera Spray at Top

3:30 pm Depart Palace Hotel ert LaGuardia Airport (30-min drive)

4:00 pm Arrive LaGuardia Airport

4:10 pm Depart New York ert JBA (Flight Time 50 mins, TC: 0)

5:00 pm Arrive JBA

Bilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72

The Secretary will participate in all POTUS bilats

(b)(5)

Multilateral Events for the Secretary’s Participation at UNGA 72

Hosted by the Secretary

1. Syria Like-Minded Meeting (NEA) – 9/18 at 4:30 pm
2. Defeat-ISIS Coalition Meeting on Iraq (NEA/SECI) –9/22 at 9:30 am
3. EU Partners Dinner (EUR) – 9/21 at 7:00 pm
4. C5+1 (Central Asian FMs) (SCA) – 9/22 at 11:00 am
5. US+Japan+India Trilateral (S/P) – 9/18 at 8:45 am

Hosted by Non-USG Entity or by USG Entity Other than S

1. Secretary participates in UNSC session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation hosted by UNSC President Ethiopia – 9/22 at 3:50 pm
2. Joint Commission Meeting hosted by EU (NEA and S/INI) – 9/20 at 6:00 pm

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

		(b)(6)
Sender:	"Satterfield, David M"	
Recipient:	Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth N	(b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 26, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated January 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Lempert, Yael (London)" (b)(6)
To:	Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	A Few Items
Date:	Mon, 1 Jul 2019 22:03:01 +0000

Engagement With New U.S. Ambassador to Ireland: The DCM in Dublin reached out today to say that Ambassador Crawford – who has just arrived in Dublin – would like to travel to London in the next few weeks for a consultation with you. He also asks that (b)(6) come to Dublin in the near future to brief him on northern Ireland. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Travel of Trump Children: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Potential Amb. Grenell Travel to London: Amb. Grenell has requested your permission to speak at the “Fast Track City Conference” in London in September. Details below – it is a conference about HIV issues. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

EMAIL FROM EMBASSY BERLIN:

Greetings from Berlin! Ambassador Grenell has been invited to speak at the Fast Track City conference in London between Sept 8-11. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

The event is a city-level initiative pledging that by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90% of all HIV-diagnosed people receiving sustained ART will achieve viral suppression (known as the Paris Declaration). Of relevance to Ambassador Grenell, about 19 U.S. cities have signed the Paris Declaration. In Germany only Berlin has signed it.

(b)(5)

According to their website, "Fast-Track Cities 2019 will be the first international gathering of more than 270 cities that are accelerating their responses to HIV, tuberculosis, and viral hepatitis –three diseases cited as urban health priorities in the New Urban Agenda as well as the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities. Organized by the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other partners, the conference will take place September 8-11, 2019 [...] The conference's aim is to highlight successes achieved across the Fast-Track Cities network, address cross-cutting challenges faced by local stakeholders, and share best practices in accelerating urban AIDS responses, inclusive of co-infectious diseases and comorbid conditions."

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Lempert, Yael (London)"	(b)(6)
	Johnson, Robert W (London)	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

From: (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

Subject: FW: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

Date: Thu, 3 Oct 2019 09:38:16 +0000

Closing the loop – we have communicated the following response to the reporter. (See below)

Best, (b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:17 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6); EUR-WE-UK-DL <EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov>; (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

Hi (b)(6)

With apologies for the delay, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

The United States has reciprocal understandings with many nations, including the United Kingdom, whereby airports waive landing and parking fees for government aircraft.

Let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Date: October 2, 2019 at 5:05:09 AM EDT
To: (b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>, (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

The journalists has come back and is holding for State comment on this. Do you have any guidance?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 7:26 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

OK – we will run it here and send you some guidance.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:23 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

Looks like we will need help with guidance to answer. Forwarding chain below for insight into exchange at post. Please advise on a response.

Best,
(b)(6)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 6:10:19 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

(b)(5)

V/R,

(b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 6:00 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

Ops Staff,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Deputy Air Attaché | US Embassy | London

Tel (b)(6) Mob (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:38 pm

To: (b)(6) Wong, Ellen Y (Edinburgh); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

(b)(6)

I've copied the team members in DAO who do this.

(b)(6)

do you have any insight into the below media inquiry?

Best,

(b)(6)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:28:05 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Scotsman Press Enquiry, with 8PM 1 Oct deadline

Martyn McLaughlin, journalist with The Scotsman, is inquiring whether: is [the State Department] aware that service fees (also known as aircraft handling or ramp fees) are being waived for US Armed Forces aircraft at Glasgow Prestwick Airport?

Her deadline is 8PM today. See full background below.

Can you provide the background on this issue?

Best,

(b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)**Sent:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:07 PM**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: EUR-Press <EUR-Press-DL@state.gov>**Subject:** Referring to London: Scotsman Enquiry

London Colleagues,

PA will be referring the below inquiry to Post, as the reporter is based in the UK. Please let us know if we can help you with guidance from DC.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Martyn McLaughlin (b)(6)**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 5:02 PM**To:** PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>**Subject:** Scotsman Enquiry

Hi,

My name's Martyn McLaughlin, I'm a journalist with The Scotsman, a national title based in Glasgow, Scotland.

I'd be grateful if you could assist with a story I'm writing concerning US Armed Forces aircraft stopovers at Glasgow Prestwick Airport in South Ayrshire, Scotland. It's obviously been the focus of extensive media coverage over the past few weeks, but the story I'm writing isn't directly concerned with Trump Turnberry.

Instead, it's focused on fees - known as 'service fees', 'aircraft handling fees' or 'ramp fees' - that are ordinarily charged to inbound aircraft. It's my understanding that these fees are being waived by Glasgow Prestwick Airport for US military flights. Multiple sources have told me that this arrangement is in place.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) here in the UK have also confirmed to me that other fees - known as landing, navigation and parking fees - for US military traffic at Prestwick are being picked up by the MoD itself, but this is a longstanding reciprocal agreement, which sees Royal Air Force planes exempted from similar fees when stopping over at US airports.

I hope that's a comprehensive background of the story. I'd be grateful if the State Dept could confirm: is it aware that service fees (also known as aircraft handling or ramp fees) are being waived for US Armed Forces aircraft at Glasgow Prestwick Airport?

By way of further background, I initially directed this enquiry to (b)(6) at the US Air Force, who referred me to (b)(6) at the DoD, who referred me to the Department of Transportation, who said it's a State Dept matter. For reference, (b)(6) at the DoD advised this policy is at play: <https://www.transportation.gov/policy/aviation-policy/international-relations/air-service-agreements>

I hope the above is clear, but you need any clarification, please get in touch. My deadline is 8pm BST tomorrow (1 October).

Regards

Martyn McLaughlin

*JPIMedia Limited Registered in England and Wales no. 11573611
Registered Office: Third Floor, 1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF*

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UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: quick question before i respond
Date:	Wed, 3 Oct 2018 12:46:51 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for your e-mail. Yes, I know of the John Paul Jones (JPJ) Birthplace Museum and Mr. Poole. I also may have had something to do with the letter Mr. Poole referred to!

CG Edinburgh has visited the JPJ Birthplace Museum twice in recent years. It is a wonderful little hidden gem; not many people know it even exists. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) As well as the JPJ museum, located nearby is the global HQ of the HALO Trust, the world's largest humanitarian mine clearance organization. The State Department is HALO's largest funder.

(b)(5)

And, of course, Trump Turnberry is also in SW Scotland (b)(5); (b)(6)

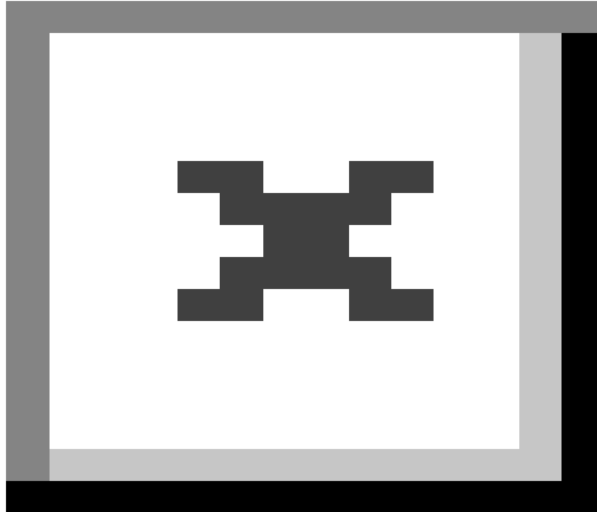
(b)(5); (b)(6)

I am looping in CG Edinburgh's incoming PO, (b)(6) for her information. If you need any more intel on this, please let me know.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

PS – below is a tweet I sent from our Twitter account, @USAinScotland, congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Poole on their wedding.



Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 1:13 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: quick question before i respond

Hi (b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let me know--Thx (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cultural Affairs Officer
Embassy of the United States of America

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

FL-2020-00059 02/26/2021 13



USConsulateEdinburgh @USAmScotland Sep 14

What a wonderful story about a retired U.S. Naval Officer traveling to #Scotland to get married at the birthplace of the Father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones - congratulations to Jim & Monique!



Couple marry at John Paul Jones birthplace

Jim Poole and Monique Najafi travelled from California for the ceremony at the little cottage at Arbigland

dailyrecord.co.uk

STATE-19-0675-J-000013

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT



September 24, 2018

From: James L. Poole (CDR, USN ret)

To: Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson
Embassy of the United States of America
33 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW11 7US

Subject: Funding for the John Paul Jones Birthplace Museum, Scotland

Encl: (1) Letter to you dated July 2, 2018
(2) Article dated 9/4/18 Dumfries&Galloway Standard Newspaper

Dear Ambassador Johnson,

As of this date, I have not received a reply from you regarding my letter of July 2, 2108 (see Enclosure (1) for details).

On September 1, 2018; I had the great honor of being married at the John Paul Jones Birthplace Museum outside of Dumfries, Scotland (see Enclosure (2) for details). Susan A. Wilson, Principal Officer of the US Consulate in Edinburgh, Scotland wrote us a very kind and caring letter regarding our marriage dated September 1, 2018. I understand she has been transferred and would greatly appreciate her follow-on address so I can thank her for her kind and caring words.

Ambassador Johnson, the John Paul Jones Birthplace Museum in Dumfries, Scotland is sacred ground to American History. He not only was one of our greatest Founding Fathers, but Father of the US Navy! I beg you to use your influence with the US State Department to have the United States fund the Museum. It would only cost approximately \$25,000 a year. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

The wonderful people of Scotland and myself can no longer keep The Museum open without help from the US.

Sir, if you know of other organizations/associations that could help keep The Museum alive, I would be forever in your debt if you could provide me with that information. I have and continue to contact the following regarding keeping The Museum open: The Secretary of the US Navy, The Chief of Naval Operations, The US Naval Academy (including the Alumni Association and Museum), The USS John Paul Jones, The US Navy League, The Annapolis MD Chamber of Commerce and more than a dozen organizations associated with the American Revolutionary War.

Ambassador Johnson, John Paul Jones inspired me (and countless others) to serve the United States by military service. In keeping The Museum alive, John Paul Jones will continue to inspire untold numbers of citizens (both US and others) that sacrifices for freedom is the most noble of human endeavors.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

James L. Poole (CDR, USN ret)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ENCL (1)

July 2, 2018

From: James L. Poole (CDR, USN ret)

To: Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson
Embassy of the United States of America
33 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW11 7US

Subject: Funding for the John Paul Jones Birthplace Museum, Scotland

Dear Ambassador Johnson,

I recently returned from a trip to Scotland. I visited the John Paul Jones Birthplace Cottage Museum just outside Dumfries, Scotland. It is a wonderful museum and staffed by incredibly warm and caring local citizens.

(b)(6)

Imagine my shock to find out that the little town of Dumfries, Scotland (population approximately 19,000) received no funding from the US!! The good people of Dumfries have been bearing the costs of maintaining the museum all these years. They rely on donations but unfortunately, the past couple of years the donations have been slim and there is a real danger the museum may close for lack of funds!

(b)(6)

But I am ashamed that the US does nothing to support the museum of the Father of the US Navy. When John

NAVY LINKS

Museum hosts fairytale wedding

Arbigland cottage venue

Bert Houston

A retired US Navy commander and his fiancée travelled almost half-way round the world to wed at the weekend at the birthplace of his Solway born boyhood hero John Paul Jones.

Jim Poole and Monique Najafi, made the journey from San Diego in California to the little cottage at Arbigland where they took their vows before a registrar and 40 guests who had also travelled from the US, Germany, Spain and France.

Jim, 64, said: "This has been just something special for me and for Monique... I can hardly believe it has happened."

Monique, also 64, added: "It has been so wonderful - a real fairytale wedding."

The couple had visited the cottage for the first time last year when Jim decided to "pop the question" in the very room where John Paul Jones, the man

acknowledged as the father of the US Navy, was brought up.

Jim said: "I first read about John Paul Jones and his exploits in the American Revolutionary War when I bought my first book when I was about five.

"I simply became fascinated with his life story and it is something that has stayed with me and influenced my life in every way - even leading me to the US Naval Academy and a career in the navy."

He added: "From the moment I met Monique she too started to take an interest and it just seemed we were under an amazing spell."

Jim even has a little museum in his home tracing the exploits of John Paul Jones from his childhood in Scotland through to his famous battle off Flamborough Head where he turned what looked like defeat to victory over a superior British warship and made famous the words "Surrender? I have not yet begun to fight".

It is the first wedding to be held at the cottage - now a museum - and the ceremony came in the wake of Jim's first trip to it last year when he became engaged to Monique in the



Happy couple
Jim Poole and his wife Monique

room in which Jones lived before heading off across the Solway to Cumbria and then onto the US.

He said: "Monique started to share my interest almost immediately and we thought it would be just wonderful to get married there.

"I've had a lot of great moments in my life but this is the greatest and the happiest and it's all due to John

Paul Jones."

Jones, who was born in the cottage in 1747, became the first well-known naval commander in the American Revolutionary war and following that became a rear admiral in the Imperial Russian Navy before dying in Paris in 1792.

His remains are entombed in the crypt of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis in Maryland.

Encl(2)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019
Date:	Tue, 5 Feb 2019 11:27:53 +0000

Thanks! See attached – that’s ok to send. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 11:01 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019

Any edits?

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

STATE-19-0675-J-000018

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

[Redacted content]

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019
Date:	Tue, 5 Feb 2019 10:31:31 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

I did this in track changes so I could make comments and you can see some of the edits I made. Can you take another look for more updated articles about Sturgeon's visit to the US to replace the ones you had from over the weekend and send back to me for another look? Thanks!

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019

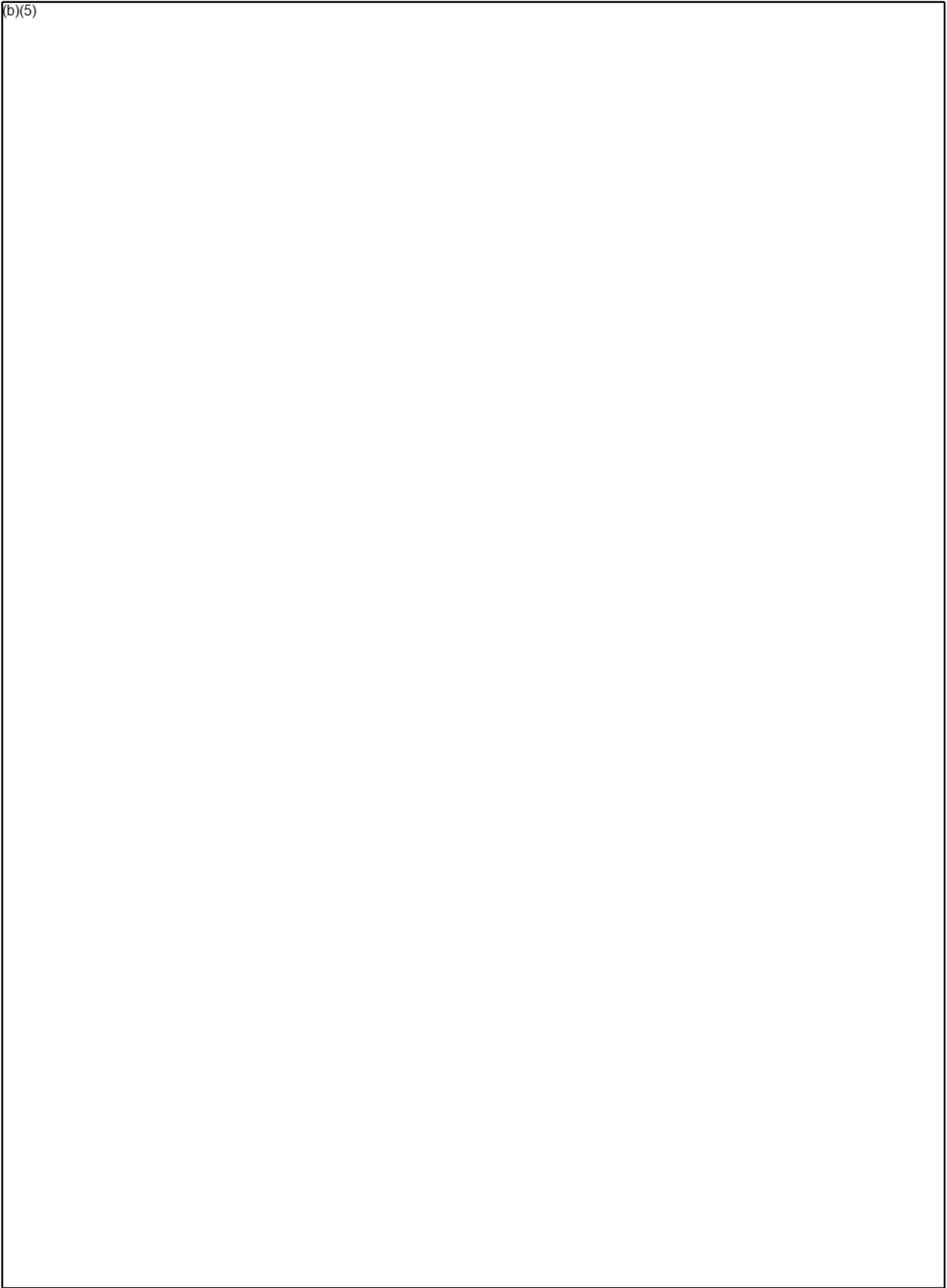
(b)(5)

Any edits?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/millionaire-american-minister-buys-15th-century-highland-castle-1-4866371>

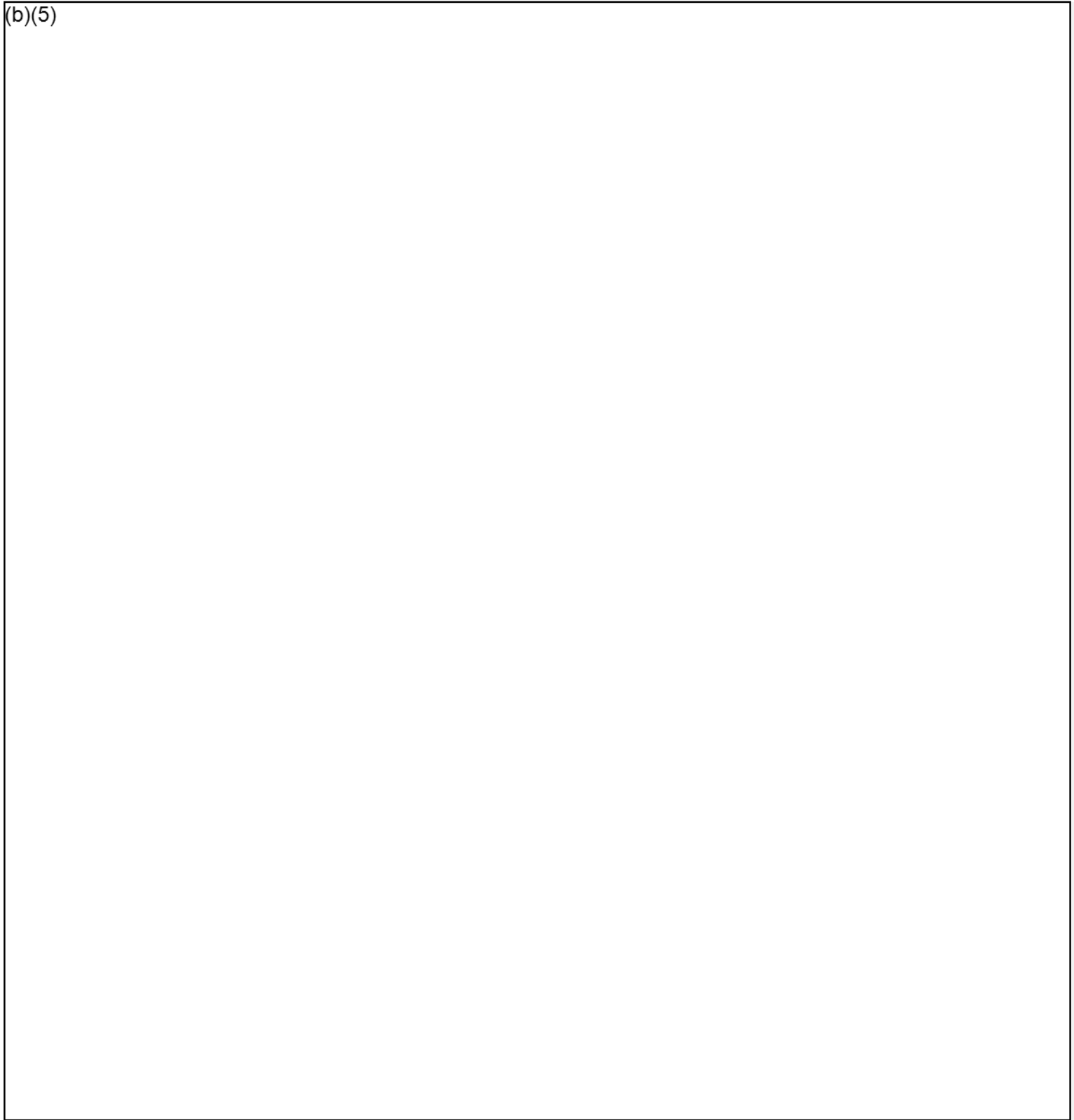
Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 30, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated February 26, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified 10 additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all 10 records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

Robert Johnson IV (b)(6)
 Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)

CC: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

Subject: Re:

Date: Sat, 14 Jul 2018 10:34:44 -0400

Ambassador- (b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: London, Twitter Updates <TwitterUpdates@state.gov>

Date: 14 July 2018 at 14:27:33 BST

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: FW:

From: Robert Johnson IV
 Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2018 2:24:28 PM (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
 To: London, Twitter Updates
 Subject:

We have to get the tweets going. This is the biggest week we've had yet. Nothing up yet. (b)(5)

(b)(5) Thank you

Sender: (b)(6)

Recipient: (b)(6)

	Johnson, Robert W (London)	(b)(6)	
	Austrian, Courtney E (London)	(b)(6)	

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
CC: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup
Date: Mon, 9 Sep 2019 13:58:51 +0000

Yes, (b)(5)

Best, (b)(6)

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:42 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

(b)(5)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 12:21 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

Thanks, (b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best (b)(6)

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 12:00 PM

To: (b)(6)
Cc: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

Hi (b)(6)

I wanted to check in with you to make sure you saw the list of media (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Thanks,
(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

Hi (b)(6)

I know you all are swamped with the VPOTUS visit, but I wanted to send the list of media that will be at the Solheim Cup. There will be a media tent at the event and we could easily schedule time for the Ambassador to do media engagement. (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Thanks,
(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 2:27 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

Hi (b)(6)

We're getting the list of press that are expected to be at the Solheim Cup. I imagine there might be a photo op of his meeting with the US team but we were not planning any interviews. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:36 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Austrian, Courtney E (London); (b)(6)
Subject: Amb Travel to Solheim Cup

Greeting from London,

I've replaced (b)(6) in London Press.

I'm checking on the Amb's travel to Edinburgh for the Solheim Cup to see if there are press components to this visit. Please advise.

Best, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Press Officer
U.S. Embassy London

(b)(6) Work
(b)(6) Mobile

(b)(6)

Unclassified

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Flagging 2 things
Date:	Mon, 28 Oct 2019 13:41:34 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

On the book, I don't recall seeing anything but would just ignore. The Ladybird books do send up explanatory books on everything from 'Brexit' to 'The Husband'. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

On the article, I would ignore for now but see if it gets any legs as far the airport deal goes.

(b)(6)

Director of Press, American Embassy London

Office (b)(6) | Mobile: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 1:33 PM

To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Flagging 2 things

Hi –

I wanted to flag 2 things and check if the second had also been sent to you.

First, another Martyn McLaughlin article came out over the weekend (our press clip below):

Trumps 'frustrated' by foreign projects ban (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump's most senior executive in the UK has said the Trump family is feeling frustrated at being unable to pursue "foreign investments" and overseas business opportunities, while also revealing that "everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book". Sarah Malone, executive vice president of Trump International Scotland, suggested that since assuming the presidency, Mr Trump's personal "liberties and freedoms" have been curtailed because he cannot visit his Scottish properties to play golf when he likes. Ms Malone made the comments at a rare public speaking engagement at a controversial evangelical church in Glasgow with ties to Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), which claims to be the world's biggest Christian television network. The event saw Ms Malone's husband, Damian Bates – a former newspaper editor who has dined with Mr Trump at the White House while researching a book about him – claim the president turned down a \$65 million (£50m) offer to film another series of The Apprentice in order to pursue his political career. Mr Bates also lashed out at media coverage of the

Trump administration, criticising the BBC and urging people to tune in to RT, the Russian government-funded broadcaster. In an address before an audience around 120-strong at destiny Church in Glasgow, Ms Malone said those who claim Mr Trump is profiting from his presidency had a “very crude”, “overly simplistic” and “ridiculous” mindset. “It’s frustrating for the family, because they’re business people, so the presidency is ... and also his liberties and his freedoms to be able to come and play golf when he wants,” she explained. She indicated her colleagues in the Trump Organisation would follow her husband’s lead and commit their experiences with Mr Trump to paper. “Everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book,” she said. “Everybody’s writing a book. Everybody’s writing a book about Trump whether they’re in the organisation or not.” At Thursday evening’s event, Mr Bates addressed the ongoing controversy surrounding the financial ties between the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Mr Trump’s nearby Turnberry resort, and the US Defence Department, the subject of an ongoing investigation by the US Congress. He said there was a “deal done” with the US government for military aircraft to stop at Prestwick, which offered the “cheapest” landing rates in Europe. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trumps-frustrated-at-inability-to-pursue-foreign-investment-deals-says-trump-org-executive-1-5033346>

Second, we got the attached press release and a copy of the book in the mail from Penguin Random House UK. Did the Embassy get it too? I’m a bit unclear why they sent it to us and don’t suppose there’s anything we need to/should do in response?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: INVITATION: Beyond London Ambassadorial Travel Planning Meeting
Date:	Fri, 28 Dec 2018 14:54:19 +0000

All,

The Ambassador reviewed and approved the attached list of proposed visits in the spring (as well as two longer-term trip). The dates for each trip are being held on the Ambassador's calendar, please let me know as soon as possible if you think that timing will not work for any reason.

I have include the lead section(s), please let me know when you have a control officer for the visit. Please work with other sections when setting the agenda (PA for press, POL for MPs or other political contacts, FCS for U.S. businesses, etc.). I'm including the suggested engagements, but those are guidelines only, I can work with the control officer on shaping and clearing a draft agenda. I can also work with the control officer early on regarding transportation, reporting, gifts, thank you notes, etc.

Thank you again for your input and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)

U.S. Embassy London
Executive Office - Staff Assistant

Phone (b)(6)

Email:

Dates	Location	Control	Engagements
(b)(5); (b)(6)			

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (London)
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 4:09 PM
To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: INVITATION: Beyond London Ambassadorial Travel Planning Meeting

All,

The DCM will chair a meeting to kick off planning the Ambassador’s Beyond London travel for the spring, on **Tuesday, December 11 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Superior Conference Room on the 8th floor. If you are not able to attend, please send someone to represent the section.

We will focus on January-April travel. Below, I have included the visits the Ambassador has already done, relevant dates in spring, as well as trips that have been proposed previously. Please come prepared to flesh out these proposed visits or make any other suggestions for locations, dates, hooks,

etc. (If possible, please send me an email with a quick summary of any proposed engagement by noon on Tuesday, and I will add it to our agenda.)

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

U.S. Embassy London
Executive Office - Staff Assistant

Phone: (b)(6)

Email:

Previous Visits

- Manchester (October 2017) Conservative Party Conference
- Belfast and Edinburgh (October 2017)
- Cambridge (November 2017) Remembrance Day
- Cardiff (November 2017)
- Portsmouth (December 2017) Queen Elizabeth Carrier Commissioning
- Cheltenham (January 2018) GCHQ
- Newcastle (January 2018) MLK
- Washington, DC (January 2018)
- Cardiff (March 2018)
- Edinburgh, Glasgow, Islay (May 3-4, 2018)
- Salisbury (May 9, 2018) Porton Down
- Germany (May 22-23, 2018) EUCOM
- Birmingham (June 7-8, 2018) BAB Gala
- Belfast (June 29, 2018) Independence Day
- RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall (July 2, 2018)
- Edinburgh (July 3, 2018) Independence Day
- Turnberry, Scotland (July 13-15) POTUS
- Farnborough (July 16, 2018) Air Show
- Leeds (July 25, 2018) Menwith Hill
- Aberdeen, Peterhead, Edinburgh (August 2-3, 2018) Fishing, Oil, Tattoo
- Lisbon (September 16-17, 2018) EUR COM Conference
- Dover & Ramsgate (September 25, 2018) Fishing, Port
- Birmingham (October 2-3, 2018) Conservative Party Conference
- DC & NYC (October 18-22, 2018) HMS QEII
- Sheffield & Selby (October 24-25, 2018) Boeing & Drax
- Brussels (October 29, 2018) USNATO & USEU
- Northwood (October 30, 2018) JFC
- Plymouth (November 16, 2018) USS New York
- Belfast (November 23, 2018) Hockey Tournament

Dates to Keep in Mind:

Jan. 1-2 (b)(6)

Jan. 16-18 Global COM Conference (DC)

Jan. 15, 22, 29 Possible State of the Union dates (DC)

Jan. 21 MLK Day (Newcastle?)

Jan. 31 DOE WH Reception (Hold)

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day WH Reception (Hold)

Feb. 16-23 (b)(6)

Feb. 18 President's Day

Feb. 25 Moelis WH Dinner (Hold)

Feb. 26 BAPG/BAB Dinner

Mar. 26 Getty WH Reception (Hold)

Mar. 29 Brexit Day

Apr. 3-24 Spring Term Break

Apr. 19 Good Friday

Apr. 22 Easter Monday

Apr. 29 USCGC Barque Eagle in Portsmouth

Proposed Trips:

- (b)(5)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)

(b)(6)

The Ambassador's Spring 2019 Beyond London Travel

Dates	Location	Control	Engagements
(b)(5); (b)(6)			

From:	(b)(6)	
To:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Prestwick articles	
Date:	Wed, 2 Oct 2019 09:40:44 +0000	

Found a couple more on Turnberry...

He's also got a whole section on his website, which may also do the trick:

<https://martynmclaughlin.com/donald-trump/>

Trump Turnberry resort singled out in airport's pitch to US military (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump's Turnberry resort is the only hotel named by Glasgow Prestwick Airport in promotional material distributed at private meetings with US military aircrews in an attempt to win their custom, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The document, prepared by the Scottish Government owned airport and handed out at 'closed' meetings with US Armed Forces personnel, emphasises the "five star" status of the US president's flagship Scottish property, even noting how it has been "newly refurbished." Two sources familiar with the gatherings said Prestwick staff also delivered presentations in which they offered to arrange rounds of golf at Turnberry for visiting US Air Force (USAF) crews as part of their layovers.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trump-turnberry-resort-singled-out-in-airport-s-pitch-to-us-military-1-5011598>

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<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trump-turnberry-resort-singled-out-in-airport-s-pitch-to-us-military-1-5011598>

US deal with Prestwick put on hold (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

A lucrative new US military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport has been put on hold amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and President Trump's flagship Scottish resort, *The Scotsman* can reveal. A US Defence Department agency has postponed a lucrative new military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny

on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and president Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Calls for Prestwick Airport's links with US military to end over Donald Trump 'corruption allegation' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

An influential committee in the US Congress has threatened the Pentagon with subpoenas unless it releases details of US military spending at President Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort. In a further twist to the growing scandal surrounding the US government, Trump Turnberry and the Scottish Government-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, the House Oversight Committee warned it would "consider alternative measures" if the US Defence Department did not disclose details of expenditure at Mr Trump's loss making South Ayrshire hotel and golf course. It comes as Scottish Greens co-leader, Patrick Harvie MSP, said the airport's dealings with the US military should be suspended, warning that otherwise the Scottish Government risked damaging the country's international reputation.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/calls-for-prestwick-airport-s-links-with-us-military-to-end-over-donald-trump-corruption-allegation-1-5001506>

Crackdown on US State Dept payments to Donald Trump's firms (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Donald Trump's loss making hotel and golf resorts in Scotland will no longer be allowed to receive payments from the US federal government, under a strict new law being brought forward in the US Congress. Politicians in a little-known House of Representatives sub-committee have voted to adopt an amendment that prevents the US State Department from spending taxpayers' money at the US president's properties, which remain in his ultimate ownership via a New York-based revocable trust. As revealed by *The Scotsman* last year, Mr Trump's flagship Scottish resort at Turnberry in South Ayrshire has received tens of thousands of pounds in payments from the State Department in the first two and a half years of his administration. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/crackdown-on-us-state-dept-payments-to-donald-trump-s-firms-1-4952396>

UK accused of 'sweetheart deal' with Donald Trump over Turnberry lighthouse (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump's flagship Scottish business is paying just £100 a month to a UK government public body to lease buildings at the world-famous Turnberry lighthouse, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The 19th century lighthouse, the centrepiece of the US president's loss making Trump Turnberry hotel and golf resort, houses what is billed as "one of the world's finest suites," the interiors of which are bedecked in marble, gold, and mahogany. While the Stevenson-designed lighthouse tower forms part of Trump Turnberry's corporate insignia, and features prominently in a range of Trump-branded golfing apparel, it is owned not by Mr Trump, but the Edinburgh-based Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), an executive non-departmental public body. In what has been described as a "sweetheart deal" which binds Scotland to the "toxic Trump brand," *The Scotsman* has learned that the NLB, which is responsible to the Department of Transport, has struck a lengthy lease deal with Mr Trump's company. It sees Trump Turnberry pay the NLB just £1,200 a year to rent a cluster of buildings at the B-listed lighthouse, rising to £1,440 a year once VAT is included. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-accused-of-sweetheart-deal-with-donald-trump-over-turnberry-lighthouse-1-4938289>

Scottish Government-owned Prestwick Airport paid £9m by Trump administration (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

The publicly-owned Prestwick Airport has received more than £9m from Donald Trump's administration in the past two years to refuel hundreds of US Armed Forces aircraft, an investigation by *The Scotsman* can reveal. The loss making state-owned hub, which was put up for sale earlier this month by the Scottish Government, has received close to 650 orders since October 2017 for jet fuel. Contract details drawn up by a US Defense Department agency indicate the deal could ultimately secure Prestwick's parent company an additional £8m, while a new contract is set to extend the arrangement until autumn 2024. The flurry of transactions - the equivalent of more than 35 a month - has reignited criticism of the SNP government for fostering close economic ties with the US military while publicly admonishing the president's character and his foreign policies.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-owned-prestwick-airport-paid-9m-by-trump-administration-1-4954141>

Donald Trump's Turnberry firm paid £11,000 by US State Department for rooms over summer (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Donald Trump's flagship Scottish hotel and golf course has received another five-figure windfall from his own government to cover accommodation costs at the loss making resort, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The US State Department authorised the payment, worth more than £11,000, for rooms at Trump Turnberry over the next three weeks.

It is the first such payment made by the US federal government to Mr Trump's struggling property in nearly a year, and comes amid growing unrest in the US Congress over the spending of US taxpayers' money at the president's companies.

Since Mr Trump entered office, the State Department has made at least four separate payments to Turnberry's corporate entity. The latest brings the total spend to more than £75,000.

Ethics watchdogs warned the American public was "effectively subsidising" Mr Trump's company, which has yet to turn a profit under his ownership, and said the 73-year-old was becoming "more and more brazen about using the presidency to advance his businesses."

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-s-turnberry-firm-paid-11-000-by-us-state-department-for-rooms-over-summer-1-4962105>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:14 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Prestwick articles

Maybe some of the previous ones too from Turnberry. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 10:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Prestwick articles

Here's some recent articles from Mclaughlin on Prestwick, if that works? Happy to dig out some more if you think it's worth it.

Trump Turnberry resort singled out in airport's pitch to US military (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump's Turnberry resort is the only hotel named by Glasgow Prestwick Airport in promotional material distributed at private meetings with US military aircrews in an attempt to win their custom, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The document, prepared by the Scottish Government owned airport and handed out at 'closed' meetings with US Armed Forces personnel, emphasises the "five star" status of the US president's flagship Scottish property, even noting how it has been "newly refurbished." Two sources familiar with the gatherings said Prestwick staff also delivered presentations in which they offered to arrange rounds of golf at Turnberry for visiting US Air Force (USAF) crews as part of their layovers. Amid growing scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic of US military payments and patronage of the beleaguered airport and Mr Trump's nearby loss making resort, both Prestwick and the Scottish Government have stressed that Turnberry is one of 13 hotels used to accommodate inbound US military aircrews, and that there is "no commercial relationship" between the airport and Mr Trump's firm. However, the pamphlet, widely distributed at the private meetings with aircrews, raises further questions over the relationship between Mr Trump's business and the airport, given the way it singles out Turnberry.

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<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Calls for Prestwick Airport's links with US military to end over Donald Trump 'corruption allegation' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

An influential committee in the US Congress has threatened the Pentagon with subpoenas unless it releases details of US military spending at President Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort. In a further twist to the growing scandal surrounding the US government, Trump Turnberry and the Scottish Government-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, the House Oversight Committee warned it would "consider alternative measures" if the US Defence Department did not disclose details of expenditure at Mr Trump's loss making South Ayrshire hotel and golf course. It comes as Scottish Greens co-leader, Patrick Harvie MSP, said the airport's dealings with the US military should be suspended, warning that otherwise the Scottish Government risked damaging the country's international reputation.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/calls-for-prestwick-airport-s-links-with-us-military-to-end-over-donald-trump-corruption-allegation-1-5001506>

Crackdown on US State Dept payments to Donald Trump's firms (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

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Scottish Government-owned Prestwick Airport paid £9m by Trump administration (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

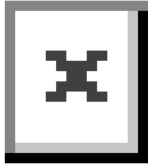
The publicly-owned Prestwick Airport has received more than £9m from Donald Trump's administration in the past two years to refuel hundreds of US Armed Forces aircraft, an investigation by *The Scotsman* can reveal. The loss making state-owned hub, which was put up for sale earlier this month by the Scottish Government, has received close to 650 orders since October 2017 for jet fuel. Contract details drawn up by a US Defense Department agency indicate the deal could ultimately secure Prestwick's parent company an additional £8m, while a new contract is set to extend the arrangement until autumn 2024. The flurry of transactions - the equivalent of more than 35 a month - has reignited criticism of the SNP government for fostering close economic ties with the US military while publicly admonishing the president's character and his foreign policies.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-owned-prestwick-airport-paid-9m-by-trump-administration-1-4954141>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:



Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)	
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press	
Date:	Tue, 10 Sep 2019 09:36:52 +0000	

Looks fine!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:36 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: rise up to prevent an undemocratic no-deal Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has urged voters to “rise up” against the government in a bid to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Labour former prime minister issued the rallying cry at an event in Glasgow last night as he accused Boris Johnson of leading a “xenophobic” administration. He said: “Here is a man [Mr Johnson] who when he faces a difficult challenge in parliament, he shuts it down. When he faces a difficult challenge with the law, he tries to break it. We the people have to stop him breaking the law.” Mr Brown addressed about 60 people in Gorbals parish church, where he said that further meetings across the country, including in Edinburgh, would aim to “marshal our forces” to stop “a government that is acting dictatorially and undemocratically”. The only example that he gave to push for a revolt was encouraging people to phone radio stations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-rise-up-to-prevent-an-undemocratic-no-deal-brexite-blql7hlc8>

Sacking Tory rebels will hurt party at the polls, Ruth Davidson warns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson has accused Boris Johnson of alienating Remain voters by sacking 21 rebel Tory MPs. Ms Davidson, who quit as Scottish Conservative leader last month, said that expelling senior Conservatives including the former chancellors Philip Hammond and Ken Clarke would hurt the party's election hopes. She rejected claims that it would enforce discipline. Rory Stewart, a former international development secretary, also had the whip withdrawn. “These weren't MPs who lacked discipline. They weren't serial rebels; in fact, this vote was the first time some of them had broken the whip in their careers,” Ms Davidson wrote in the London Evening Standard, which is edited by the former Tory chancellor George Osborne.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sacking-tory-rebels-will-hurt-party-at-the-polls-ruth-davidson-warns-wlc3qsdbk>

Op-ed: Scots are right to be suspicious of Boris Johnson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

For a while now, but more and more frequently since July, friends, colleagues and correspondents from parts south of Berwick have taken to asking me this question: why is Boris Johnson so unpopular in Scotland? It is a good question and one worth taking seriously. First, the facts. Mr Johnson really is unpopular north of the border. According to last week's YouGov poll for *The Times*, two thirds of Scottish voters think Mr Johnson an untrustworthy individual and a further 14 per cent don't know if he can be trusted or not. Even among Tory voters, only 53 per cent think he's trustworthy, and overall only one in four Scottish voters think Mr Johnson is doing a spiffing job as prime minister. No wonder our poll suggested the Tories might lose 80 per cent of their Scottish seats if there were an election soon.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-are-right-to-be-suspicious-of-boris-johnson-5pxlf5chk>

Ban marches, urges former lord provost Michael Kelly (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Public marches belong in the 19th century and should be banned, a former lord provost of Glasgow claimed as it emerged that a dozen republican and loyalist processions are planned in the city this month. Michael Kelly spoke out after rival factions clashed in Glasgow for the second week in a row. A huge police operation was undertaken at the weekend at a republican march in the city in which an officer was injured and 11 people arrested, including a boy aged 14.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ban-marches-urges-former-lord-provost-michael-kelly-fj5bwzvm>

Trump Turnberry: US Air Force to review Scotland resort stays (BBC News) POL/ECON

The US Air Force (USAF) has ordered a review of its guidance on overnight accommodation for flight crews. It has emerged that some personnel have been staying at one of President Donald Trump's Scottish golf resorts. There has been an increase in the number of US military flights stopping at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, near the resort, since he took office. A US congressional committee is investigating Mr Trump for a potential conflict of interest over the matter.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49633936>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:02 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina

Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtdhl>

Saved in the States (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to "stand up for Scotland's opposition to Brexit". She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not "stomach" Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson's interim replacement. He used first minister's questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brexit-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood's battle over EU (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: "When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?" and "Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?" For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland's answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a "playground". Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote's claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were "prejudiced and racist" because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting location shoots in Edinburgh was "revenue neutral", with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbg9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines "kill all the birds". The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? I don't think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it's worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks "inadvertently" breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brex-it-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood's power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a "counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood". The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for 'retrograde' referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a "very clear" retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick,

deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and “should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny”. He said: “The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. “Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there.” Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood’s Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid’s announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a oneyear spending review that he claimed was “turning the page on austerity”. Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the S NP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and “conspiring to end devolution as we know it”. It came as part of a preelection spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health, schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

No link

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can’t get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won’t deal with it and (b)(6) didn’t know – I might try (b)(6)
 Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May’s Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for The Times suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be “a bonus and not the basis” of the economic case for independence. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland’s continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote “no” again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that “no” votes outnumbered “yes”. On average, once “don’t knows” were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote “yes”, little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM

To (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move, and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power". Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolffe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for ‘genuinely conflicted’ Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was “genuinely conflicted” over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the “dreaded” prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for *The Mail* on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had “been a long time coming”, with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could “already tell my heart was no longer in the job” and the “fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become dimmed”. Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson’s maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexit-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told *The Sunday Times* that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like “a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . .” We have to go “full throttle”, he said, “put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor”. He sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let’s try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)

EUR-WE-UK-DL EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov

London Press Office LondonPressOffice@state.gov

LondonPol LondonPol@state.gov

LondonEcon LondonEcon@state.gov

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by

Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (*The Scottish Sun*, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald, Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869349.snp-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made

on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost 67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the 2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexite-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM
 To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)
 Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST
 To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST, (b)(6) (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown

A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britain needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown's caring union? Otherwise looks good and (b)(6) could you send it out today?

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)

Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BST

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

To: (b)(6)

How's this?

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, "the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland," Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too “lazy” to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and “thought they would win without a fight”. He said: “They didn’t put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that’s why we are in this position.” It was a highly unusual breach of the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a “Plan B” when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was “hastily written, almost whimsically so”, and said it had been “utterly inappropriate” for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party’s mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary’s position. Delegates to the party’s autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK’s relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon’s government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about (b)(5)
(b)(5) – maybe
add those?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year's Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: "I could have done with another hour of that." Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson's vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood's northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP's MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It's a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow's consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was "quite amazed" that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway's bilateral trade with Russia as being worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner. After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsefov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in Me, You, Madness (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film Me, You, Madness, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and

saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'. "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (*The Daily Record, circulation 137,000, liberal*) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the experience as an "honour". He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist*) POL

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland's most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell's intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood's arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist*) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country's most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called "staycations", with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I've missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon's plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon's Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording "regardless" of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its "important" role in ensuring that a referendum question is "intelligible". It wrote: "The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to "make sure that you support Simon in this next election". He said: "I've known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He's devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament." The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a "BIG ENDORSEMENT". However at

the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O'Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: "What sort of person are you?" Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. "Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not," he said, before continuing, "But here's a puzzle. As a Scot, that's exactly the sort of person you are." Just in case you weren't sure who these "other people" were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. "It's a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized possessions then walking back out again," Mr Sillars said. "And you're powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn't it?" Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack 'full cost analysis' despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn't know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have "a full cost analysis", despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson's to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:

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Sender:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Wed, 18 Sep 2019 08:52:31 +0000

I haven't seen, but let me take a look!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5)

(b)(5) I reordered slightly

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:45 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this? I added in the Willie Rennie indy article too...

Poll - majority of Scots will vote "remain in the UK" (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A majority of Scots would vote to stay in the UK in a fresh independence referendum, new polling indicates. The survey by the Scotland in Union organisation found 59% would vote to remain, while 41% would back independence. But the findings were dismissed by the SNP Deputy leader Keith Brown who claimed the question was "rigged." It comes on the fifth anniversary of the independence referendum of 2014 - but uses a different question to the one posed five years ago. Instead of "Should Scotland be an Independent Country?", it asks "Should Scotland remain in the United Kingdom or leave the United Kingdom?" Most polls recently have indicated that opinion among Scots was split down the middle in the independence issue.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-independence-poll-majority-of-scots-will-vote-remain-in-the-uk-1-5005983>

How has Scotland changed since the indyref? (BBC News) POL

Five years have passed since the Scottish independence referendum. BBC Scotland looks at how the country's politics has changed since then, and how likely we are to do it all again. Where were you on 18 September, 2014? If you're a Scot over the age of 16, there's an 84.59% chance you were in a polling

station at some point, ticking Yes or No on the question of independence. When those ballot papers were counted up, the No pile was bigger by 55% to 45% - but that was just the beginning of the story. Wherever you were that day, it's unlikely you would have predicted where we would all be five years later, with the UK seemingly jammed halfway out the exit door of the EU and the question of Scotland's part in it decidedly unresolved.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49726825>

Willie Rennie vows to halt indyref2 'dead in its tracks' (BBC News) POL

The Scottish Liberal Democrat leader has pledged to stop indyref2 "dead in its tracks" even if pro independence parties win a majority in Scotland. Willie Rennie also said his party would stop Brexit and ruled out future coalitions with Labour or the Tories. His comments follow those of UK party leader Jo Swinson who said the Lib Dems would be the "stop Brexit party". First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said she wants to have another vote on leaving the UK in 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49706904>

Turn Palace of Holyroodhouse into Scottish House of Lords, urges Green MSP Andy Wightman (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The royal family should relinquish the Palace of Holyroodhouse so it can be converted into Scotland's answer to the House of Lords, a politician and land reformer has said. On the fifth anniversary of the 2014 referendum, in which 55 per cent of Scots voted to stay part of the UK, Andy Wightman, a Green MSP, has outlined a radical vision for the future. Part of his plan involves using the 17th-century royal residence, which was completed during the reign of Charles II. "The Palace of Holyroodhouse is ideally situated to host an elected second parliamentary chamber which will no doubt be needed to assist with scrutiny of the considerable additional administrative responsibilities that an independent Scotland would take on," Mr Wightman said. The Greens' popularity increased after campaigning for Scottish independence but the party has been criticised for being too close to the SNP and focusing more on the constitution than the environment.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-palace-of-holyroodhouse-into-scottish-house-of-lords-urges-green-msp-andy-wightman-qkl8h5r8j>

Op-ed: Jeremy Corbyn may be crucial to saving the Union (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Union is doomed. Or so you might think given the tone of some Brexit commentary of late, including my own. And yet a question is being dodged by those who want to see the United Kingdom stay united. They dodge it because it makes them queasy. The question is this: can socialism save the Union? You can understand why, especially for those on the centre-right, this is a tricky one. If there is truth in the notion that a Jeremy Corbyn government would halt the break-up of Britain, it presents them with a fiendish dilemma. What do they esteem more, their conservatism or their unionism?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jeremy-corbyn-may-be-crucial-to-saving-the-union-rx768g9ms>

Scottish group fined over donations to Tories (BBC News) POL

A Scottish group which gave money to the Conservative Party has been fined £1,800 by the Electoral Commission for not reporting donations properly. The Scottish Unionist Association Trust gave hundreds of thousands of pounds to the party over a period of 17 years. These donations were reported by the Conservatives, but a probe found SUAT "consistently failed to provide proper notification" to the election watchdog. The group has accepted the Commission's findings and paid the fines. An investigation by the Ferret website previously found that the SUAT donated £318,876 to the Conservatives between April 2001 and February 2018.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49726822>

Senior judges to hear Wings Over Scotland appeal (BBC News) POL

Senior judges are to hear an appeal by a prominent pro-independence blogger who lost his legal case against former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale. Stuart Campbell of the Wings Over Scotland blog accused Ms Dugdale of defamation after she claimed he had sent "homophobic tweets". A sheriff ruled in Ms Dugdale's favour after a hearing earlier this year. Mr Campbell has now been given permission to appeal to the Inner House of the Court of Session. The case was referred to the Court of Session after the Sheriff Appeal Court in Edinburgh agreed to a request by Mr Campbell's QC, Craig Sandison.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49729743>

Exxonmobil invests £140m after local tempers flare (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

A £140 million plan to reduce flaring and improve infrastructure at an ethylene plant in Fife has been announced by Exxonmobil. The oil and gas company said that the work over the next two years would support about 850 construction jobs and benefit 40 suppliers. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) began a formal investigation into the Mossmorran plant in April after hundreds of complaints from people living near by about a chemical smell and rumbling noise. Exxonmobil said that some of the investment would go toward technologies that reduced the impact of flaring, which would reduce noise and vibration. It also plans to upgrade infrastructure to "improve operational reliability and performance". Jacob McAlister, the plant manager, said: "We are committed to the highest operational and regulatory standards."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/exxonmobil-invests-140m-after-local-tempers-flare-r533l3x5n>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

From: (b)(6)
Date: 12 September 2019 at 09:44:58 BST
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Labour scrambles to recruit candidates for half of Scottish seats (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Labour is struggling to find candidates to fight a snap election with vacancies for more than half of the country's seats. There are no prospective parliamentary candidates for 33 seats in Scotland and

party bosses are pressing local activists to put their names forward. Labour is always expected to field candidates in the 59 Scottish constituencies represented at Westminster. The party has been forced to extend a deadline for applications. Vacant seats include East Renfrewshire, which was once held by Jim Murphy as Scottish Labour leader, as well as both Aberdeen constituencies and two in Dundee.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-scrambles-to-recruit-candidates-for-half-of-scottish-seats-2whm3x3n3>

Pledge Citizens' Assembly will be independent of Government (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Controversial plans for a Citizens' Assembly in Scotland have been backed by MSPs at Holyrood with Constitution Secretary Mike Russell insisting it will be independent of Government. But the move came under fire from opposition parties who branded the proposal a "ruse" to press the case for independence. MSPs voted in favour of the Assembly which will be headed up by former Labour MEP David Martin and co-convenor Kate Wimpess, the third sector leader. The Assembly has been tasked with looking at the kind of country we are seeking to build in Scotland, how the country can best overcome the challenges it faces and the information required to allow Scots make "informed choices about the future of Scotland."

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/pledge-citizens-assembly-will-be-independent-of-government-1-5002648>

US deal with Prestwick put on hold (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

A lucrative new US military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport has been put on hold amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and President Trump's flagship Scottish resort, *The Scotsman* can reveal. A US Defence Department agency has postponed a lucrative new military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and president Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Royal Navy Type 31 frigate order goes to Babcock (BBC News) ECON

The race to design and build a new generation of Royal Navy frigates has been won by a consortium led by Babcock. The firm has been named preferred bidder for the £1.25bn contract for five Type 31 warships. The deal secures hundreds of jobs at Rosyth in Fife, where the ships will be assembled, with construction work spread between yards across the UK. Work is to begin by the end of 2019, with the first ships delivered in 2023. The Type 31 is a smaller, cheaper frigate than the Type 26 warships currently being built at the Upper Clyde shipyards.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49670332>

Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge: How likely is it to be built? (BBC News) POL/ECON

Reports have resurfaced that a bridge from Scotland to Northern Ireland is being considered by the UK government. Channel 4 News said it had seen documents showing that the Treasury and Department for Transport had been asked for advice on possible costs and risks. The idea has been floated before with two potential routes suggested - from Portpatrick to Larne or near Campbeltown to the Antrim coast.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49661019>

41% of Scots want to bring back death penalty (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Since the hangman tied his last noose 56 years ago Scotland has taken a more progressive approach to justice. But while liberal experts trumpet our politicians' embrace of rehabilitation, it appears that many Scots harbour more old-fashioned attitudes to crime and punishment. A YouGov poll of 1,059 Scots for The Times has found that 41 per cent of the population — 1.8 million people — would reintroduce the death penalty for murderers. Those who continue to oppose capital punishment polled only slightly higher at 44 per cent, with 15 per cent unsure.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/41-of-scots-want-to-bring-back-death-penalty-tfs7ws7qr>

Five Glasgow marches banned over sectarian disorder fears (BBC News) POL

Five marches planned for this weekend have been banned by Glasgow City Council after an emergency meeting. It follows violent sectarian disturbances at similar events over the past two weekends. Four Loyalist parades and an Irish Republican march planned for Saturday and Sunday will not be allowed to go ahead due to the threat of trouble. The decision was taken by an urgently arranged meeting of Glasgow City Council's Public Processions Committee. In what has been described as an unprecedented move, council officials recommended that all five processions this weekend be prohibited.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49661504>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Only thing I'd flag are 2 opeds in the Scotsman about Trump – I can't open the articles bc I'm having problems with the Scotsman so don't know the content...

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:19 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Big one today! Anything I've missed?

Court to rule over Parliament shutdown appeal (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court is to again rule on whether or not Boris Johnson's suspension of the UK Parliament is legal. A judge at the Court of Session last week rejected an attempt by a cross-party group of politicians to have the suspension declared unlawful. They appealed to the court's Inner House, with a panel of three judges being asked to overturn the decision. The panel is expected to deliver its ruling on Wednesday. Parliament was officially suspended for five weeks - a process known as proroguing - in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with MPs not due back until 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49655301>

No-deal Brexit ‘would cost economy £9bn and double joblessness’ (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Unemployment would almost double in Scotland under a no-deal Brexit, the country’s leading economic think tank has warned. The Fraser of Allander Institute said Bank of England projections would see the country face a £9 billion hit to its economy and “significant” job losses. Sajid Javid, the chancellor, unveiled an extra £2 billion for no-deal Brexit planning last week. The Scottish government has used some of its share of the funding for the storage of extra drugs and medical supplies, including increased stocks of body bags. Despite revised estimates downgrading the potential economic impact, the respected think tank warned that the consequences would be similar to those in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brexit-would-cost-economy-9bn-and-double-joblessness-vdpjwq7rm>

‘No need to reword vote on secession’ (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Changing the wording of the question voters would be asked if there were another independence referendum would be “confusing”, the Scottish constitutional relations secretary has said. Mike Russell said there was a “clarity and consistency” to having the same wording as in the 2014 ballot, when people were asked: “Should Scotland be an independent country?” He said because this question was “still current” there was no need for the Electoral Commission to test it if there were another referendum next year, as Nicola Sturgeon has proposed. The commission has made clear that it “firmly recommends” it should give its “views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question”, regardless of whether it has previously done so.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-need-to-reword-vote-on-secession-2npgr5jvn>

MP Lisa Cameron missing from SNP election list after row over abortion (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An SNP MP who faced a “smear campaign” over her opposition to lifting Northern Ireland’s abortion ban is the only party candidate not to have been approved for a snap general election. Lisa Cameron’s political future was in doubt last night as SNP members were given 48 hours to choose whether they want sitting MPs to fight a probable November poll or whether an internal selection should take place. An email was sent from Angus MacLeod, the party’s national secretary, to members represented by an SNP MP on Monday containing a poll by SurveyMonkey, the online survey. People had the option to reselect their MP or to mark their preference for an open contest, which would be triggered if more than 20 per cent of respondents want a challenger to stand against the MP. Responses must be given by 6pm today.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mp-lisa-cameron-missing-from-snp-election-list-after-row-over-abortion-83lj9qxzz>

Scottish Conservative MP Bill Grant to stand down at election (BBC News) POL

A Scottish Conservative MP has announced he will stand down at the next general election. Bill Grant won the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock seat in 2017 after overturning a large SNP majority. But he said he would not be seeking re-election whenever the next general election is called. In a letter to his local Conservative association, Mr Grant said it had always been his intention to serve just one term in Parliament.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49650206>

**Glasgow to host world leaders for critical climate summit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL/ECON**

About 200 world leaders and up to 30,000 delegates will converge on Glasgow next year for a UN climate change summit, it was announced last night. President Putin, Angela Merkel and President Macron are among those expected to attend. COP26, or the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change convention, has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement in 2015. It will be held at the Scottish Events Campus in Glasgow in November or December after a successful UK bid to host the event. The main summit is in the UK, while Italy has agreed to put on preparatory events. The Scottish government joined MSPs and environmental activists in welcoming the news, describing their delight that the “fight back against the climate emergency will begin in Glasgow”.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-to-host-world-leaders-for-critical-climate-summit-vrbchsln0>

**Court threat over President Trump’s Turnberry hotel stays (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL/ECON**

Senior US congressmen have demanded documents from the Department of Defense as they investigate claims that President Trump is profiting from military use of his Ayrshire golf resort. The Trump administration has faced allegations of corruption since it was revealed that US Air Force personnel stayed at Turnberry during stopovers to refuel at Prestwick airport near by. The House of Representatives committee on oversight and reform wants a full breakdown of expenditure on rooms at the resort and has threatened defence officials with court summons. A report from the currency exchange company FairFX revealed that rates at the hotel have varied hugely since Mr Trump took office.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/court-threat-over-president-trumps-turnberry-hotel-stays-w5bp3fgph>

Glasgow march violence 'stain on city's reputation', says minister (BBC News) POL

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has said the people of Glasgow have had enough of marches that lead to "sectarian violence" on their streets. Mr Yousaf said the vast majority of the city's population viewed the trouble stemming from the marches as a "stain" on the city's reputation. The minister was responding to a topical question at Holyrood after a second weekend of disorder. He said the city council was looking at ways of reducing the number of marches. On Saturday, a police officer was injured as two Irish Republican marches and counter-demonstrations were held in Glasgow.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49651139>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:36 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: rise up to prevent an undemocratic no-deal Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has urged voters to “rise up” against the government in a bid to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Labour former prime minister issued the rallying cry at an event in Glasgow last night as he accused Boris Johnson of leading a “xenophobic” administration. He said: “Here is a man [Mr Johnson] who when he faces a difficult challenge in parliament, he shuts it down. When he faces a difficult challenge with the law, he tries to break it. We the people have to stop him breaking the law.” Mr Brown addressed about 60 people in Gorbals parish church, where he said that further meetings across the country, including in Edinburgh, would aim to “marshal our forces” to stop “a government that is acting dictatorially and undemocratically”. The only example that he gave to push for a revolt was encouraging people to phone radio stations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-rise-up-to-prevent-an-undemocratic-no-deal-brex-it-blql7h1k8>

Sacking Tory rebels will hurt party at the polls, Ruth Davidson warns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson has accused Boris Johnson of alienating Remain voters by sacking 21 rebel Tory MPs. Ms Davidson, who quit as Scottish Conservative leader last month, said that expelling senior Conservatives including the former chancellors Philip Hammond and Ken Clarke would hurt the party’s election hopes. She rejected claims that it would enforce discipline. Rory Stewart, a former international development secretary, also had the whip withdrawn. “These weren’t MPs who lacked discipline. They weren’t serial rebels; in fact, this vote was the first time some of them had broken the whip in their careers,” Ms Davidson wrote in the London Evening Standard, which is edited by the former Tory chancellor George Osborne.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sacking-tory-rebels-will-hurt-party-at-the-polls-ruth-davidson-warns-wlc3qsdbk>

Op-ed: Scots are right to be suspicious of Boris Johnson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

For a while now, but more and more frequently since July, friends, colleagues and correspondents from parts south of Berwick have taken to asking me this question: why is Boris Johnson so unpopular in Scotland? It is a good question and one worth taking seriously. First, the facts. Mr Johnson really is unpopular north of the border. According to last week’s YouGov poll for The Times, two thirds of Scottish voters think Mr Johnson an untrustworthy individual and a further 14 per cent don’t know if he can be trusted or not. Even among Tory voters, only 53 per cent think he’s trustworthy, and overall only one in four Scottish voters think Mr Johnson is doing a spiffing job as prime minister. No wonder our poll suggested the Tories might lose 80 per cent of their Scottish seats if there were an election soon.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-are-right-to-be-suspicious-of-boris-johnson-5pxlf5chk>

Ban marches, urges former lord provost Michael Kelly (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Public marches belong in the 19th century and should be banned, a former lord provost of Glasgow claimed as it emerged that a dozen republican and loyalist processions are planned in the city this month. Michael Kelly spoke out after rival factions clashed in Glasgow for the second week in a row. A huge police operation was undertaken at the weekend at a republican march in the city in which an officer was injured and 11 people arrested, including a boy aged 14.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ban-marches-urges-former-lord-provost-michael-kelly-fj5bwzvmd>

Trump Turnberry: US Air Force to review Scotland resort stays (BBC News) POL/ECON

The US Air Force (USAF) has ordered a review of its guidance on overnight accommodation for flight crews. It has emerged that some personnel have been staying at one of President Donald Trump's Scottish golf resorts. There has been an increase in the number of US military flights stopping at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, near the resort, since he took office. A US congressional committee is investigating Mr Trump for a potential conflict of interest over the matter.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49633936>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:02 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr

Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtadh>

Saved in the States (The Sunday Post, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the

PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to “stand up for Scotland’s opposition to Brexit”. She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not “stomach” Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson’s interim replacement. He used first minister’s questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brex-it-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood’s battle over EU (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: “When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?” and “Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?” For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland’s answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a “playground”. Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote’s claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were “prejudiced and racist” because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting location shoots in Edinburgh was “revenue neutral”, with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbq9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines “kill all the birds”. The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this? I don’t think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it’s worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks “inadvertently” breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence

was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brexits-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood's power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a "counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood". The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for 'retrograde' referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a "very clear" retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick, deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and "should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny". He said: "The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. "Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there." Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood's Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid's announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a one-year spending review that he claimed was "turning the page on austerity". Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the SNP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and "conspiring to end devolution as we know it". It came as part of a pre-election spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health, schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political

crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

No link

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can't get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won't deal with it and (b)(6) didn't know – I might try (b)(6)
 Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May's Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for *The Times* suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be “a bonus and not the basis” of the economic case for independence.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland's continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote “no” again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that “no” votes outnumbered “yes”. On average, once “don't knows” were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote “yes”, little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM

To (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move, and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power".

Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolfe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for 'genuinely conflicted' Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was "genuinely conflicted" over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the "dreaded" prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for *The Mail* on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had "been a long time coming", with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could "already tell my heart was no longer in the job" and the "fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become dimmed". Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson's maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexit-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told *The Sunday Times* that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like "a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . ." We have to go "full throttle", he said, "put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor". He

sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let's try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)

EUR-WE-UK-DL EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov

London Press Office LondonPressOffice@state.gov

LondonPol LondonPol@state.gov

LondonEcon LondonEcon@state.gov

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to

replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (*The Scottish Sun*, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald, Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith

Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869349.snps-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost 67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the

2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexit-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only

overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four

months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST, (b)(6) (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown

A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britian needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown’s caring union? Otherwise looks good and (b)(6) could you send it out today?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BST
Subject: RE: Scotland Press
To: (b)(6)

How’s this?

Citizens’ assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, *centrist*) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country’s constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens’ assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens’ assembly to debate

issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasma Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasma Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasma-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18

months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down “in all foreseeable circumstances”.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, “the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland,” Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too “lazy” to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and “thought they would win without a fight”. He said: “They didn’t put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that’s why we are in this position.” It was a highly unusual breach of the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a “Plan B” when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor

Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was “hastily written, almost whimsically so”, and said it had been “utterly inappropriate” for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party’s mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary’s position. Delegates to the party’s autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

**Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL**

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK’s relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon’s government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM
To (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about (b)(5)
 (b)(5) - maybe
 add those?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is

warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year’s Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: “I could have done with another hour of that.” Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson’s vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood’s northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP’s MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It’s a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow’s consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was “quite amazed” that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway’s bilateral trade with Russian as being

worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner. After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsepov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in *Me, You, Madness* (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film *Me, You, Madness*, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
 Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'. "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (*The Daily Record*, circulation 137,000, liberal) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the experience as an "honour". He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland's most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell's intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood's arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country's most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called "staycations", with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I've missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon's plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon's Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording "regardless" of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its "important" role in ensuring that a referendum question is "intelligible". It wrote: "The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to "make sure that you support Simon in this next election". He said: "I've known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He's devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament." The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a "BIG ENDORSEMENT". However at the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O'Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: "What sort of person are you?" Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. "Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not," he said, before continuing, "But here's a puzzle. As a Scot, that's exactly the sort of person you are." Just in case you weren't sure who these "other people" were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. "It's a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized possessions then walking back out again," Mr Sillars said. "And you're powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn't it?" Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack 'full cost analysis' despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn't know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have "a full cost analysis", despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson's to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:

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Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Mon, 9 Sep 2019 09:31:30 +0000

Cool, will do! Thanks!

Unclassified

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Monday, September 9, 2019 10:12 AM
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press

Let's use this article instead:

Fore! Ministers duck conflict over US military spending at Turnberry

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/fore-ministers-duck-conflict-over-us-military-spending-at-turnberry-xn7ht7mdp>

And let's add (b)(5)

Mcdonnell: Indyref2 'not a priority' for Labour (Herald)

A SECOND independence referendum would "not be a priority" for a Labour government, and would require a fresh mandate, John Mcdonnell has said.

The Shadow chancellor said tackling climate change and austerity would come ahead of the constitution, and insisted Labour had made "no deals whatsoever" with the SNP.

Mr Mcdonnell last month startled Scottish Labour by saying a Labour government would not block Indyref2 if Holyrood wanted it, despite Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard saying it should.

Mr Mcdonnell yesterday stood by his comment, but added: "I don't think there should be another referendum, I think Scotland should stay united within the UK. It would not be a priority for us. We've got enough to deal with, with climate change, austerity, etc.

Sectarian marches under threat after officer hurt

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sectarian-marches-under-threat-after-officer-hurt-2337lbmd5>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 10:02 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtdhl>

Saved in the States (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to “stand up for Scotland’s opposition to Brexit”. She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not “stomach” Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson’s interim replacement. He used first minister’s questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brexit-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood’s battle over EU (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: “When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?” and “Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?” For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland’s answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a “playground”.

Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote's claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were "prejudiced and racist" because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting location shoots in Edinburgh was "revenue neutral", with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbg9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines "kill all the birds". The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? I don't think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it's worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks “inadvertently” breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brex-it-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood’s power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland’s seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a “counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood”. The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation’s conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for ‘retrograde’ referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a “very clear” retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick, deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and “should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny”. He said: “The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. “Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there.” Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood’s Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid’s announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a one-year spending review that he claimed was “turning the page on austerity”. Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the SNP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and “conspiring to end devolution as we know it”. It came as part of a pre-election spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health,

schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

No link

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can't get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won't deal with it and (b)(6) didn't know – I might try (b)(6)?
 Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May's Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for *The Times* suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be “a bonus and not the basis” of the economic case for independence.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland's continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote “no” again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that “no” votes outnumbered “yes”. On average, once “don't knows” were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote “yes”, little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move, and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The

Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power". Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolffe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for 'genuinely conflicted' Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was "genuinely conflicted" over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the "dreaded" prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for *The Mail* on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had "been a long time coming", with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could "already tell my heart was no longer in the job" and the "fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become dimmed". Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson's maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexit-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told *The Sunday Times* that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like "a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . ." We have

to go “full throttle”, he said, “put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor”. He sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let's try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)

EUR-WE-UK-DL EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov

London Press Office LondonPressOffice@state.gov

LondonPol LondonPol@state.gov

LondonEcon LondonEcon@state.gov

(U) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.
<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (*The Scottish Sun*, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald,

Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869349.snps-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost

67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the 2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexit-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer

with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted

permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

 Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST, (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown
A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britain needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown’s caring union? Otherwise looks good and (b)(6) could you send it out today?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BST
Subject: RE: Scotland Press
To: (b)(6)

How’s this?

Citizens’ assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country’s constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens’ assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens’ assembly to debate

issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasma Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasma Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasma-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18

months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down “in all foreseeable circumstances”.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, “the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland,” Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too “lazy” to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and “thought they would win without a fight”. He said: “They didn’t put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that’s why we are in this position.” It was a highly unusual breach of the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a “Plan B” when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor

Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was “hastily written, almost whimsically so”, and said it had been “utterly inappropriate” for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party’s mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary’s position. Delegates to the party’s autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

**Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL**

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK’s relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon’s government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about (b)(5)
 (b)(5) - maybe
 add those?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is

warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year’s Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: “I could have done with another hour of that.” Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson’s vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood’s northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP’s MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It’s a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow’s consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was “quite amazed” that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway’s bilateral trade with Russian as being

worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner. After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsepov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in *Me, You, Madness* (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film *Me, You, Madness*, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'. "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (*The Daily Record*, circulation 137,000, liberal) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the experience as an "honour". He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland's most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell's intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood's arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country's most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called "staycations", with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I've missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon's plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon's Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording "regardless" of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its "important" role in ensuring that a referendum question is "intelligible". It wrote: "The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to "make sure that you support Simon in this next election". He said: "I've known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He's devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament." The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a "BIG ENDORSEMENT". However at the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O'Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: "What sort of person are you?" Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. "Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not," he said, before continuing, "But here's a puzzle. As a Scot, that's exactly the sort of person you are." Just in case you weren't sure who these "other people" were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. "It's a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized possessions then walking back out again," Mr Sillars said. "And you're powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn't it?" Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack 'full cost analysis' despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn't know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have "a full cost analysis", despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson's to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Wed, 11 Sep 2019 08:41:50 +0000

Good spot – I’ve added those in! Will send.

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Only thing I’d flag are 2 opeds in the Scotsman about Trump – I can’t open the articles bc I’m having problems with the Scotsman so don’t know the content...

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:19 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Big one today! Anything I’ve missed?

Court to rule over Parliament shutdown appeal (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court is to again rule on whether or not Boris Johnson's suspension of the UK Parliament is legal. A judge at the Court of Session last week rejected an attempt by a cross-party group of politicians to have the suspension declared unlawful. They appealed to the court's Inner House, with a panel of three judges being asked to overturn the decision. The panel is expected to deliver its ruling on Wednesday. Parliament was officially suspended for five weeks - a process known as proroguing - in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with MPs not due back until 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49655301>

No-deal Brexit ‘would cost economy £9bn and double joblessness’ (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Unemployment would almost double in Scotland under a no-deal Brexit, the country’s leading economic think tank has warned. The Fraser of Allander Institute said Bank of England projections would see the country face a £9 billion hit to its economy and “significant” job losses. Sajid Javid, the chancellor, unveiled an extra £2 billion for no-deal Brexit planning last week. The Scottish government has used some of its share of the funding for the storage of extra drugs and medical supplies, including increased stocks of body bags. Despite revised estimates downgrading the potential economic impact, the respected think tank warned that the consequences would be similar to those in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brex-it-would-cost-economy-9bn-and-double-joblessness-vdpjwq7rm>

'No need to reword vote on secession' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Changing the wording of the question voters would be asked if there were another independence referendum would be "confusing", the Scottish constitutional relations secretary has said. Mike Russell said there was a "clarity and consistency" to having the same wording as in the 2014 ballot, when people were asked: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" He said because this question was "still current" there was no need for the Electoral Commission to test it if there were another referendum next year, as Nicola Sturgeon has proposed. The commission has made clear that it "firmly recommends" it should give its "views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question", regardless of whether it has previously done so.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-need-to-reword-vote-on-secession-2npgr5jvn>

MP Lisa Cameron missing from SNP election list after row over abortion (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An SNP MP who faced a "smear campaign" over her opposition to lifting Northern Ireland's abortion ban is the only party candidate not to have been approved for a snap general election. Lisa Cameron's political future was in doubt last night as SNP members were given 48 hours to choose whether they want sitting MPs to fight a probable November poll or whether an internal selection should take place. An email was sent from Angus MacLeod, the party's national secretary, to members represented by an SNP MP on Monday containing a poll by SurveyMonkey, the online survey. People had the option to reselect their MP or to mark their preference for an open contest, which would be triggered if more than 20 per cent of respondents want a challenger to stand against the MP. Responses must be given by 6pm today.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mp-lisa-cameron-missing-from-snp-election-list-after-row-over-abortion-83lj9qxzz>

Scottish Conservative MP Bill Grant to stand down at election (BBC News) POL

A Scottish Conservative MP has announced he will stand down at the next general election. Bill Grant won the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock seat in 2017 after overturning a large SNP majority. But he said he would not be seeking re-election whenever the next general election is called. In a letter to his local Conservative association, Mr Grant said it had always been his intention to serve just one term in Parliament.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49650206>

Glasgow to host world leaders for critical climate summit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

About 200 world leaders and up to 30,000 delegates will converge on Glasgow next year for a UN climate change summit, it was announced last night. President Putin, Angela Merkel and President Macron are among those expected to attend. COP26, or the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change convention, has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement in 2015. It will be held at the Scottish Events Campus in Glasgow in November or December after a successful UK bid to host the event. The main summit is in the UK, while Italy has agreed to put on preparatory events. The Scottish government joined MSPs and environmental activists in welcoming the news, describing their delight that the "fight back against the climate emergency will begin in Glasgow".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-to-host-world-leaders-for-critical-climate-summit-vrbchsln0>

Court threat over President Trump's Turnberry hotel stays (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Senior US congressmen have demanded documents from the Department of Defense as they investigate claims that President Trump is profiting from military use of his Ayrshire golf resort. The Trump administration has faced allegations of corruption since it was revealed that US Air Force personnel stayed at Turnberry during stopovers to refuel at Prestwick airport near by. The House of Representatives committee on oversight and reform wants a full breakdown of expenditure on rooms at the resort and has threatened defence officials with court summons. A report from the currency exchange company FairFX revealed that rates at the hotel have varied hugely since Mr Trump took office.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/court-threat-over-president-trumps-turnberry-hotel-stays-w5bp3fgph>

Op-ed: Trump's ties to Prestwick are under scrutiny like never before (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

In the autumn of 2014, Donald Trump, then still very much a reality show host-cum-hotel developer, touched down at Glasgow Prestwick Airport to drum up publicity for his newly purchased Turnberry resort. He convened a press conference in one of Prestwick's cold, cavernous hangars that would house his personalised Boeing 757 jet, and spoke of how he would help usher "hundreds" more jets into the stricken, state-owned hub as part of an "official partnership". The exact details of that tie-up, and its tangible benefits for Prestwick, were not disclosed. One official in attendance confided it was all a bit "jam tomorrow". The focus instead fell on the sideshow whipped up by the host, as he invited journalists to tour his aircraft, fitted with – what else – 24-carat seatbelt buckles.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/the-growing-scandal-over-donald-trump-and-prestwick-airport-martyn-mclaughlin-1-5001401>

Leader: Donald Trump's second job lands him in more than one spot of bother (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

As Scottish golf course owners go, this Donald Trump seems a bit controversial. Turns out he may have been using his second job as US president to help boost his lossmaking "Trump Turnberry" resort. He, of course, denies this and who would doubt him, given his reputation? Strangely, the addition of his name to one of Scotland's most famous courses hasn't produced a rush of people eager for his hospitality, although a few US military personnel seem to be.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/donald-trump-s-second-job-lands-him-in-more-than-one-spot-of-bother-leader-comment-1-5001743>

Glasgow march violence 'stain on city's reputation', says minister (BBC News) POL

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has said the people of Glasgow have had enough of marches that lead to "sectarian violence" on their streets. Mr Yousaf said the vast majority of the city's population viewed the trouble stemming from the marches as a "stain" on the city's reputation. The minister was responding to a topical question at Holyrood after a second weekend of disorder. He said the city council was looking at ways of reducing the number of marches. On Saturday, a police officer was injured as two Irish Republican marches and counter-demonstrations were held in Glasgow.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49651139>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:36 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: rise up to prevent an undemocratic no-deal Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has urged voters to “rise up” against the government in a bid to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Labour former prime minister issued the rallying cry at an event in Glasgow last night as he accused Boris Johnson of leading a “xenophobic” administration. He said: “Here is a man [Mr Johnson] who when he faces a difficult challenge in parliament, he shuts it down. When he faces a difficult challenge with the law, he tries to break it. We the people have to stop him breaking the law.” Mr Brown addressed about 60 people in Gorbals parish church, where he said that further meetings across the country, including in Edinburgh, would aim to “marshal our forces” to stop “a government that is acting dictatorially and undemocratically”. The only example that he gave to push for a revolt was encouraging people to phone radio stations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-rise-up-to-prevent-an-undemocratic-no-deal-brex-it-blql7h1k8>

Sacking Tory rebels will hurt party at the polls, Ruth Davidson warns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson has accused Boris Johnson of alienating Remain voters by sacking 21 rebel Tory MPs. Ms Davidson, who quit as Scottish Conservative leader last month, said that expelling senior Conservatives including the former chancellors Philip Hammond and Ken Clarke would hurt the party's election hopes. She rejected claims that it would enforce discipline. Rory Stewart, a former international development secretary, also had the whip withdrawn. “These weren't MPs who lacked discipline. They weren't serial rebels; in fact, this vote was the first time some of them had broken the whip in their careers,” Ms Davidson wrote in the London Evening Standard, which is edited by the former Tory chancellor George Osborne.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sacking-tory-rebels-will-hurt-party-at-the-polls-ruth-davidson-warns-wlc3qsdbk>

Op-ed: Scots are right to be suspicious of Boris Johnson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

For a while now, but more and more frequently since July, friends, colleagues and correspondents from parts south of Berwick have taken to asking me this question: why is Boris Johnson so unpopular in Scotland? It is a good question and one worth taking seriously. First, the facts. Mr Johnson really is unpopular north of the border. According to last week's YouGov poll for *The Times*, two thirds of Scottish voters think Mr Johnson an untrustworthy individual and a further 14 per cent don't know if he can be trusted or not. Even among Tory voters, only 53 per cent think he's trustworthy, and overall only one in four Scottish voters think Mr Johnson is doing a spiffing job as prime minister. No wonder our poll suggested the Tories might lose 80 per cent of their Scottish seats if there were an election soon.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-are-right-to-be-suspicious-of-boris-johnson-5pxlf5chk>

Ban marches, urges former lord provost Michael Kelly (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Public marches belong in the 19th century and should be banned, a former lord provost of Glasgow claimed as it emerged that a dozen republican and loyalist processions are planned in the city this month. Michael Kelly spoke out after rival factions clashed in Glasgow for the second week in a row. A huge police operation was undertaken at the weekend at a republican march in the city in which an officer was injured and 11 people arrested, including a boy aged 14.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ban-marches-urges-former-lord-provost-michael-kelly-fj5bwzvmd>

Trump Turnberry: US Air Force to review Scotland resort stays (BBC News) POL/ECON

The US Air Force (USAF) has ordered a review of its guidance on overnight accommodation for flight crews. It has emerged that some personnel have been staying at one of President Donald Trump's Scottish golf resorts. There has been an increase in the number of US military flights stopping at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, near the resort, since he took office. A US congressional committee is investigating Mr Trump for a potential conflict of interest over the matter.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49633936>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:02 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish

government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtadh>

Saved in the States (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to "stand up for Scotland's opposition to Brexit". She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not "stomach" Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson's interim replacement. He used first minister's questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brexit-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood's battle over EU (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: "When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?" and "Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?" For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland's answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a "playground". Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote's claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were "prejudiced and racist" because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting location shoots in Edinburgh was "revenue neutral", with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbq9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines "kill all the birds". The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? I don't think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it's worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks "inadvertently" breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brex-it-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood's power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a "counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood". The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for 'retrograde' referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a "very clear" retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick, deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and "should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny". He said: "The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. "Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there." Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood's Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid's announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a oneyear spending review that he claimed was "turning the page on austerity". Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the S NP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and "conspiring to end devolution as we know it". It came as part of a preelection spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health, schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

No link

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can't get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won't deal with it and (b)(6) didn't know – I might try (b)(6)
 Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May's Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for The Times suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be "a bonus and not the basis" of the economic case for independence.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland's continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote "no" again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that "no" votes outnumbered "yes". On average, once "don't knows" were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote "yes", little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move,

and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power". Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolffe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for 'genuinely conflicted' Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was "genuinely conflicted" over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the "dreaded" prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for The Mail on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had "been a long time coming", with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could "already tell my heart was no longer in the job" and the "fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become

dimmed". Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson's maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexite-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told *The Sunday Times* that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like "a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . ." We have to go "full throttle", he said, "put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor". He sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let's try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)

EUR-WE-UK-DL EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov

London Press Office LondonPressOffice@state.gov

LondonPol LondonPol@state.gov

LondonEcon LondonEcon@state.gov

(U) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the

party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (*The Scottish Sun*, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

**SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (*The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist*)
ECON**

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald, Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869349.snps-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (*The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist*) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the

chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost 67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the 2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexit-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty

or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST, (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown

A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britain needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown’s caring union? Otherwise looks good and (b)(6) could you send it out today?

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BS I
Subject: RE: Scotland Press
To: (b)(6)

How's this?

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a

good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people ‘at risk’ (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

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<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, “the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland,” Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too “lazy” to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and “thought they would win without a fight”. He said: “They didn’t put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that’s why we are in this position.” It was a highly unusual breach of

the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a “Plan B” when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was “hastily written, almost whimsically so”, and said it had been “utterly inappropriate” for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party’s mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary’s position. Delegates to the party’s autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK’s relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon’s government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM

To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about (b)(5)
 (b)(5) - maybe
 add those?

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year's Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: "I could have done with another hour of that." Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson's vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood's northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP's MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It's a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow's consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was "quite amazed" that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway's bilateral trade with Russian as being worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner. After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsepov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in *Me, You, Madness* (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film *Me, You, Madness*, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'. "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (The Daily Record, circulation 137,000, liberal) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the

experience as an “honour”. He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

**Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL**

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland’s most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell’s intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood’s arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country’s most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called “staycations”, with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I’ve missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon’s plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon’s plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon’s Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording “regardless” of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: “Should Scotland be an independent country?” The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its “important” role in ensuring that a referendum question is “intelligible”. It wrote: “The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbfff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to “make sure that you support Simon in this next election”. He said: “I’ve known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He’s devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament.” The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a “BIG ENDORSEMENT”. However at the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O’Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: “What sort of person are you?” Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. “Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not,” he said, before continuing, “But here’s a puzzle. As a Scot, that’s exactly the sort of person you are.” Just in case you weren’t sure who these “other people” were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. “It’s a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized

possessions then walking back out again,” Mr Sillars said. “And you’re powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn’t it?” Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack ‘full cost analysis’ despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist*) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn’t know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have “a full cost analysis”, despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson’s to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Tue, 17 Sep 2019 09:28:30 +0000

Sorry, I already sent it, but I'll dig them out for tomorrow!

Unclassified

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:24 AM
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press

Actually, maybe add something from Willie Rennie at the Lib Dem conference (he said no second indyref) and there was something in the Herald about Greens attacking conservative SNP.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:06 AM
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press

Will do!

Re the court – (b)(5)
But I'll keep my ears open!

Unclassified

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:03 AM
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this:

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/17/eu-citizens-feel-safer-in-scotland-than-in-england-report-says?CMP=tw_t_gu&utm_medium=&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1568701324

Any pre-court hearing news? You may want to tee up a paragraph to add to a potential London cable.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 9:40 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

I found one article relating to the President from the weekend – not sure if there's another one?

Two years of Scots economic growth 'wiped out' by no-deal (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland could see two years of economic growth "wiped out" in a "disastrous" recession after a looming no-deal Brexit, Scotland's finance secretary Derek Mackay has warned. Every day sounds "new warning bells", the cabinet secretary says in a stark intervention in today's Scotsman, with the threat to jobs, businesses and the economy becoming "more pronounced". Business leaders last night backed Mr Mackay's concerns, with a warning that thousands of Scots firms are not ready for a "chaotic" no-deal scenario. Investment is already drying up, with business and consumer confidence plummeting. Mr Mackay says it would be impossible to offset the worst impacts. "I must be honest that not every impact of Brexit can be mitigated," Mr Mackay states.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/derek-mackay-no-deal-could-wipe-out-two-years-of-scottish-growth-1-5005466>

Herman Van Rompuy says Brexit 'has changed EU view of Scotland' (BBC News) POL

A former president of the European Council has said he believes Brexit has changed EU attitudes to Scottish independence. In a BBC interview, Herman Van Rompuy said there was now "much more sympathy" for European regions seeking EU membership. Mr Van Rompuy said the process of joining the EU was "complicated". But he said an application from Scotland would have to be "very seriously" considered. The UK government does not support Scottish government calls for another independence referendum.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49690513>

EU students 'can stay to finish four-year courses' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

European students studying a four-year degree in Scotland will not be kicked out of the country before they finish their course, the UK education secretary has pledged. The government has given EU students temporary leave to remain in Britain for three years, to give them enough time to complete a standard English undergraduate course. The SNP has pointed out this ignores that Scottish honours degrees last four years, and accused British ministers of trying to undercut universities in Scotland by putting them at a competitive disadvantage. Gavin Williamson, the UK education secretary, pledged to find a solution to this "vitally important issue" for Scottish universities during a visit to Glasgow yesterday.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/eu-students-can-stay-to-finish-four-year-courses-rtcf9d0xj>

Lib Dem candidate dropped after Tory death comment (BBC News) POL

A parliamentary candidate for the Liberal Democrats has been deselected after he was reported as saying Tories should be "burned at the stake". Galen Milne stood for the party in Banff and Buchan at the 2017 general election. In an online post naming leading Brexit supporters, Mr Milne is alleged to have said they should be "hung, drawn and quartered" before being burned. Mr Milne has said he deeply regrets the "offensive statements". The remarks were directed towards Prime Minister Boris

Johnson, frontbenchers Jacob Rees-Mogg and Michael Gove, former International Trade Secretary Liam Fox and ex-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49718015>

Demand for votes at 16 and a voice over climate emergency (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Demands are growing for the nation's youth to be given the right to vote in UK elections at 16 so they can influence what happens to their generation as it faces a growing global climate emergency. A damning new report out today from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) warns that teenagers are facing a "toxic inheritance" of environmental crises caused by climate change, and should be given the chance to act. The call comes on the same day as a dramatic new warning from MPS at Westminster of a looming "food security crisis" because of climate breakdown, which raises the prospect of food imports to the UK being all but halved, ushering in years of food shortages and dramatic cost surges.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17906657.demands-growing-give-youth-right-vote-16/>

Donald Trump's relative: He's never given a penny to his mother's Scottish community (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Donald Trump has rarely expressed affection for his Scottish roots, and only once visited his mother's home, spending less than two minutes inside the pebbledashed croft where she and her nine siblings were raised. Now, a relative of his has pointed out that the US president has "never given a penny" to the Hebridean community where his mother was born, and where many of his family remain. Alice Mackay, who is related to Trump's maternal family line, the MacLeods, said his mother and sister frequently returned to the crofting township of Tong on Lewis, with both making sizeable financial donations – in stark contrast to the 73-year-old.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/donald-trump-s-relative-he-s-never-given-a-penny-to-his-mother-s-scottish-community-1-5004387>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

From: (b)(6)
Date: 12 September 2019 at 09:44:58 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Labour scrambles to recruit candidates for half of Scottish seats (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Labour is struggling to find candidates to fight a snap election with vacancies for more than half of the country's seats. There are no prospective parliamentary candidates for 33 seats in Scotland and party bosses are pressing local activists to put their names forward. Labour is always expected to field candidates in the 59 Scottish constituencies represented at Westminster. The party has been forced to extend a deadline for applications. Vacant seats include East Renfrewshire, which was once held by Jim Murphy as Scottish Labour leader, as well as both Aberdeen constituencies and two in Dundee.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-scrambles-to-recruit-candidates-for-half-of-scottish-seats-2whm3x3n3>

Pledge Citizens' Assembly will be independent of Government (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Controversial plans for a Citizens' Assembly in Scotland have been backed by MSPs at Holyrood with Constitution Secretary Mike Russell insisting it will be independent of Government. But the move came under fire from opposition parties who branded the proposal a "ruse" to press the case for independence. MSPs voted in favour of the Assembly which will be headed up by former Labour MEP David Martin and co-convenor Kate Wimpess, the third sector leader. The Assembly has been tasked with looking at the kind of country we are seeking to build in Scotland, how the country can best overcome the challenges it faces and the information required to allow Scots make "informed choices about the future of Scotland."
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/pledge-citizens-assembly-will-be-independent-of-government-1-5002648>

US deal with Prestwick put on hold (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

A lucrative new US military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport has been put on hold amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and President Trump's flagship Scottish resort, *The Scotsman* can reveal. A US Defence Department agency has postponed a lucrative new military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and president Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort.
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Royal Navy Type 31 frigate order goes to Babcock (BBC News) ECON

The race to design and build a new generation of Royal Navy frigates has been won by a consortium led by Babcock. The firm has been named preferred bidder for the £1.25bn contract for five Type 31 warships. The deal secures hundreds of jobs at Rosyth in Fife, where the ships will be assembled, with construction work spread between yards across the UK. Work is to begin by the end of 2019, with the first ships delivered in 2023. The Type 31 is a smaller, cheaper frigate than the Type 26 warships currently being built at the Upper Clyde shipyards.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49670332>

Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge: How likely is it to be built? (BBC News) POL/ECON

Reports have resurfaced that a bridge from Scotland to Northern Ireland is being considered by the UK government. Channel 4 News said it had seen documents showing that the Treasury and Department for Transport had been asked for advice on possible costs and risks. The idea has been floated before with two potential routes suggested - from Portpatrick to Larne or near Campbeltown to the Antrim coast.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49661019>

41% of Scots want to bring back death penalty (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Since the hangman tied his last noose 56 years ago Scotland has taken a more progressive approach to justice. But while liberal experts trumpet our politicians' embrace of rehabilitation, it appears that many Scots harbour more old-fashioned attitudes to crime and punishment. A YouGov poll of 1,059 Scots for *The Times* has found that 41 per cent of the population — 1.8 million people — would reintroduce the death penalty for murderers. Those who continue to oppose capital punishment polled only slightly higher at 44 per cent, with 15 per cent unsure.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/41-of-scots-want-to-bring-back-death-penalty-tfs7ws7qr>

Five Glasgow marches banned over sectarian disorder fears (BBC News) POL

Five marches planned for this weekend have been banned by Glasgow City Council after an emergency meeting. It follows violent sectarian disturbances at similar events over the past two weekends. Four Loyalist parades and an Irish Republican march planned for Saturday and Sunday will not be allowed to go ahead due to the threat of trouble. The decision was taken by an urgently arranged meeting of Glasgow City Council's Public Processions Committee. In what has been described as an unprecedented move, council officials recommended that all five processions this weekend be prohibited.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49661504>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:31 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Only thing I'd flag are 2 opeds in the Scotsman about Trump – I can't open the articles bc I'm having problems with the Scotsman so don't know the content...

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:19 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Big one today! Anything I've missed?

Court to rule over Parliament shutdown appeal (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court is to again rule on whether or not Boris Johnson's suspension of the UK Parliament is legal. A judge at the Court of Session last week rejected an attempt by a cross-party group of politicians to have the suspension declared unlawful. They appealed to the court's Inner House, with a panel of three judges being asked to overturn the decision. The panel is expected to deliver its ruling

on Wednesday. Parliament was officially suspended for five weeks - a process known as proroguing - in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with MPs not due back until 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49655301>

No-deal Brexit 'would cost economy £9bn and double joblessness' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Unemployment would almost double in Scotland under a no-deal Brexit, the country's leading economic think tank has warned. The Fraser of Allander Institute said Bank of England projections would see the country face a £9 billion hit to its economy and "significant" job losses. Sajid Javid, the chancellor, unveiled an extra £2 billion for no-deal Brexit planning last week. The Scottish government has used some of its share of the funding for the storage of extra drugs and medical supplies, including increased stocks of body bags. Despite revised estimates downgrading the potential economic impact, the respected think tank warned that the consequences would be similar to those in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brexit-would-cost-economy-9bn-and-double-joblessness-vdpjwq7rm>

'No need to reword vote on secession' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Changing the wording of the question voters would be asked if there were another independence referendum would be "confusing", the Scottish constitutional relations secretary has said. Mike Russell said there was a "clarity and consistency" to having the same wording as in the 2014 ballot, when people were asked: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" He said because this question was "still current" there was no need for the Electoral Commission to test it if there were another referendum next year, as Nicola Sturgeon has proposed. The commission has made clear that it "firmly recommends" it should give its "views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question", regardless of whether it has previously done so.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-need-to-reword-vote-on-secession-2npgr5jvn>

MP Lisa Cameron missing from SNP election list after row over abortion (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An SNP MP who faced a "smear campaign" over her opposition to lifting Northern Ireland's abortion ban is the only party candidate not to have been approved for a snap general election. Lisa Cameron's political future was in doubt last night as SNP members were given 48 hours to choose whether they want sitting MPs to fight a probable November poll or whether an internal selection should take place. An email was sent from Angus MacLeod, the party's national secretary, to members represented by an SNP MP on Monday containing a poll by SurveyMonkey, the online survey. People had the option to reselect their MP or to mark their preference for an open contest, which would be triggered if more than 20 per cent of respondents want a challenger to stand against the MP. Responses must be given by 6pm today.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mp-lisa-cameron-missing-from-snp-election-list-after-row-over-abortion-83lj9qxzz>

Scottish Conservative MP Bill Grant to stand down at election (BBC News) POL

A Scottish Conservative MP has announced he will stand down at the next general election. Bill Grant won the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock seat in 2017 after overturning a large SNP majority. But he said he would not be seeking re-election whenever the next general election is called. In a letter to his local Conservative association, Mr Grant said it had always been his intention to serve just one term in Parliament.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49650206>

**Glasgow to host world leaders for critical climate summit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL/ECON**

About 200 world leaders and up to 30,000 delegates will converge on Glasgow next year for a UN climate change summit, it was announced last night. President Putin, Angela Merkel and President Macron are among those expected to attend. COP26, or the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change convention, has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement in 2015. It will be held at the Scottish Events Campus in Glasgow in November or December after a successful UK bid to host the event. The main summit is in the UK, while Italy has agreed to put on preparatory events. The Scottish government joined MSPs and environmental activists in welcoming the news, describing their delight that the "fight back against the climate emergency will begin in Glasgow".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-to-host-world-leaders-for-critical-climate-summit-vrbchsln0>

**Court threat over President Trump's Turnberry hotel stays (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL/ECON**

Senior US congressmen have demanded documents from the Department of Defense as they investigate claims that President Trump is profiting from military use of his Ayrshire golf resort. The Trump administration has faced allegations of corruption since it was revealed that US Air Force personnel stayed at Turnberry during stopovers to refuel at Prestwick airport near by. The House of Representatives committee on oversight and reform wants a full breakdown of expenditure on rooms at the resort and has threatened defence officials with court summons. A report from the currency exchange company FairFX revealed that rates at the hotel have varied hugely since Mr Trump took office.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/court-threat-over-president-trumps-turnberry-hotel-stays-w5bp3fgph>

Glasgow march violence 'stain on city's reputation', says minister (BBC News) POL

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has said the people of Glasgow have had enough of marches that lead to "sectarian violence" on their streets. Mr Yousaf said the vast majority of the city's population viewed the trouble stemming from the marches as a "stain" on the city's reputation. The minister was responding to a topical question at Holyrood after a second weekend of disorder. He said the city council was looking at ways of reducing the number of marches. On Saturday, a police officer was injured as two Irish Republican marches and counter-demonstrations were held in Glasgow.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49651139>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:36 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: rise up to prevent an undemocratic no-deal Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has urged voters to “rise up” against the government in a bid to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Labour former prime minister issued the rallying cry at an event in Glasgow last night as he accused Boris Johnson of leading a “xenophobic” administration. He said: “Here is a man [Mr Johnson] who when he faces a difficult challenge in parliament, he shuts it down. When he faces a difficult challenge with the law, he tries to break it. We the people have to stop him breaking the law.” Mr Brown addressed about 60 people in Gorbals parish church, where he said that further meetings across the country, including in Edinburgh, would aim to “marshal our forces” to stop “a government that is acting dictatorially and undemocratically”. The only example that he gave to push for a revolt was encouraging people to phone radio stations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-rise-up-to-prevent-an-undemocratic-no-deal-brexite-blql7hlc8>

Sacking Tory rebels will hurt party at the polls, Ruth Davidson warns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson has accused Boris Johnson of alienating Remain voters by sacking 21 rebel Tory MPs. Ms Davidson, who quit as Scottish Conservative leader last month, said that expelling senior Conservatives including the former chancellors Philip Hammond and Ken Clarke would hurt the party's election hopes. She rejected claims that it would enforce discipline. Rory Stewart, a former international development secretary, also had the whip withdrawn. “These weren't MPs who lacked discipline. They weren't serial rebels; in fact, this vote was the first time some of them had broken the whip in their careers,” Ms Davidson wrote in the London Evening Standard, which is edited by the former Tory chancellor George Osborne.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sacking-tory-rebels-will-hurt-party-at-the-polls-ruth-davidson-warns-wlc3qsdbk>

Op-ed: Scots are right to be suspicious of Boris Johnson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

For a while now, but more and more frequently since July, friends, colleagues and correspondents from parts south of Berwick have taken to asking me this question: why is Boris Johnson so unpopular in Scotland? It is a good question and one worth taking seriously. First, the facts. Mr Johnson really is unpopular north of the border. According to last week's YouGov poll for The Times, two thirds of Scottish voters think Mr Johnson an untrustworthy individual and a further 14 per cent don't know if he can be trusted or not. Even among Tory voters, only 53 per cent think he's trustworthy, and overall only one in four Scottish voters think Mr Johnson is doing a spiffing job as prime minister. No wonder our poll suggested the Tories might lose 80 per cent of their Scottish seats if there were an election soon.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-are-right-to-be-suspicious-of-boris-johnson-5pxlf5chk>

Ban marches, urges former lord provost Michael Kelly (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Public marches belong in the 19th century and should be banned, a former lord provost of Glasgow claimed as it emerged that a dozen republican and loyalist processions are planned in the city this month. Michael Kelly spoke out after rival factions clashed in Glasgow for the second week in a row. A huge police operation was undertaken at the weekend at a republican march in the city in which an officer was injured and 11 people arrested, including a boy aged 14.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ban-marches-urges-former-lord-provost-michael-kelly-fj5bwzvmd>

Trump Turnberry: US Air Force to review Scotland resort stays (BBC News) POL/ECON

The US Air Force (USAF) has ordered a review of its guidance on overnight accommodation for flight crews. It has emerged that some personnel have been staying at one of President Donald Trump's Scottish golf resorts. There has been an increase in the number of US military flights stopping at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, near the resort, since he took office. A US congressional committee is investigating Mr Trump for a potential conflict of interest over the matter.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49633936>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:02 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtdhl>

Saved in the States (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to “stand up for Scotland’s opposition to Brexit”. She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not “stomach” Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson’s interim replacement. He used first minister’s questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brexit-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood’s battle over EU (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: “When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?” and “Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?” For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland’s answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a “playground”.

Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote's claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were "prejudiced and racist" because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting location shoots in Edinburgh was "revenue neutral", with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbg9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines "kill all the birds". The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? I don't think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it's worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks “inadvertently” breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brex-it-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood’s power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland’s seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a “counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood”. The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation’s conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for ‘retrograde’ referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a “very clear” retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick, deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and “should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny”. He said: “The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. “Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there.” Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood’s Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid’s announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a one-year spending review that he claimed was “turning the page on austerity”. Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the SNP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and “conspiring to end devolution as we know it”. It came as part of a pre-election spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health,

schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

No link

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can't get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won't deal with it and (b)(6) didn't know – I might try (b)(6)
 Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May's Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for *The Times* suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be “a bonus and not the basis” of the economic case for independence.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland's continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote “no” again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that “no” votes outnumbered “yes”. On average, once “don't knows” were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote “yes”, little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move, and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The

Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power". Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolffe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for 'genuinely conflicted' Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was "genuinely conflicted" over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the "dreaded" prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for *The Mail* on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had "been a long time coming", with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could "already tell my heart was no longer in the job" and the "fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become dimmed". Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson's maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexit-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told *The Sunday Times* that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like "a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . ." We have

to go “full throttle”, he said, “put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor”. He sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let's try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)

EUR-WE-UK-DL EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov

London Press Office LondonPressOffice@state.gov

LondonPol LondonPol@state.gov

LondonEcon LondonEcon@state.gov

(U) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.
<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (*The Scottish Sun*, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald,

Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17869349.snps-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost

67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the 2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexit-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer

with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted

permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown
A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britain needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown’s caring union? Otherwise looks good and (b)(6) could you send it out today?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BST
Subject: RE: Scotland Press
To: (b)(6)

How’s this?

Citizens’ assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country’s constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens’ assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens’ assembly to debate

issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

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months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down “in all foreseeable circumstances”.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, “the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland,” Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too “lazy” to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and “thought they would win without a fight”. He said: “They didn’t put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that’s why we are in this position.” It was a highly unusual breach of the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a “Plan B” when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor

Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was “hastily written, almost whimsically so”, and said it had been “utterly inappropriate” for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party’s mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary’s position. Delegates to the party’s autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

**Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL**

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK’s relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon’s government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about (b)(5)
 (b)(5) – maybe
 add those?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is

warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year’s Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: “I could have done with another hour of that.” Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson’s vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood’s northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP’s MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It’s a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow’s consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was “quite amazed” that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway’s bilateral trade with Russian as being

worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner. After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsepov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in *Me, You, Madness* (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film *Me, You, Madness*, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'." "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (*The Daily Record*, circulation 137,000, liberal) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the experience as an "honour". He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland's most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell's intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood's arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country's most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called "staycations", with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I've missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon's plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon's Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording "regardless" of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its "important" role in ensuring that a referendum question is "intelligible". It wrote: "The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to "make sure that you support Simon in this next election". He said: "I've known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He's devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament." The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a "BIG ENDORSEMENT". However at the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O'Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: "What sort of person are you?" Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. "Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not," he said, before continuing, "But here's a puzzle. As a Scot, that's exactly the sort of person you are." Just in case you weren't sure who these "other people" were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. "It's a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized possessions then walking back out again," Mr Sillars said. "And you're powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn't it?" Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack 'full cost analysis' despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn't know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have "a full cost analysis", despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson's to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 29, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated March 30, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified 10 additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all 10 records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Tue, 12 Nov 2019 14:36:26 +0000

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 2:22 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey! Let me know if I've missed anything off this...

Trident 'still a priority' for SNP in talks under hung parliament (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The SNP will push for Trident to be scrapped in negotiations to make Jeremy Corbyn prime minister. It opposes the renewal of the nuclear deterrent from the base at Faslane, Helensburgh. Ian Blackford, the party's leader at Westminster, called it "not fit for purpose" and a waste of money. He declined to say that retaining the programme on the Clyde would scupper talks with Labour in a hung parliament but Nicola Sturgeon said at the weekend that she wanted the weapons removed from Scotland "as soon as it is safely possible". In 2015 the first minister told a rally against nuclear weapons "you better believe Trident is a red-line issue" in any potential negotiations with Ed Miliband, Labour leader at the time. Asked on Sky's Sophy Ridge On Sunday whether it remained so, Mr Blackford said: "We've been pretty consistent down through the decades that we don't wish to see nuclear weapons on our soil." Stewart McDonald, the SNP's defence spokesman, told The Sunday Times that removing the nuclear submarine fleet from the Faslane naval base would be a priority in any talks with Labour after the election.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-11/scotland/trident-still-a-priority-for-snp-in-talks-under-hung-parliament-q53swhqz7>

Scottish independence: Tories urge Labour voters to switch sides (BBC News) POL

The Scottish Conservatives have made a direct pitch to Labour voters asking them to support their party in a bid to stop another independence referendum. In an open letter, Tory MSP Annie Wells said most supporters of the two parties could agree there should not be another vote on independence. Ms Wells urged Labour supporters to vote Conservative in the election. Scottish Labour's deputy leader Lesley Laird said the appeal "would be laughable if it wasn't so desperate". Ms Wells suggested that Jeremy Corbyn would grant another referendum in exchange for taking up residence at Downing Street.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50361002>

SNP boosted in key marginals as Greens decide not to stand (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The SNP's election prospects have been helped by the Scottish Green Party which will not contest three of its marginal seats amid fears it would split the pro-independence vote. The Greens will not stand in

North East Fife, Perth & North Perthshire and Angus. The SNP's Stephen Gethins won the UK's smallest majority in North East Fife at the 2017 election, with only two votes separating him and the Liberal Democrat candidate. In Perth & North Perthshire, Pete Wishart was just 21 votes ahead of the Conservatives when he won for the SNP in 2017. The decision of the local Green associations marks a break with the rest of the party. Last week the Scottish Green Party decided that it would not follow its counterpart in England and Wales and enter into a Remain alliance. It pledged to fight more than 20 seats in the poll on December 12.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-11/scotland/scottish-greens-will-not-contest-three-marginal-snp-seats-zwvfrnjsd>

Nicola Sturgeon eyes court battle to get second independence poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has raised the prospect of legal action against any UK government that refuses to allow a second independence referendum. The first minister has refused to countenance either Boris Johnson or Jeremy Corbyn failing to transfer the powers to Holyrood that are required to hold another vote. Yesterday she signalled that she was open to a court battle between the Scottish and British administrations. The SNP leader has told any future prime minister not to "bother picking up the phone" if they need her support for a minority administration unless they are prepared to pave the way for a second referendum in the second half of next year. Ms Sturgeon has said that she will make a request for the powers to be transferred before the end of this year. Mr Johnson said during a visit to Scotland last week that he would not grant permission for another vote even if the SNP won a majority at the 2021 Holyrood election. Mr Corbyn is open to a ballot on independence but only in later years of a Labour government.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nicola-sturgeon-eyes-court-battle-to-get-second-independence-poll-m6db0f82v>

Army of Twitter bots follow top politicians such as Nicola Sturgeon, John Swinney, Jo Swinson (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leading politicians in Scotland are being followed by hundreds of fake Twitter accounts, it is claimed. Researchers found that one in seven followers may be false. Nearly 800 accounts following Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister, her deputy John Swinney and Jo Swinson, the Liberal Democrat leader, are suspected "bots" — automated profiles that retweet content. Teams at Birmingham and Reading universities tracked 7,000 followers, and found that 14 per cent of the most recent of Ms Sturgeon's one million Twitter followers were likely to be fake. Social media companies are on high alert for "fake news", which often comes from bots, before the general election and next year's US presidential election, amid concerns that voters have been swayed by anonymous accounts run by hostile states or organisations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-11/scotland/army-of-twitter-bots-follow-top-politicians-such-as-nicola-sturgeon-john-swinney-jo-swinson-qtv7q2rrz>

Tories are acting like Trump over my memos, Nicola Sturgeon says (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has defended making handwritten notes on government policy which are then destroyed, saying there is "absolutely no substance" to claims she does it to avoid scrutiny. The first minister, who does not use official emails, said the system for dealing with paperwork had been in place for more than a decade. Last night the Conservatives asked Scotland's records watchdog to investigate the government's practices. Ms Sturgeon's spokesman compared Tory criticism to the actions of Donald Trump. Unlike Whitehall departments including No 10, the Ministry of Defence and the Scotland Office,

the first minister's private office does not retain handwritten notes. Ms Sturgeon also shuns the government email system but has used her SNP account to conduct some official business. She has said that this is never "substantive" in nature.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tories-are-acting-like-trump-over-my-memos-nicola-sturgeon-says-0qj7fd6c8>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:55 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

PM says Conservative vote will stop indyref2 (BBC News) POL

The prime minister is to tell an audience in Scotland that a vote for the Scottish Conservatives is a vote to stop another independence referendum. Boris Johnson is to visit Scotland on his first full day of campaigning ahead of the 12 December vote. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said "it is time" for Scottish independence. Scottish Labour and the Liberal Democrats have set out positions opposed to holding a further referendum on the issue. As he prepared to travel to Scotland, Mr Johnson said the general election would be "crucial" for Scotland. "A vote for the Scottish Conservatives is a vote to stop a second independence referendum and to get Brexit done so we can spend 2020 taking back control of our fishing waters, getting a fairer deal for our farmers, and investing in public services to give people better healthcare and better education," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50325429>

Johnson heads to Scotland: Speculation mounts that Conservatives will pledge to review spirit duty regime – but US trade tariffs remain a complication (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Boris Johnson will promise new support for the whisky industry today as he makes his first campaign stop in Scotland, seeking defend Conservative gains at the last election from the SNP. The Prime Minister will visit a whisky distillery in Moray as producers struggle to respond to a 25 per cent tariff imposed by Mr Johnson's ally, US president Donald Trump. It comes amid growing speculation the Conservatives will pledge to review the UK'S complex spirit duty regime – which the whisky industry says unfairly taxes its product – and fuels hopes of a potential cut in home-grown tariffs. Meanwhile, in a shock announcement last night, Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson said he was standing down as an MP, dealing a blow to moderates in the party. Last night Mr Johnson pledged to "never give up on our incredible Union" and accused Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn of "dancing to the SNP'S tune" by leaving open the possibility of a second referendum on Scottish independence. The Prime Minister will visit

Scotland as part of a three nation election swing following the Tories' campaign launch rally in Birmingham last night, which will also see him stop in north-east England and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/boris-johnson-pledges-to-never-give-up-on-incredible-union-as-he-heads-for-scotland-1-5041104>

MSPs to debate indyref2 'framework' legislation (BBC News) POL

MSPs are to debate legislation that lays the groundwork for a new Scottish independence referendum at Holyrood. The Scottish government wants to hold a new ballot in 2020 and has tabled the Referendums Bill to pave the way. There have been calls for parts of the bill to be amended, in particular over whether the Electoral Commission would test the question for "indyref2". However, the legislation is expected to progress with the backing of the SNP and the Greens in any case. The issue of a referendum has become a key topic of debate in the general election campaign, with the SNP putting it "at the heart" of their platform and Labour and the Conservatives disputing whether they would agree to hold one in future.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50322712>

Richard Leonard: Labour will not do a deal with the SNP (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jeremy Corbyn will reject a deal with the SNP even if he needs nationalist votes to pass a Queen's Speech, the Scottish Labour leader has insisted. Richard Leonard ruled out any type of agreement with Nicola Sturgeon to bolster a minority Labour government. The first minister has set out demands including a second independence referendum as her price for installing Mr Corbyn in Downing Street. A confidence and supply deal similar to that struck between the Conservatives and the Democratic Unionist Party has been mooted. Mr Leonard said yesterday: "There will be no deals with the SNP, there is no pact with the SNP, there will be no deals with the SNP, there will be no coalition with the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/richard-leonard-labour-will-not-do-a-deal-with-the-snp-gw00js9kh>

Boris Johnson's party must be destroyed, says former Tory adviser Bendor Grosvenor (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A prominent art historian and former Conservative adviser has cut ties with the Tories, saying that it is time to "destroy" the party. Bendor Grosvenor, who is a co-presenter of BBC4's Britain's Lost Masterpieces, has voted Conservative for more than 20 years but blames "Johnsonian Toryism" and Brexit for driving "the broad church into the crypt". Grosvenor, 41, said that scandals, political purges and hardline support for leaving the European Union was driving many old-fashioned, liberal conservatives away. The broadcaster, who was educated at Harrow and Cambridge and lives near Edinburgh, says he will now vote for the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnsons-party-must-be-destroyed-says-former-tory-adviser-bendor-grosvenor-n86g3lb5b>

Op-ed: Businesses have the chance to lead on sustainability – Craig Vickery (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Next year Glasgow will host the COP26 — Conference of Parties — taking centre stage and leading the global conversation on climate change. In recent years billions have been invested in Scotland's offshore energy sector and renewable electricity reached record levels this year. Greenhouse gas emissions have halved since 1990. From Stornoway to Stonehaven, our renewables sector is world-leading. Nicola Sturgeon declared a climate emergency in April and her government has legislated for a 2045 zero-carbon target. As an advanced economy, Scotland is uniquely placed to be at the centre of sustainable development, which the World Bank defines as "growth that must be both inclusive and

environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today's population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/businesses-have-the-chance-to-lead-on-sustainability-gxjwjwz3p>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 10:30 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Johnson on mission to save Tory seats from SNP rout (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Boris Johnson will today vow to get the UK "out of our rut" ahead of a visit to Scotland where he will launch a bid to bolster the Tory vote and prevent heavy losses to the SNP in next month's General Election. The Prime Minister, who currently has 13 MPs north of the Border, is expected to travel to the north-east of Scotland tomorrow. His party is defending a number of seats at risk of being lost to the Nationalists in the election on December 12. Today he will insist it is time to pull Britain "out of our rut" and get Brexit done. At the Conservatives' election launch rally in the Midlands this evening, Mr Johnson will also warn that a vote for the SNP, Liberal Democrats, Greens or the Brexit Party would be an effective "vote for Corbyn" and risk putting the Labour leader in Downing Street.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18016640.boris-johnson-time-pull-britain-out-rut-get-brexit-done-prepares-visit-scotland/>

Nicola Sturgeon leaves open idea of DUP-style deal with Labour (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has left the door open to a DUP-style deal with Labour after the General Election. The First Minister has repeatedly rejected the idea of entering into any formal coalition with Jeremy Corbyn if he fails to secure a majority on December 12. However, yesterday she did not rule out a looser, "confidence and supply" arrangement in exchange for a second independence referendum. Following the 2017 election, the DUP agreed to prop up Theresa May's Government under such a deal, with the Northern Irish party supporting the Conservative administration on key issues. Asked on Sky News whether she would "do a deal like the DUP" on a confidence and supply basis, Ms Sturgeon said: "Well, let's see what the arithmetic is – there will be no formal coalition."

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18016496.nicola-sturgeon-leaves-open-idea-dup-style-deal-labour/>

Op-ed: Labour and the SNP have become symbiotic – Kenny Farquharson (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Labour and the SNP are fighting this election as a joint venture. It may not feel that way at local level, as activists battle with ferocious rivalry. But step back and look at the bigger picture and the reality is clear. Neither Jeremy Corbyn nor Nicola Sturgeon can acknowledge this. The conventions of electoral politics dictate that all parties fight to win on their own terms. Yet Labour and the SNP are competing in the full knowledge they may need each other when polling stations close. And that is dictating how they campaign. This is particularly tricky for the SNP. The party's two big objectives in this election — new referendums on Brexit and Scottish independence — are only deliverable by a Labour prime minister. We are in the curious position of the SNP fighting Labour in Scotland but needing Labour to win UK-wide.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-and-the-snp-have-become-symbiotic-rqq75ttkq>

Nicola Sturgeon: I don't worry about losing pro-Brexit SNP voters (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon is not concerned about alienating Brexit-supporting SNP voters by adopting a pro-EU stance in the general election. The first minister claimed that the party's position of backing a confirmatory EU referendum and wanting to stop Brexit had not cost it support. Ms Sturgeon was on the campaign trail in Dalkeith, Midlothian, where she joined a rendition of I'm a Believer by the Monkees at a community centre. Asked if she feared the party would face a backlash over its pro-EU stance, Ms Sturgeon said: "No, I don't, I don't worry. In politics, you have to decide what side of issues you're on, big defining issues. You only have to look at Labour to see what happens to parties who try to straddle the fence and aren't frank with people."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-i-dont-worry-about-losing-pro-brexit-snp-voters-vzzklwq9q>

SNP in legal action threat over election debate snub (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has warned the SNP may take legal action against Sky News if she is excluded from a key election leaders' TV debate. The broadcaster is proposing to have Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Jeremy Corbyn of Labour and Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson take part in the event on 28 November. The satellite giant insisted last night its proposal is in line with broadcasting watchdog Ofcom's rules. Ms Swinson has already separately raised the prospect of legal action after being excluded from the planned 19 November "head to head" on ITV between the Prime Minister and Mr Corbyn. The SNP has now issued a similar warning to Sky News chief John Ryley — making clear the party could test the matter in the courts after Ms Sturgeon was excluded.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election-2019-nicola-sturgeon-in-sky-news-legal-threat-over-leaders-debate-exclusion-1-5040110>

Nicola Sturgeon is a hag, said Tory hopeful Kathleen Leslie (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish Conservative who was struck off the teaching register after calling Nicola Sturgeon a "drooling hag" has been selected as a general election candidate. Kathleen Leslie, who also called the Weir family who won £161 million on the lottery "uneducated fat f*****s", will stand in Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath. Ms Leslie, who taught at Woodmill High, Dunfermline, posted on social media before the independence referendum. She wrote about Ms Sturgeon: "Wee jimmy krankie is a drooling hag. She's a walking horror show." She also called the first minister a "wee fish wife" with a "grim face".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-is-a-hag-said-tory-hopeful-kathleen-leslie-rh9tz07kk>

Op-ed: Westminster election leaves Scotland in a budget bind — Douglas Fraser (BBC News) POL/ECON

Thanks to the Westminster election, the Holyrood budget process faces a tight timetable in the new year. MSPs will have only a few weeks to scrutinise the Budget Bill. That means SNP ministers have limited time to secure support from opposition MSPs to get the budget passed. Wednesday should have been Budget day at Westminster, but plans for Chancellor Sajid Javid to set out the first post-Brexit Budget were pulled when Brexit had to be postponed. The Holyrood budget was to have been published with an announcement at Holyrood on 12 December. But that is now the day of the general election, and the Holyrood schedule will have to be reset.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50311597>

What will MSPs be doing during the general election campaign? (BBC News) POL

In theory, the day job of devolved governance continues as usual at Holyrood, even against the backdrop of the election campaign, right up to (but not including) polling day. Debates are still held, committees continue to sit, and scrutiny of legislation continues. However, one major set-piece event on the political calendar has already been disrupted - the budget.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50290059>

Clara Ponsati: New European arrest warrant issued (BBC News) POL

A new European arrest warrant has been issued for a St Andrews University professor over her role in the 2017 push for independence in Catalonia. Clara Ponsatí, who was education minister in the Catalan government, is wanted in Spain on a charge of sedition. Prof Ponsatí, 62, denies wrongdoing and says she will resist extradition. A previous warrant was withdrawn last summer, but the academic again faces being sent to Spain to stand trial. The move comes after nine Catalan leaders were convicted of sedition over their role in an unsanctioned referendum on independence in 2017.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50299391>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Go ahead, thanks

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 9:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Sturgeon sets out demands for an alliance with Labour (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon will tell civil servants that a second independence referendum, devolution of drug powers and an end to austerity economics are central to any deal she could agree with Labour in the event of a hung parliament. The Times revealed yesterday that Whitehall officials had been given permission to talk to Ms Sturgeon as part of a longstanding convention where the civil service speaks to

opposition parties to allow them to prepare for whoever wins power. The first minister has previously said that any party that wants the SNP's support to form a government should not "bother picking up the phone" unless it is prepared to allow a second referendum on Scottish independence. On the campaign trail in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire, Ms Sturgeon said that there was "real potential" that the SNP will hold the balance of power after the election next month.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sturgeon-sets-out-demands-for-an-alliance-with-labour-nt73d76hr>

Conservative election win would put NHS at risk warns Richard Leonard (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Richard Leonard has warned of the risk of the NHS being sold off to American corporate interests in the event of Boris Johnson winning the General Election. The Scottish Labour leader said voters have a clear choice between the Tories and a party that would invest in public services in Labour. It has previously been suggested parts of the NHS could be sold off to private companies as part of a potential UK-US trade deal after Brexit. Speaking outside Monklands Hospital in Airdrie on Monday, Mr Leonard said: "My reading of Boris Johnson's approach is that while he wants to wrench the UK out of Europe, he wants to make us almost the 51st state of the United States of America. "He sets all his store by trade agreements with Donald Trump. "Now, Trump's position is America first and there's no doubt that any agreement, if ever that was to be reached with the US in a bilateral trade deal, would see the opening up of parts of our public realm in this country to private interests based in America."

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18013303.conservative-election-win-put-nhs-risk-warns-richard-leonard/>

Nicola Sturgeon hits out at Sky's leaders' debate offer that excludes her but includes Jo Swinson (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

An angry Nicola Sturgeon has said it is "outrageous and unacceptable" for Sky News to exclude her from its offer of a televised party leaders' debate after ITV did so for its live election head-to-head. Once Sky announced its proposed line-up for Thursday, November 28, featuring Boris Johnson, Jeremy Corbyn and Jo Swinson, the First Minister took to social media to complain. She tweeted: "Simply outrageous and unacceptable to exclude @theSNP - the third-largest party in UK. What are the other parties so scared of that they won't agree to real debate? And why are broadcasters letting down voters, especially in Scotland?"

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18014186.nicola-sturgeon-hits-skys-leaders-debate-offer-excludes-jo-swinson/>

Charity given warning after Corbyn tweets (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An intelligence firm that shared articles criticising Jeremy Corbyn on social media has avoided being stripped of its charitable status. The Integrity Initiative, a subsidiary of the Institute for Statecraft (IFS), a charity based in Scotland, retweeted articles including one from the Times security columnist Edward Lucas describing the Labour leader as a "useful idiot" for communist secret police. Chris Donnelly, the retired Sandhurst Academy intelligence trainer who founded IFS in 2006, publicly apologised to Mr Corbyn in April and said that the tweets, sent by an unmonitored social media assistant, were "a mistake". He acknowledged that they were in breach of Scottish charity law and strict rules from the Foreign Office, which gave the institute a substantial grant to counter foreign propaganda.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/charity-given-warning-after-corbyn-tweets-n0m9wlgcb>

Ross Thomson: Tory inquiry witnesses still to be interviewed nine months on (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Witnesses to the alleged "sexual touching" of MPs by the Scottish Conservative politician Ross Thomson in a Commons bar have not been interviewed nine months after he was referred for internal investigation. It is understood that the party process into claims that men had been groped by Mr Thomson, who has announced he is quitting as an MP, was shelved when a fresh accusation of sexual assault by Paul Sweeney, the Labour MP, was referred to Westminster's standards commissioner. The watchdog's office confirmed that its investigation into Mr Thomson would continue but he would not be eligible for most of the sanctions available to the commissioner such as suspension from the Commons. The only sanction available would be to strip him of the parliamentary pass normally available to former members.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ross-thomson-tory-inquiry-witnesses-still-to-be-interviewed-nine-months-on-z5j6lr3>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Thanks, go ahead with it.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2019 10:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Tory MP Ross Thomson quits after 'grobe' claim by Labour MP Paul Sweeney (BBC News) POL

Scottish Conservative MP Ross Thomson is to stand down after being accused of sexually assaulting a Labour MP in a Commons bar. Mr Thomson said he had made the "hardest decision of my life" not to contest the seat for Aberdeen South at the general election. Labour MP Paul Sweeney had said he reported Mr Thomson to Westminster's standards watchdog following the alleged incident last October. Mr Thomson denies any wrongdoing. But he said a number of "anonymous and malicious allegations" this year had made his life "a living hell".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50280977>

Boris Johnson rules out independence referendum deal (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson has ruled out granting permission for a second vote on Scottish independence while he is prime minister. Mr Johnson said his government would not give the go-ahead for another legally-binding referendum. The Tory leader claimed the issue had been settled in a "once-in-a-generation" vote in 2014. Nicola Sturgeon described the position of blocking another independence referendum as "unsustainable". The Scottish first minister has already said she will request a "section 30 order" - which

grants permission for a new referendum from the UK government - within days of the 12 December general election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50280817>

One in three young people in Scotland has not registered to vote (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Concerns have been raised about democracy being undermined through a “hidden election crisis” as it emerged nearly one in three potential voters in Scotland aged between 18 and 34 is not registered to vote when they should be. The Electoral Reform Society has made a new call for action after becoming concerned that the numbers on the electoral register for local elections has dropped in Scotland since 2014 – despite 16 and 17-year-olds being allowed to vote. The latest Electoral Commission information found young people, students and those who have recently moved are least likely groups to be registered. It is estimated between 630,000 and 890,000 potential voters are missing off the register across Scotland. As of the end of 2018, just 68% of potential Scottish voters aged between 18 and 34 had registered to vote, while 13% of those aged 35-54 had not registered and 8% of over-55s.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18012258.concern-democracy-one-three-young-people-arent-registered-vote/>

Iraq war trauma led my son Adrian on path of crime, says Brian Bonar (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish millionaire whose son was killed in a suspected gangland shooting in California believes he became embroiled in crime after returning from war in Iraq with post-traumatic stress. Brian Bonar, 72, said that fighting overseas “changed” Adrian Bonar, 34, and led him down a dark path of drug addiction and underworld connections. His body was found wrapped in tarpaulin and duct tape in the boot of a Lexus, which had been dumped at the side of the road in Anaheim, California, about 75 miles from his home in Escondido, San Diego, on October 17. It took three days to formally identify the body as that of Mr Bonar, who was known to police as a drug addict with a string of previous convictions for drugs and having weapons. He also had an outstanding arrest warrant against him.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/iraq-war-trauma-led-my-son-on-path-of-crime-says-millionaire-lpzv9zkxh>

First Minister calls US mesh surgeon to invite him to Scotland (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has called US mesh removal expert Dr Dionysios Veronikis to ask him to come to Scotland. Ms Sturgeon promised to call the pioneering surgeon after facing questions in parliament over delays to the visit, which prompted Dr Veronikis to say he would no longer come. Tory leader Jackson Carlaw read out a letter from mesh expert Dr Wael Agur in which he warned there was a “professional conspiracy” to prevent Dr Veronikis coming to Scotland to remove mesh implants from injured women because surgeons here felt “deeply threatened” that his skills would expose shortcomings.

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/first-minister-calls-us-mesh-surgeon-to-invite-him-to-scotland/>

Scotland's Wee Book Company to make it big in US debut (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Scottish publishing house The Wee Book Company is on target to hit 50,000 book sales in its inaugural year of trading, as it gears up to ship its first export to the US. The independent publisher, founded by former lawyer Susan Cohen in 2018, produces comedy and children’s fiction “with positive motivational messages”. Its first book, *The Wee Book o’ Grannies’ Sayin’s*, sold out in ten days in the run-up to Christmas last year, while its second title, *The Wee Book o’ Pure Stoatin’ Joy*, is due to be exported to

the US next month. The Wee Book Company expects annual sales to reach 50,000 in its inaugural year and aims to produce 22 titles by the end of 2020.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/scotland-s-wee-book-company-to-make-it-big-in-us-debut-1-5037640>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:54 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Good to go – thanks!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:43 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Corbyn could back new indyref 'as early as 2021' (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Labour's election campaign in Scotland risked being derailed on day one after the party confirmed Jeremy Corbyn could allow a second Scottish independence referendum as early as 2021. A spokesman for Mr Corbyn insisted there would be "no pacts, no coalitions" with the SNP after the Conservatives accused the parties of having struck a "shady backroom deal". But Labour was accused of "flirting with the SNP" after one of its senior MPs said Mr Corbyn "won't stand in the way" of a vote on Scotland's future. It threatens to distract from a campaign launch today which will see Mr Corbyn single out wealthy individuals as examples of the "rigged system" Labour pledges to dismantle – including Grangemouth refinery owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the Duke of Wellington, who owns nearly 100,000 acres of land in Scotland.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-could-back-new-scottish-independence-vote-as-early-as-2021-1-5036078>

Going it alone would cost Scots, says Johnson (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Independence is a "crackpot" plan that would damage Scotland's economy, Boris Johnson said as he defended his plan for Brexit. Ian Blackford, the SNP's leader at Westminster, attacked the deal after a study by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research suggested that it would leave the UK £70 billion worse off in ten years' time. Mr Blackford said that Mr Johnson was willing to "throw Scotland under his big red bus" and damage people's lives in his quest to deliver Brexit. During prime minister's questions yesterday Mr Johnson said that independence would harm Scotland's finances because 60 per cent of the country's trade was done with the rest of the UK and it would result in the end of the Barnett formula, the block grant that London pays to Edinburgh. Mr Johnson said: "They [the SNP] would throw that all away with their crackpot plan for borders at Berwick and creating a new Scottish currency or joining the euro — or worse still, going into the European Union, handing back control of Scotland's fisheries, Scotland's spectacular marine wealth just at the moment they've been

won back by this country, handing back control of those fisheries to Brussels. That's their policy; I look forward to contesting it at the barricades."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/going-it-alone-would-cost-scots-says-johnson-w5w299pc3>

Tories use Ruth Davidson on leaflets, but not the man who took her job (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The interim leader of the Scottish Conservatives has defended using Ruth Davidson's image in election campaign literature and denied that there was a vacuum at the top of the party. Jackson Carlaw said that he was "delighted" his party could use former leaders, including Ms Davidson and Baroness Goldie, in campaign material. Ms Davidson resigned in August and the party is yet to outline plans for a leadership election to replace her. Asked about a leaflet in which he did not feature being handed out at an event in Perth, Mr Carlaw said: "I think the Labour Party were putting election leaflets out from Gordon Brown in the last general election and he hasn't been the prime minister since 2010. We are absolutely delighted that we've got former leaders that we're able to use in this campaign. "I doubt the SNP will be using Alex Salmond, I doubt the Labour Party will be using Kezia Dugdale. Our former leaders are still very much active in the party and an electoral asset, and we'll be using both Annabel Goldie and Ruth Davidson."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-use-ruth-davidson-on-leaflets-but-not-the-man-who-took-her-job-nws6c9ngr>

Labour and Tories will 'sit back to let Lib Dems oust Blackford' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An informal pact has emerged to oust the second SNP Westminster leader in as many years by giving ground to the Liberal Democrats. Senior figures in the Scottish Conservatives and Scottish Labour believe that Craig Harrow, the Liberal Democrat candidate, is on course to topple Ian Blackford in Ross, Skye and Lochaber and have effectively downed tools on campaigning in the constituency. Mr Blackford has a majority of almost 6,000 but his share of the vote fell by 7.9 per cent in the two years leading up to the 2017 election. The Tories finished second then, but the seat is considered Lib Dem heartland and was held by Charles Kennedy, the former party leader, for a decade. He lost it during the SNP surge and the Lib Dems' nationwide collapse of 2015.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-and-tories-will-sit-back-to-let-lib-dems-oust-blackford-s77mrgtxj>

Op-ed: Election fever strikes Scottish politics – Brian Taylor (BBC News) POL

There was Mike Russell at Holyrood, valiantly pursuing his ministerial duty of keeping Scotland informed. According to the Minister for Mitigating Brexit, new official figures suggest the PM's latest deal for leaving the EU will impoverish Scots. Unaccountably, some on opposition benches seemed to feel there was a partisan edge to Mr Russell's comments. Murdo Fraser of the Tories was particularly exercised. As the chamber demonstrated signs of election fever - OK, more signs - the Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh appealed for calm from all sides. In particular, he urged, if MSPs must indulge in electioneering, try not to make it too blatant. Loadsaluck with that one, PO. Loadsaluck.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50233334>

SNP ministers accused of refusing to fund Aberdeen arts over No vote (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

The arts in Aberdeen are being shortchanged by nationalist politicians who prefer to invest in Scotland's most pro-independence city, civic leaders have claimed. Councillors in the Granite City say they were

offered no financial help for the £35 million overhaul of the city's art gallery, while the V&A museum in Dundee, which opened last year, was allocated £40 million. Douglas Lumsden, the co-leader of Aberdeen city council, which is run by a Tory, Labour and independent coalition, described the discrepancy as "shameful". The Scottish government insisted that it had never received a funding application for the gallery revamp. Aberdeen Art Gallery will reopen to the public this weekend after being closed for four years.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-ministers-accused-of-refusing-to-fund-aberdeen-arts-over-no-vote-txs5203br>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 10:26 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Oh no, disaster!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 10:26 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine - my outlook on the computer isn't working so WhatsApp me anything urgent

From: (b)(6)
Date: 30 October 2019 at 09:32:13 GMT
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Election 2019: Nicola Sturgeon 'ready' to take on Tories (BBC News) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has said the SNP are "ready" to take on the Conservatives in the face of an election next month. The first minister is expected to hit the campaign trail after MPs voted in favour of going to the polls on 12 December. The bill is still to be approved by the Lords but could become law by the end of the week. Ian Blackford, the party's Westminster leader, earlier said the SNP would beat the Tories in Scotland. Ms Sturgeon will join Alyn Smith, the SNP's candidate for Stirling, on the campaign trail on Wednesday. Speaking ahead of her visit she said: "The SNP is ready for an election. We stand ready to take the fight to the Tories, to bring down this undemocratic government, and give Scotland the chance to escape from Brexit and decide our own future. "Scotland has been ignored and treated with contempt by Westminster, and this election is an opportunity to bring that to an end. "A win for the SNP will be an unequivocal and irresistible demand for Scotland's right to choose our own future."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50219725>

Right to hold independence referendum to dominate Scots election push (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Nationalist demands for a second referendum on independence will be at the heart of the coming election campaign. SNP Westminster leader Ian Blackford insisted that Scotland's right to "determine its own future" will drive the party's election push as MSPs last night backed a December election. The UK government has so far refused to grant the section 30 order that would give Holyrood the power to hold a second referendum on leaving the UK. But with polls suggesting the SNP are poised to build on the 35 seats – out of 59 – they hold in Scotland, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will argue this strengthens the case for another vote on independence. Mr Blackford told MPs in the Commons yesterday that the SNP welcomes the opportunity of an election. "We will reflect on everything that's happened since 2017 when 13 Scottish Conservatives were temporarily elected to this house," he said.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election-2019-right-to-hold-independence-referendum-to-dominate-scots-election-push-1-5035527>

Op-ed: Early election push may rebound on Sturgeon – Kenny Farquharson (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

When the history books are written about the Christmas election of 2019, one of the questions requiring an answer will be this: did Nicola Sturgeon bounce Labour into a fateful contest it did not need to fight? Yesterday's decision by Labour's shadow cabinet to back an early election was taken under duress. The SNP had decided to give Boris Johnson the ballot box moment he craved. An election was coming. Labour decided it was better to embrace it than be dragged into it. This was Ms Sturgeon's doing. How she will be judged in those history books now hangs on the outcome of a December vote. The bookies say that the Tories are odds-on to win a parliamentary majority. Last weekend one opinion poll gave the Conservatives a 16-point lead over Labour, with Mr Johnson more popular than Jeremy Corbyn in every age group and in every part of the country, including Scotland.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/early-election-push-may-rebound-on-sturgeon-djgx2890n>

Op-ed: Just don't count your chlorinated chickens Boris – Iain Macwhirter (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Yesterday, this constipated Parliament gave one last groaning wheeze, and delivered an election – sort of. The turkeys haven't quite finished gobbling yet, but we know they're voting for Christmas. Labour's final humiliation was signalling that it would agree to the election it rejected only on Monday on the grounds that No Deal had not been taken "off the table". Well, if hard Brexit does now happen, after next year's trade talks, Labour will only have itself to blame. Three times it rejected Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement Bill (WAB) which contained guarantees on workers' rights and the environment that have been shorn from Boris Johnson's deal.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18002052.iain-macwhirter-rude-awakening-ahead-nightmare-christmas/>

LGBT criticism of fast-food chain's first Scottish outlet (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US fast-food chain criticised for making donations to anti-LGBT rights groups has opened a restaurant in Aviemore - its first Scottish outlet. Chick-fil-A's first UK outlet, which is in Reading, is set to close following boycott calls earlier this month. Highland LGBT Forum has criticised the opening of the restaurant at the MacDonald Aviemore Resort. Chick-fil-A said it was focused on food and hospitality and did not have a social or political agenda. Macdonald Aviemore Resort said it treated everyone with respect in its recruitment and customer care, and said the new restaurant was proving to be "extremely popular". Chick-fil-A, a family-owned company, is one of the biggest fast-food chains in the USA and has about 2,400 outlets across North America.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-50220337>

Court hears £750,000 defamation case against MSP (BBC News) POL

A Scottish court has begun hearing a £750,000 defamation case against Green MSP Andy Wightman. Paul O'Donoghue claimed a blog written by the MSP about his business, Wildcat Haven, falsely suggested it was a "tax haven" and damaged its reputation. Lawyers for Mr Wightman contend that the blog contained "legitimate comment and criticism" stemming from his "legitimate concerns" about the firm. The hearing at the Court of Session in Edinburgh is set to run for eight days.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50227518>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 9:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? The Scotsman piece isn't online, annoyingly.

Party anger as SNP MP attacks election 'gift' for Johnson (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP'S Westminster leader insisted his party's MPs were "absolute united" after a senior Nationalists claiming the party's proposal for a 9 December election hands Boris Johnson a "Christmas and birthday present all rolled into one". Angus Macneil, the Western Isles MP, says the support for a pre-christmas election leaves the party's push for independence "nowhere", with no guarantee that Scotland would be allowed to stage a referendum. "There's a big risk actually, more than that, that Boris Johnson is going to come back with majority and he's then going to do a hard Brexit or any Brexit, he'll have a mandate for any Brexit," Mr Macneil told the BBC'S Good Morning Scotland radio programme. "Crucially he's going to have that 35-40 per cent of the electorate because this election is being conceded by everybody as a proxy referendum on Brexit. "I would much prefer the SNP were concentrating on independence – that ain't happening – so we've got this election which is a proxy referendum on Brexit with a threshold for the Brexiteers of 35-40 per cent to foist any Brexit on the people of the UK."

No link

Labour MP Lesley Laird pleads for campaigning help (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A shortage of activists has forced the shadow Scottish secretary to ask friends and family to stuff envelopes and deliver Labour campaign material. Lesley Laird made the appeal on Facebook days before being reselected to contest the Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath constituency. The unanimous decision, in the seat formerly held by Gordon Brown, was only made by two of the five local branches because three did not have enough members attending the key meeting. Ms Laird wrote: "Looking for some assistance to stuff envelopes and deliver materials. If you are able to help in any way just PM [private message] me." Sources said only councillors and candidates were prepared to campaign for the party in Fife, which was once a Labour stronghold. "Sucking up to Corbyn might get you around the shadow cabinet table but it won't get you re-elected," a source said. "I feel sorry for Lesley. She works hard but is backing the wrong horse."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-mp-lesley-laird-pleads-for-campaigning-help-szhnztcdct>

Ruth Davidson must quit as MSP if she takes lobbying role, says industry body (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson must resign as an MSP if she proceeds with her decision to join a leading PR company, a chairman of the industry body has warned. George McGregor, co-chairman of the UK Public Affairs Board, questioned the advice that the former Scottish Conservative leader received from Scottish parliamentary officials before taking a role with the lobbying company Tulchan. Ms Davidson will earn £50,000 a year for 25 days' work as a senior adviser. She said at the weekend that she had undertaken "due diligence" before accepting the new role, including meeting parliamentary staff at Holyrood. Mr McGregor, who was a special adviser to Helen Liddell, now Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, when she was Scottish secretary in Tony Blair's government, described Tulchan as "outliers in the UK public affairs industry" because it does not sign up to the UK Public Affairs Board's code of conduct.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-must-quit-as-msp-if-she-takes-lobbying-role-says-industry-body-cz7mt0fdv>

American aircrews cleared over stays at Trump's Turnberry resort (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

United States aircrews did not break government rules by staying at President Trump's resort in Scotland, a US Air Force investigation has concluded. There was a furore when it emerged that they had used Trump Turnberry, about 40 minutes drive from Prestwick, the financially challenged publicly owned airport. A House of Representatives committee raised concerns about the resort's use, claiming the hotel and the airport were using the military as a financial lifeline. It was revealed that 31 crews lodged at Turnberry in the last four years, while more than 500 crews were accommodated elsewhere. The US Air Force ordered a review, which concluded that stopovers "conform to use on the basis of operational military necessity".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/american-aircrews-cleared-over-stays-at-trumps-turnberry-resort-r0j77sxhf>

Data watchdog tells Holyrood officials to remember laws (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's information commissioner has written to Nicola Sturgeon's top civil servant to ensure ministers understand freedom of information laws. Daren Fitzhenry contacted Leslie Evans, the permanent secretary, after The Times revealed this month that the first minister had been using her party account for government business. The revelation intensified suspicions that Ms Sturgeon is seeking to avoid scrutiny by using email accounts that may not always be subject to freedom of information requests. Strict data retention rules apply to government email servers, whereas information can be deleted freely on private accounts.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/data-watchdog-tells-holyrood-officials-to-remember-laws-0t87jxr cr>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 10:23 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Got it, thanks! And weirdly that sentence is right...

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 10:12 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe worth including this: <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-election-plan-leaves-scottish-independence-nowhere-says-mp-angus-macneil-1-5034081>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 10:10 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

The highlighted sentence seems a bit odd – can you double check? Otherwise fine to go.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 10:06 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I've added in the Trump Organization article, if that works?

Johnson eyes SNP-LibDems plan to get his early election (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Boris Johnson has signalled he may borrow a plan for an early election put forward by the SNP and Liberal Democrats if his own preferred route fails today. The Prime Minister will ask MPS this afternoon for a third time to back an election under the Fixed-term Parliament Act, but with little prospect of success. He needs two-thirds of MPS to support his proposal for an election on December 12 in return for the Commons getting until November 6 to scrutinise and pass his Brexit deal legislation. However Downing Street said it would look at "all options" for a Plan B, including one similar to a new joint Snp-libdems plan to use a one-page bill to secure an election on December 9. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Libdems leader Jo Swinson both promoted the idea yesterday, saying it would avoid Mr Johnson getting his "bad Brexit deal" passed with the help of rebel Labour MPS.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17996818.johnson-eyes-snp-libdem-plan-get-early-election/>

One in 10 Scots stocking up on food for no-deal Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

While the UK government has urged people to not worry about stockpiling ahead of a possible no-deal Brexit, the latest Panelbase poll for The Sunday Times shows some voters in Scotland have had other ideas. Although ministers have played down talk of supplies running out, one in 10 adults in Scotland have already started to stock up on food. Almost as many (8%) have put extra medicine aside while 4% are keeping their cars full of petrol. Amid currency concerns, 3% say they have prepared for Brexit by

buying euros while 2% have bought US dollars. However, by far the largest group (84%) say they have done nothing to prepare for the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/one-in-10-scots-stocking-up-on-food-for-no-deal-brex-it-g5080hht5>

Ruth Davidson told to publish PR job advice (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson should publish advice received before she accepted her PR job, a critic has demanded. The former Scottish Conservative leader faced calls to resign as an MSP after announcing a job with Tulchan as a senior adviser, earning £50,000 a year for 25 days' work. In response to the criticism, the Edinburgh Central MSP said she had undertaken "due diligence" before accepting the new role, including meeting parliamentary staff at Holyrood. Neil Findlay, the Labour MSP, said: "Ruth Davidson claims she sought the advice of the Scottish parliamentary authorities before accepting this highly paid job as a lobbyist. In the interest of openness and transparency she should publish all communications between her and the parliamentary authorities who gave her advice." Mr Findlay is to introduce a bill on the rules governing second jobs for MSPs. He said: "If it is true that Davidson was given the green light to take this job, then clearly the rules are not fit for purpose."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-told-to-publish-pr-job-advice-jwpxbkjii>

'Disloyal' Ian Murray deserved bid to oust him after Jeremy Corbyn attacks, says Len McCluskey (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Len McCluskey says the actions of Ian Murray in criticising the Labour leadership "had to be called out" after an attempt by his union to unseat the Scottish MP. Unite triggered a selection ballot in his Edinburgh South constituency but failed by 158 votes to 13. Mr McCluskey said the contest had come about because of the Edinburgh MP's criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, as well as attacks on Unite and his resignation as shadow Scottish secretary. The Unite general secretary said that his members saw the actions of Mr Murray as "contemptuous". Mr McCluskey insisted that the union knew it would not manage to unseat the MP, who boasts a majority of 15,514. He said: "We knew full well there was no chance of unseating Ian, he was always going to get the support of his constituency. His behaviour — and this was the view of our Scottish membership, which I support — needed to be called out." He described Mr Murray as a "constant critic" of Mr Corbyn.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/disloyal-ian-murray-deserved-bid-to-oust-him-after-jeremy-corbyn-attacks-says-len-mccluskey-2z806pgks>

SNP urged to explain by-election expenses manoeuvre (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The SNP narrowly avoided going over the legal spending limit for a by-election by only declaring costs of rented accommodation for days campaigners were using it. Opposition politicians have now called for a probe to be launched into the party's expense returns for the hotly-contested Shetland by-election. The Herald on Sunday has obtained documents showing the party declared just 57% of the total cost of two rented flats which were used in the run-up to the vote in August. Almost half of the £ 99,000 spent in total on the contest has been declared without receipts, on a two-page document signed by the party's chief executive Peter Murrell, pictured left.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17996124.snp-scrape-by-election-limit-declaring-spending-rented-flats-occupied/>

Op-ed: SNP chooses not to read the full story of Brexit's impact on our economy – Michael Glackin (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

"Brexit has cost Scottish economy £3bn" roared the headlines last week. The Fraser of Allander report, which prompted this worrying news, indeed concludes that continuing uncertainty caused by Brexit has

cost the Scottish economy £3bn. So far. No one should quibble with the estimate, a large chunk of which is based on the sharp decline in business investment as companies shelve spending decisions, helplessly waiting for the fog of Brexit to lift. Right on cue, up popped the Scottish government to warn: “The report makes clear that Brexit uncertainty has already had a damaging impact on economic growth in Scotland. Any form of Brexit brings the threat of further damage to Scotland’s economy, and we are clear that a no-deal outcome has the potential to tip the Scottish economy into recession.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/michael-glackin-snp-chooses-not-to-read-the-full-story-of-brexit-impact-on-our-economy-vcs0867mr>

Trumps ‘frustrated’ by foreign projects ban (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump’s most senior executive in the UK has said the Trump family is feeling frustrated at being unable to pursue “foreign investments” and overseas business opportunities, while also revealing that “everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book”. Sarah Malone, executive vice president of Trump International Scotland, suggested that since assuming the presidency, Mr Trump’s personal “liberties and freedoms” have been curtailed because he cannot visit his Scottish properties to play golf when he likes. Ms Malone made the comments at a rare public speaking engagement at a controversial evangelical church in Glasgow with ties to Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), which claims to be the world’s biggest Christian television network. The event saw Ms Malone’s husband, Damian Bates – a former newspaper editor who has dined with Mr Trump at the White House while researching a book about him – claim the president turned down a \$65 million (£50m) offer to film another series of The Apprentice in order to pursue his political career. Mr Bates also lashed out at media coverage of the Trump administration, criticising the BBC and urging people to tune in to RT, the Russian government-funded broadcaster. In an address before an audience around 120-strong at Destiny Church in Glasgow, Ms Malone said those who claim Mr Trump is profiting from his presidency had a “very crude”, “overly simplistic” and “ridiculous” mindset. “It’s frustrating for the family, because they’re business people, so the presidency is ... and also his liberties and his freedoms to be able to come and play golf when he wants,” she explained. She indicated her colleagues in the Trump Organisation would follow her husband’s lead and commit their experiences with Mr Trump to paper. “Everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book,” she said. “Everybody’s writing a book. Everybody’s writing a book about Trump whether they’re in the organisation or not.” At Thursday evening’s event, Mr Bates addressed the ongoing controversy surrounding the financial ties between the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Mr Trump’s nearby Turnberry resort, and the US Defence Department, the subject of an ongoing investigation by the US Congress. He said there was a “deal done” with the US government for military aircraft to stop at Prestwick, which offered the “cheapest” landing rates in Europe.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trumps-frustrated-at-inability-to-pursue-foreign-investment-deals-says-trump-org-executive-1-5033346>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 9:26 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today?

Johnson eyes SNP-LibDems plan to get his early election (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Boris Johnson has signalled he may borrow a plan for an early election put forward by the SNP and Liberal Democrats if his own preferred route fails today. The Prime Minister will ask MPS this afternoon for a third time to back an election under the Fixed-term Parliament Act, but with little prospect of success. He needs two-thirds of MPS to support his proposal for an election on December 12 in return for the Commons getting until November 6 to scrutinise and pass his Brexit deal legislation. However Downing Street said it would look at “all options” for a Plan B, including one similar to a new joint Snp-libdems plan to use a one-page bill to secure an election on December 9. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Libdems leader Jo Swinson both promoted the idea yesterday, saying it would avoid Mr Johnson getting his “bad Brexit deal” passed with the help of rebel Labour MPS.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17996818.johnson-eyes-snp-libdem-plan-get-early-election/>

One in 10 Scots stocking up on food for no-deal Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

While the UK government has urged people to not worry about stockpiling ahead of a possible no-deal Brexit, the latest Panelbase poll for The Sunday Times shows some voters in Scotland have had other ideas. Although ministers have played down talk of supplies running out, one in 10 adults in Scotland have already started to stock up on food. Almost as many (8%) have put extra medicine aside while 4% are keeping their cars full of petrol. Amid currency concerns, 3% say they have prepared for Brexit by buying euros while 2% have bought US dollars. However, by far the largest group (84%) say they have done nothing to prepare for the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/one-in-10-scots-stocking-up-on-food-for-no-deal-brexite-g5080hht5>

Ruth Davidson told to publish PR job advice (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson should publish advice received before she accepted her PR job, a critic has demanded. The former Scottish Conservative leader faced calls to resign as an MSP after announcing a job with Tulchan as a senior adviser, earning £50,000 a year for 25 days’ work. In response to the criticism, the Edinburgh Central MSP said she had undertaken “due diligence” before accepting the new role, including meeting parliamentary staff at Holyrood. Neil Findlay, the Labour MSP, said: “Ruth Davidson claims she sought the advice of the Scottish parliamentary authorities before accepting this highly paid job as a lobbyist. In the interest of openness and transparency she should publish all communications between her and the parliamentary authorities who gave her advice.” Mr Findlay is to introduce a bill on the rules governing second jobs for MSPs. He said: “If it is true that Davidson was given the green light to take this job, then clearly the rules are not fit for purpose.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-told-to-publish-pr-job-advice-jwpxbkjji>

‘Disloyal’ Ian Murray deserved bid to oust him after Jeremy Corbyn attacks, says Len McCluskey (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Len McCluskey says the actions of Ian Murray in criticising the Labour leadership “had to be called out” after an attempt by his union to unseat the Scottish MP. Unite triggered a selection ballot in his Edinburgh South constituency but failed by 158 votes to 13. Mr McCluskey said the contest had come about because of the Edinburgh MP’s criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, as well as attacks on Unite and his resignation as shadow Scottish secretary. The Unite general secretary said that his members saw the actions of Mr Murray as “contemptuous”. Mr McCluskey insisted that the union knew it would not manage to unseat the MP, who boasts a majority of 15,514. He said: “We knew full well there was no chance of unseating Ian, he was always going to get the support of his constituency. His behaviour — and this was the view of our Scottish membership, which I support — needed to be called out.” He described Mr Murray as a “constant critic” of Mr Corbyn.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/disloyal-ian-murray-deserved-bid-to-oust-him-after-jeremy-corbyn-attacks-says-len-mccluskey-2z806pgks>

SNP urged to explain by-election expenses manoeuvre (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

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<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17996124.snp-scrape-by-election-limit-declaring-spending-rented-flats-occupied/>

Op-ed: SNP chooses not to read the full story of Brexit's impact on our economy – Michael Glackin (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

"Brexit has cost Scottish economy £3bn" roared the headlines last week. The Fraser of Allander report, which prompted this worrying news, indeed concludes that continuing uncertainty caused by Brexit has cost the Scottish economy £3bn. So far. No one should quibble with the estimate, a large chunk of which is based on the sharp decline in business investment as companies shelve spending decisions, helplessly waiting for the fog of Brexit to lift. Right on cue, up popped the Scottish government to warn: "The report makes clear that Brexit uncertainty has already had a damaging impact on economic growth in Scotland. Any form of Brexit brings the threat of further damage to Scotland's economy, and we are clear that a no-deal outcome has the potential to tip the Scottish economy into recession."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/michael-glackin-snp-chooses-not-to-read-the-full-story-of-brexit-impact-on-our-economy-vcs0867mr>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Cool, I'll pop it in near the bottom. Sorry, things are so fluid just now I think it was only in the news cycle between our updates!!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:55 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Let's just flag it as something that happened

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Not that I can see, but I can include it if you want?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:46 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Did we ever have a news item about the FMs sending a joint letter to the EU?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:23 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? Would something like 'MIL' make a appropriate tag for the submarine story?

**Scotland's economy takes £3bn hit from Brexit fears (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)
 ECON/POL**

The uncertainty caused by Brexit has cost the Scottish economy £3 billion so far, according to independent analysis. The Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University made the estimate as it downgraded expectations of future economic growth. It said the size of the Scottish economy was 2 per cent, or about £3 billion, smaller than forecast before the vote on EU membership. In a study published today, the Fraser of Allander, an economic forecaster, said business investment was particularly affected with many companies delaying or cancelling spending decisions. It looked at a range of scenarios suggesting that £100 million to £550 million of investment had been lost since the middle of 2016. Mairi Spowage, deputy director of the institute, said: "Investment remains well below trend and as a result growth continues to be sluggish."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scotland-s-economy-takes-3bn-hit-from-brexit-fears-99qvg523s>

Independence support falling according to poll for group backing Yes (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is greater strength of support among Scots for staying in the UK than leaving, according to a poll commissioned by a pro-independence organisation. The Progress Scotland survey found 37 per cent of voters "completely support Scotland staying part of the UK", compared with 26 per cent who "completely support Scotland becoming independent". SNP deputy leader Keith Brown insisted a

growing number of Scots are ready to listen to the “progressive case” for independence, but pro-union leaders say the Yes campaign is losing support. The Survation poll was commissioned by Progress Scotland, headed by former SNP Westminster leader Angus Robertson, and surveyed 2,000 Scots at the start of the month. It sought answers on a spectrum of 0-10 to identify strength of opinion on the issue, with 0 marking “complete” support for staying in the UK, while 10 “complete” support for independence. A narrow majority (51 per cent) were more supportive of the Union, with 6 per cent in the middle and 40 per cent more supportive of independence.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/poll-scottish-independence-voters-switching-to-support-the-union-1-5030614>

Glitch scuppers HMS Audacious delivery date (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Technical problems have caused a delay to the completion of British nuclear-powered attack submarines, the Ministry of Defence has admitted. HMS Audacious, the fourth of seven vessels due to be delivered under the £11 billion Astute-class programme, was supposed to have entered service in summer but its final handover is likely to be delayed by 17 months. The postponement has had a knock-on effect on production of HMS Anson, the fifth boat, and is likely to affect the timetable of the final two vessels. The Astute-class submarines are due to be based at the Faslane naval base near Helensburgh. The MoD declined to disclose details of the engineering problems on the grounds that it could harm the effectiveness and security of the boats.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glitch-scuppers-hms-audacious-delivery-date-hwt560bpz>

Op-ed: There is a better way to maintain our population than looking to migrants (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

The latest population trends across the UK prompted a predictable ministerial warning from the Scottish government. Fiona Hyslop, acknowledging that inward migration would be the only driver of population growth over the next quarter of a century, said that “the damaging potential impact of Brexit” had not even been taken into account. Quite why Ms Hyslop, whose formal remit is culture, tourism and external affairs, is lead minister on the worrying state of Scotland’s demographics has never been clear to me. It’s such a core determinant of Scotland’s future economic vibrancy that one might have imagined it would feature prominently in that brief. Then again, Derek Mackay, the cabinet secretary for finance, economy and fair work, has plenty of other awkward challenges right now.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/there-is-a-better-way-to-maintain-our-population-than-looking-to-migrants-qsrcdjt7h>

Unite pushes for de-selection of Labour MP Ian Murray (BBC News) POL

The Unite union is pushing to de-select Scottish Labour's Ian Murray as a candidate in the next general election. The MP for Edinburgh South was Labour's only Scottish MP between 2015 and 2017 and has been a consistent critic of Jeremy Corbyn. Under party rules, a contest to replace a sitting MP is triggered if a third of local members or affiliated unions back it. Mr Murray said he was "disappointed" that this was Unite's priority. "It is disappointing that in the week where I'm leading the People's Vote campaign in Scotland...that this is Unite's priority," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50146805>

Holyrood will not be recalled for Brexit debate (BBC News) POL

Plans to recall the Scottish Parliament to debate the UK government's Brexit deal have been put on hold. Holyrood's presiding officer said he was "not minded" to bring MSPs back from recess following developments at Westminster on Tuesday evening. Ministers wanted the chamber to sit on Thursday so

that MSPs could reject the deal and call for a new referendum instead. But MPs voted to approve the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Boris Johnson.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50139400>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine, thanks!

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, I didn't get a chance to get this away yesterday. (b)(5)

November court date set for Alex Salmond case (BBC News) POL

A court date has been set in the case against former first minister Alex Salmond, who faces charges including attempted rape and sexual assault. A preliminary hearing will go ahead at the High Court in Edinburgh on 21 November, before a full trial, which is expected to take place early next year. Mr Salmond was charged with a total of 14 offences on 24 January this year. They include two charges of attempted rape, nine of sexual assault and two of indecent assault. He strongly denies all of the allegations against him.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50122740>

Brexit worth letting Scots go, say 75% of Tory Leave voters in England (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

More than three quarters of Tory Leave voters in England would sacrifice the Union to see Britain exit the EU, a poll has found. Research by Lord Ashcroft, the Conservative donor, found that 76 per cent of English Conservatives who voted Leave in 2016 would prioritise Brexit even if it meant Scotland gained independence. Of the same demographic, 74 per cent would choose leaving the EU over Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK. The figures are a marked increase compared with a YouGov poll in June, which found that 63 per cent of party members would be willing to pay for Brexit with an independent Scotland and 59 per cent would be happy to see Ireland reunite if Britain left the EU.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-worth-letting-scots-go-say-three-quarters-of-tory-leave-voters-in-england-7c5zpcmr>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The first minister has been out of step with voters in Scotland, including her supporters, by pressing for a general election rather than a fresh Brexit referendum as a way out of the EU withdrawal impasse, according to a survey of Scottish voters carried out for The Sunday Times. A Panelbase survey of 1,003 adults resident in Scotland on October 9-11 found that only 26% supported Nicola Sturgeon's stance, while 46% would prefer another referendum, and 27% said they did not know. Among the first minister's own party supporters, six out of 10 would prefer the priority to be to put Brexit to a new referendum. However, almost five years since becoming first minister, Sturgeon remains far more popular than the leaders of Britain's other big parties, the poll found.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8djjq>

Gove claims SNP want UK to leave EU with no deal (BBC News) POL

Michael Gove has claimed the refusal of the SNP to back the new Brexit Bill could suggest they want the UK to leave the EU without a deal. The cabinet minister said he could understand why people accused the party of quietly supporting no deal. Mr Gove made the comments while speaking via video link to Holyrood's finance and constitution committee. Speaking after the meeting, SNP MSP Tom Arthur branded the claims "self-evidently ludicrous".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50131090>

Services threatened by fall in working-age population (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland faces skill shortages and more pressure on public services that are already "buckling under the strain" as the number of working-age people is poised to shrink, business leaders said. Figures released yesterday predicted that the working-age population would fall by 7,000, or 0.2 per cent, over the next 25 years without changes to immigration rules. The reduction would be exacerbated if immigration controls are tightened once Britain leaves the EU. If migration from Europe reduced by 50 per cent then the working-age population would drop by 1.9 per cent. The fall would be 3.7 per cent if inward movement stopped altogether. The total number of people in the UK is projected to increase under all the scenarios and it is predicted that Britain's population will rise to just under 70 million within nine years.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/services-threatened-by-fall-in-working-age-population-k35tl98hd>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed

structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

**Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)
ECON**

Scottish-farmed salmon, worth £2bn to Scotland's economy, could be banned from America unless ministers table urgent anti-cruelty legislation to protect marine life. The US is one of the largest purchasers of the fish cultivated in our lochs and coastal waters, with exports worth up to £200m a year. Time is running out, however, for the Scottish government to prove that new higher standards of aquaculture welfare are on the statute book and being enforced by March 2021. Experts claim failure to meet the US deadline could see the door shut on Scottish salmon as early as January 2022. The warning comes only days after America imposed swingeing 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky and cashmere as part of an ongoing trade war with the European Union, potentially imperilling hundreds of jobs.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxggk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 11:04 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

That the one?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:50 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I think there was also articles about how Scottish voters prefer another referendum instead of indyref2 (I think from over the weekend). Can you add that as well?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:35 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Court asked to consider if PM's Brexit delay tactic is lawful (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's highest court is to consider whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson has fully complied with a law requiring him to ask for a Brexit delay. He sent an unsigned letter to Brussels asking for an extension along with a signed letter saying he believed a further delay would be a mistake. The Court of Session will be asked to decide whether this broke a promise not to "frustrate" the so-called Benn Act. The government maintains it has fulfilled its legal obligations.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50117164>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The first minister has been out of step with voters in Scotland, including her supporters, by pressing for a general election rather than a fresh Brexit referendum as a way out of the EU withdrawal impasse, according to a survey of Scottish voters carried out for The Sunday Times. A Panelbase survey of 1,003 adults resident in Scotland on October 9-11 found that only 26% supported Nicola Sturgeon's stance, while 46% would prefer another referendum, and 27% said they did not know. Among the first minister's own party supporters, six out of 10 would prefer the priority to be to put Brexit to a new referendum. However, almost five years since becoming first minister, Sturgeon remains far more popular than the leaders of Britain's other big parties, the poll found.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8djjq>

Nicola Sturgeon accused of 'scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering' by Labour over Brexit claims (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of peddling "scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering" after she claimed the Labour leadership had encouraged its MPs to back Boris Johnson's Brexit deal. The First Minister made her inflammatory suggestion ahead of Saturday's debate and vote in the House of Commons. The main motion on the Prime Minister's Brexit deal was not put to a vote because an amendment, tabled by Sir Oliver Letwin, was passed.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981566.nicola-sturgeon-accused-scurrilous-malicious-rumour-mongering-labour-brexite-claims/>

Row over BBC Laura Kuenssberg 'biased' anti-Sturgeon tweet (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Two of Scotland's leading female commentators have come to blows on Twitter in a row over claims of bias by BBC political editor, Laura Kuenssberg. Bestselling crime writer and Yes supporter Val McDermid said her respect for the journalist had been cut "to shreds" over the way she responded to a tweet from Nicola Sturgeon on Saturday.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981679.row-bbc-laura-kuenssberg-biased-anti-sturgeon-tweet/>

Priti Patel plan to send migrants to north England must not stop at border, says Stuart McDonald (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Priti Patel has been accused of ignoring Scotland's need for new residents despite proposing a tailored immigration plan for northern England. The British government floated plans this month under which migrants seeking to come to the United Kingdom after Brexit would be given extra points if they agreed to move to the north of England rather than London and the southeast. For the first time the home secretary is considering taking steps to ensure that skilled immigrants are spread around the country. However, the Home Office has failed to give an assurance that similar incentives would be extended to Scotland. Studies suggest that Scotland's falling birthrate will damage economic growth and worsen skill shortages if people cannot be recruited from overseas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/priti-patel-plan-to-send-migrants-to-north-england-must-not-stop-at-border-says-stuart-mcdonald-d52bk292l>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Scottish-farmed salmon, worth £2bn to Scotland's economy, could be banned from America unless ministers table urgent anti-cruelty legislation to protect marine life. The US is one of the largest purchasers of the fish cultivated in our lochs and coastal waters, with exports worth up to £200m a year. Time is running out, however, for the Scottish government to prove that new higher standards of aquaculture welfare are on the statute book and being enforced by March 2021. Experts claim failure to meet the US deadline could see the door shut on Scottish salmon as early as January 2022. The warning comes only days after America imposed swingeing 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky and cashmere as part of an ongoing trade war with the European Union, potentially imperilling hundreds of jobs.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxggk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:47 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I'm on the run between things so go ahead. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)
Date: 17 October 2019 at 09:25:44 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Legal bid at Court of Session to stop MPs debating Brexit deal planned (BBC NEWS) POL

Anti-Brexit campaigners are considering launching a legal bid to stop the UK government from putting its proposed withdrawal agreement before Parliament. They believe it contravenes legislation preventing Northern Ireland forming part of a separate customs territory to Great Britain. MPs are due to debate the agreement at a special Commons sitting on Saturday. Campaigner Jo Maugham QC initially announced plans to petition Scotland's highest civil court on Thursday. He later tweeted to say he would "pause and reflect and take soundings from those I trust" before going to court at 12:00. If Mr Maugham goes ahead with the legal challenge, he expects it to be heard at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50076186>

Tony Blair met Ruth Davidson to question her on risk of Scottish referendum (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson and Tony Blair have met to discuss the prospect of Brexit causing a second referendum on Scottish independence. The talks between the former Scottish Conservative leader and Labour's longest-serving prime minister took place in a hotel in Edinburgh. Much of the 45-minute conversation, held over a coffee and Diet Coke, was dominated by Mr Blair questioning Ms Davidson about a vote on secession. Mr Blair, 66, whose team approached the Tory MSP, did not meet Richard Leonard, the Scottish Labour leader, during his trip.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tony-blair-met-ruth-davidson-to-question-her-on-risk-of-scottish-referendum-p8znb66wm>

SNP spent more on by-election than Brexit (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP has been criticised for spending more on a by-election in Shetland than on the Brexit referendum. New figures from the Electoral Commission show the party spent £99,000 on the Holyrood

by-election in August, compared with £90,000 on the referendum on leaving the European Union in 2016. The SNP's Shetland candidate came second to Liberal Democrat Beatrice Wishart in the poll. The Scottish Liberal Democrats have hit out at the SNP over the election spending figures, which show the party spent 12.8 per cent of the total allowed on the Brexit poll.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-spent-more-on-shetland-by-election-battle-than-brexit-referendum-1-5024899>

MSPs turn to data watchdog over Sturgeon's private emails (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's information commissioner has been urged help MSPs who want to investigate Nicola Sturgeon for using a private email account for state business. Labour wrote to the first minister and Daren Fitzhenry, the independent official responsible for enforcing freedom of information law, after The Times reported that civil servants had been ordered in 2015 to contact Ms Sturgeon on her SNP account for "urgent" business outside office hours. Elaine Smith, the Labour MSP, and Donald Cameron of the Conservatives urged Ms Sturgeon to publish all emails related to her role as first minister.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/msps-turn-to-data-watchdog-over-sturgeons-private-emails-twxqfnwqt>

Scots firms lag behind FTSE index (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

FTSE-listed Scottish companies performed worse than the overall UK index in the third quarter. Shares in Scottish companies fell after profit warnings from Irn-Bru's maker, AG Barr, and the aviation services company John Menzies. An unexpectedly high number of PPI claims at Clydesdale Bank hurt the shares of its owner, CYBG. The FTSE all-share index rose 0.3 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but shares of Scottish-headquartered companies fell by an average of 2.6 per cent over the same period, research from Brewin Dolphin showed. Over the first nine months of 2019, shares of Scottish FTSE-listed companies climbed 6.8 per cent compared with a 10.4 per cent rise in the broader index.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-firms-lag-behind-ftse-index-zcxtb9pvv>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:44 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP conference: Nicola Sturgeon says indyref2 'must happen next year' (BBC NEWS) POL

A second referendum on Scottish independence "must happen next year", Nicola Sturgeon has told the SNP conference. Ms Sturgeon confirmed that she will ask the UK government for formal consent by the end of this year. She said Westminster had "no right" to block the request, and its opposition to indyref2 is "not sustainable". But she stressed any referendum had to be legal if the result was to be recognised internationally. She said this was because her aim was not merely to deliver a referendum - but to deliver independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50036176>

Union 'at breaking point' if UK crashes out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The United Kingdom would be pushed to breaking point by a no-deal Brexit, a think tank has said as a poll found that most Scottish voters would then back independence. The Institute for Government said that since Boris Johnson became prime minister there had been a decline in engagement with the devolved governments. In a report called No-deal Brexit and the Union the IFG said: "A no-deal Brexit would be a high stakes gamble with the future of the Union." Short-term planning for a no-deal departure from the European Union had diverted attention from longer-term questions about the relationship between Westminster and devolved governments, it said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/union-at-breaking-point-if-uk-crashes-out-l76ghlwrw>

Op-ed: Sturgeon cautious but party wants to gamble on independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is a restlessness about the SNP just now. The party's annual conference in Aberdeen felt like the bedroom of a teenager grounded by their mum: tetchy and irritable, kicking its heels, killing time, wishing it was elsewhere. The Nationalists have been denied agency. This is not a good place for any party to be. Progress is contingent. They are unable to move forward on their own terms. And that rankles. Nicola Sturgeon tried to deny this inertia. In her big speech closing the conference she insisted, contrary to all evidence, that there were cracks in the Tory government's refusal to agree to a new referendum on independence. Really? I see none, and her aides later struggled to justify her belief that the enemies of a referendum were preparing to throw in the towel.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conference-sturgeon-cautious-but-party-wants-to-gamble-on-independence-0vpprvlmg>

Alex Salmond was SNP's greatest leader, says MP tipped to succeed Nicola Sturgeon (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

One of the frontrunners to lead the SNP after Nicola Sturgeon has praised Alex Salmond as the "greatest leader the party's ever had". Joanna Cherry admitted that she barely knew the first minister and had only sat down with her on one occasion. Ms Cherry, the MP who successfully challenged the five-week prorogation of parliament by Boris Johnson, refused to rule out a leadership bid when the vacancy arises. "I don't know her very well," Ms Cherry told Holyrood magazine. "She's running the country; I'm down in Westminster. And Ian Blackford [the SNP leader at Westminster] has been very supportive of me and I'm really glad about that. "But if you think about how big the parliamentary party is in London, and at Holyrood, it would be difficult for Nicola to meet us all and be friends with all of us, she's got the country to run. So, I'm not complaining that I'm not Nicola's best mate."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/salmond-our-ever-greatest-leader-says-mp-tipped-to-succeed-sturgeon-62w078zn2>

Brexit uncertainty blamed for sales slowdown in Scotland (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scots have pulled back on buying non-essential items, according to the latest survey of retailers. The Scottish Retail Consortium said food sales continue to rise, and at a faster rate than the UK as a whole. But non-food purchases saw a steep drop last month, down by more than 5% when compared with September 2018. Political and economic uncertainty ahead of the planned Brexit date on 31 October is being blamed for caution among shoppers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50064186>

Ruth Davidson leads mental health group after Jeremy Kyle and Love Island reality show deaths (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Former Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson is to chair ITV's new mental health advisory Group, created following the deaths of participants of the Jeremy Kyle Show and Love Island. Ms Davidson, who is still an MSP after quitting as leader partly due to Brexit, has taken up the unpaid role designed to protect the mental wellbeing of participants and audiences on ITV shows. A former BBC journalist, Ms Davidson said she is "excited" to chair the mental health group which will advise both ITV and STV about the production of shows and which will "have a huge role in setting the broadcaster's overall mental health strategy".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-leads-mental-health-group-after-jeremy-kyle-and-love-island-reality-show-deaths-2rcr0x7xs>

US soldiers 'must be held accountable' for Black Watch captain's death (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The widow of an army captain killed by a forklift truck on a military base in Iraq said the US soldiers responsible must be "held accountable". Dean Sprouting, who served with the Black Watch, was hit by the vehicle while out jogging in January 2018. The soldiers faced three charges including negligent homicide but an American Brigadier General ruled these be dropped. Capt Sprouting's wife said it was as if her husband's life "didn't matter." Linda Sprouting spoke following a military inquest into her husband's death in Oxford last week.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-50054685>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:39 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Got it, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:22 AM

To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I recall seeing something about Sturgeon making comments about POTUS and the Syria situation. If you can add that as well, that would be great.

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:11 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? I included Massie (b)(5)

Nicola Sturgeon: 'No shortcut route to Scottish independence' (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's first minister has insisted that a legal referendum is the only way for the country to win independence. Nicola Sturgeon dismissed claims that the SNP winning a majority of Scottish seats in a general election would be enough for independence to be declared. She said there was "no easy or shortcut route to independence" and that a future referendum had to be "beyond any doubt in terms of its legitimacy". But she insisted that independence was now closer than ever. The SNP leader was speaking to BBC Scotland's political editor Brian Taylor ahead of her party's three-day conference, which opens in Aberdeen on Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002776>

Kezia Dugdale quits Scottish Labour over Brexit (BBC NEWS) POL

Former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has quit the party over its stance on Brexit, the BBC has learned. Ms Dugdale terminated her party membership in July, shortly after she stood down as an MSP. She has told friends she did not vote for the party in May's European election, while still a Labour MSP. Political correspondent Nick Eardley told BBC Scotland's Podlitical podcast that it is not known who, if anyone, Ms Dugdale did vote for. Ms Dugdale led Scottish Labour for two years before quitting the post in August 2017. She continued to sit as an MSP until June of this year, when she left politics to take a job with the John Smith Centre at Glasgow University.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002775>

Brexit tycoon John Mills fears voters will ignore cost of independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Brexiteer businessman who donated £1.65 million to the Labour Party fears that Scots are prepared to vote for independence even if it leads to economic hardship. John Mills, founder of the retail giant JML, said the party had lost its way under Jeremy Corbyn by appealing to a narrow section of the electorate. Its hard-left stance was driving voters to the SNP, he said, where they were being enticed by independence regardless of the potential economic shock. In his book *Left Behind: Why Voters Deserted Social Democracy and How to Win Them Back* he said that Labour faced an "existential threat" from populist parties. Mr Mills, a former chairman of Vote Leave, said Brexit and support for Scottish independence were driven by "revulsion against the ruling elite in London".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-tycoon-john-mills-fears-voters-will-ignore-cost-of-independence-sjrjw3bzt>

First Minister 'ignoring' Prestwick scandal (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "ignoring" the "growing scandal" of the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial relationship with the US military, amid allegations it is waiving service fees for US Armed Forces aircraft at a cost to taxpayers in excess of £1m. Patrick Harvie MSP, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, said the airport was effectively being used as a "cut price petrol station" for the US Air Force. He added that Holyrood should not have to be "reliant on investigative journalists uncovering the facts of what's going on" at Prestwick.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-accused-of-ignoring-prestwick-us-military-scandal-1-5021355>

Op-ed: Patrick Harvie flies to the moral high ground – Alex Massie (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Despite formidable competition, Patrick Harvie might just be Holyrood's leading grandstander. No ground is high enough for the Green co-leader's righteousness. Yesterday he asked that "the whole chamber" join him "in expressing solidarity with the Kurdish people, who have been betrayed and abandoned by the US and are now enduring an assault by Turkey, a Nato member". Watch out President Erdogan, Patrick Harvie has his eye on you. Mr Harvie can see links unseen by others, however. Prestwick airport is owned by the Scottish government and counts the US Air Force amongst its few customers. So, Mr Harvie wanted to know: "If the first minister is against Scotland being used as a nuclear submarine base for the United Kingdom, why should we be any happier about being used as a cut-price petrol station for the US Air Force?"

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/patrick-harvie-flies-to-the-moral-high-ground-h7z3215jz>

Standard Life Aberdeen axes roles in Edinburgh (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's biggest financial services company is to axe up to 70 jobs in its IT department – with most of the cuts coming north of the Border. Workers at Standard Life Aberdeen – which was created from the merger of Aberdeen Investment and Standard Life two years ago, were summoned into a meeting yesterday afternoon and told that IT services would be outsourced to Us-headquartered IT services company Cognizant. The majority of the department's staff – 42 contractors and five permanent staff – will lose their jobs by the end of the year. Staff were told about 25 people will be retained in their current roles, while a further 27 could be moved over to work for Cognizant.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/standard-life-aberdeen-to-axe-scottish-jobs-days-before-christmas-as-it-services-outsourced-1-5021687>

School trips to Mossmorran chemical plant need risk review (BBC NEWS) ECON

Risk assessments for school trips to a Fife chemical plant need to be "improved" after "weaknesses" were found, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said. ExxonMobil's pond dipping classes at Mossmorran need to be "appropriately managed", the regulator said. It is a top-tier Comah site, which means it stores hazardous substances. Fife Council said it would "implement any HSE recommendations that could improve future risk assessments". More than 20,000 pupils from local schools have taken part in wildlife classes at a pond created on the Cowdenbeath site over the past 15 years. Risk assessments used for the school trips were obtained from Fife Council under the Freedom of Information Act.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50000353>

Good Brexit could bring investment 'wall of cash' (BBC NEWS) ECON

Scottish firms could release a "wall of cash" for investment if Brexit is "done well", a business leader has said. Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) president Tim Allan said investment had been "stymied" by

uncertainty over the UK's departure from the EU. But he added that money that been held back could be released once Brexit was completed. His comments came as an SCC economic study found a decline in overall business performance in the last year. Mr Allan said this had happened "as companies take on board extra uncertainties caused by the tortuous progress of the Brexit process".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50007802>

Doctor revokes help with vaginal mesh removal after 'delays' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An American surgeon due to travel to Scotland to try to help women suffering after vaginal mesh operations says he has rescinded his offer after "delays and disrespectful behaviours". Dionysios Veronikis said Scottish doctors missed an "obvious opportunity" to meet him to discuss the planned trip when he was in the UK last month. He also claimed that Catherine Calderwood, the chief medical officer for Scotland, failed to make contact with him because she had forgotten to use an international dialling code. Dr Veronikis, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who has pioneered mesh removal surgery, made the allegations in a letter to Neil Findlay, a Scottish Labour MSP who has campaigned with affected women. He said that if there had been no delays "three patients who made the journey to St Louis could have been operated on Scottish soil".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/doctor-revokes-help-with-vaginal-mesh-removal-after-delays-znrqb96t0>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good, thanks!

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

UK Brexit plan not shown to SNP Govt (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Mike Russell has accused the UK government of leaving Edinburgh in the dark over its Brexit plans ahead of a cross-border meeting today. The Brexit Secretary will chair the first Joint Ministerial Council on EU Negotiations to be held in Edinburgh with UK and Welsh ministers. The gathering comes as relations between the UK and devolved governments hit a new low after Boris Johnson submitted his Brexit deal plans to the EU without consultation. Mr Russell yesterday told MSPs there had been "no correspondence" between the UK and Scottish governments in advance of the proposals.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17957867.uk-brexit-plan-not-shown-snp-govt/>

More politicians and less politics ‘would make Holyrood better’ (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland could benefit from having more MSPs, the group that set up the devolved parliament has said. The steering group, which includes Henry McLeish, a former first minister, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, a former deputy, and Sir George Reid, a former presiding officer, said that “immense” pressure on MSPs may make it necessary to increase their number. They admitted it was unlikely to be popular. “If we are serious about looking to our parliament to lead on the big issues of the day and to do so in a collaborative, mature, cross-party way, this should not be automatically discounted from discussions,” the group said. Two decades after the establishment of the Scottish parliament, the group considered whether parliament had lived up to expectations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/more-politicians-and-less-politics-would-make-holyrood-better-tlcl8t5rt>

Ruth Davidson looks to aid work after life as MSP (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson is “hugely interested” in taking on aid and development work when she leaves politics. The former leader of the Scottish Conservatives has said she is unlikely to stand for re-election as an MSP. She resigned as the party’s leader in August. Yesterday Ms Davidson visited Erskine Stewart’s Melville Junior School in her Edinburgh constituency for the launch of the Halo Trust’s Breaking Boundaries initiative, a landmine clearing programme. Last year Ms Davidson spent four days in Kabul with the charity, which is based in Dumfriesshire. “I’ve got another 18 months to finish at the Scottish parliament so I’ll be working as the MSP here in Edinburgh Central where we stand today,” she said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-looks-to-aid-work-after-life-as-msp-xmx88cvq>

Arts and academia unite to publish manifesto for independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Dozens of influential figures from Scottish culture and academia have drawn up a prospectus of “guiding principles” for independence including the introduction of a written constitution. The 50 signatories — mostly avowed independence supporters such as the actor Brian Cox, the historian Sir Tom Devine, the crime novelist Val McDermid and the poet and playwright Liz Lochhead — say that failing to achieve separation from the UK would mean the population “relinquish their right to decide their own destiny”. The “declaration of independence” comes as Brexit negotiations appear to be collapsing, with Downing Street sources suggesting that a deal with the European Union is now impossible. About 62 per cent of Scots voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/arts-and-academia-unite-to-publish-manifesto-for-independence-8qhgqhtdd>

Loganair inks United Airlines deal for Scots to travel 'seamlessly' to US (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Loganair has reached a deal with one of the world’s biggest airlines which will allow passengers “seamless” travel from Scotland to the US. The Glasgow-headquartered carrier has secured an “interline agreement” with US group United Airlines which will enable customers to travel via Glasgow and Edinburgh onwards to the United States with through-check in service and protection in case of delay. The US airline operates direct flights from Scotland to its hubs at New York’s Newark Airport, O’Hare Airport in Chicago and Dulles Airport outside Washington DC. Loganair’s agreement also applies to customers travelling via Manchester and Dublin.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/loganair-inks-united-airlines-deal-for-scots-to-travel-seamlessly-to-us-1-5020650>

Bethany Haines scours Syria for father beheaded by Isis (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The daughter of a Scottish aid worker beheaded by Islamic State has vowed to return to Syria “100 times” to find her father’s body. During a ten-day trip to the Middle East Bethany Haines, 22, visited the site where it is believed that David Haines was executed. Mr Haines, 44, a humanitarian aid worker from Perth, was captured in March 2013 and held for 18 months before being beheaded by Mohammed Emwazi in September 2014. Images of the killing were turned into Isis propaganda. Emwazi, otherwise known as Jihadi John, also killed Alan Henning, another British aid worker; James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American journalists; and Peter Kassig, a US aid worker.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/bethany-haines-scours-syria-for-father-beheaded-by-isis-2gc9bwnh3>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 9:53 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today? (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Scottish judges to rule on Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Three Scottish judges are due to announce later whether a court can sign a Brexit extension letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. Lord Carloway said the judges will give their decision at 11:00 BST. The court also heard an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49975066>

PM’s Brexit tactics are inspired by Trump, leading Scots judges told (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A senior lawyer has told Scotland’s highest civil court that the prime minister’s Brexit strategy is inspired by the tactics of President Trump. Aidan O’Neill, QC, said that Boris Johnson was telling the Scottish courts one thing and the media another. Addressing the Inner House of the Court of Session, he urged judges to forbid Mr Johnson from leaving the European Union without a deal. He said that government lawyers had indicated to the courts that Mr Johnson would seek an extension to remain in the EU if he could not agree an exit deal, then briefed journalists through his aides that he was ready to defy parliament and leave without agreement. “One shouldn’t be taken in by any kind of schtick that the prime minister is simply an overgrown schoolboy playing at being prime minister, as if he was Just William leading his cabinet band of outlaws,” Mr O’Neill said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/pms-brexit-tactics-are-inspired-by-trump-leading-scots-judges-told-srb5prmzx>

Warning of sectarian tensions in Scotland under no-deal Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Sectarian troubles in Northern Ireland caused by a no-deal Brexit could be mirrored in Scotland's Catholic and Protestant communities, the Scottish Government has warned. The potential for violent disorder was highlighted in civil contingency plans published by the Scottish Government, which also said the old port at Stranraer may have to be turned into emergency parking for 300 lorries. It also said some container goods may have to be moved through Grangemouth and Greenock Ocean Terminal if there are blockages at Dover, with a Northern Isles freight ferry earmarked "as a last resort for importing critical supplies in the event UK measures fail". Deputy First Minister John Swinney told MSPs he had also set up a special group to monitor shortages of medicines and there would be a £7 million fund for councils to alleviate financial hardship. He said the economic shock of a no-deal Brexit on October 31 could push Scotland into recession, with a 5 per cent rise in prices, principally food, tipping 130,000 people into poverty.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17955286.warning-sectarian-tensions-scotland-no-deal-brexit/>

Inverclyde eviction threat facing retail giant Amazon (BBC NEWS) ECON

Amazon has said it will fight a court's decision to uphold an eviction notice from its landlord at a distribution warehouse in Inverclyde. The site is owned by the M7 property investment firm which gave the online giant six months' notice to quit in February. Amazon challenged the move at the Court of Session, arguing it was entitled to a year's notice. But the courts backed M7, though the US firm has said it will appeal again. About 300 people work at the Gourock site and Amazon says it remains "business as usual" for them and customers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49980400>

Op-ed: Whisky tariff war gives a flavour of life after Brexit under WTO rules (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Producers of Scotch whisky are used to taking the long view. The spirit they distil can take a very long time, maturing in casks, before a bottle can be sold. Single malts that command the most elevated prices can be decades in the making. That long view, however, has endured periods of intense shorter-term turbulence. I witnessed at first hand the great Scotch whisky takeover battles of the 1980s: Guinness's hostile capture of Arthur Bell in Perth in 1984, led by Ernest Saunders, quickly followed by his rout of the industry leader, the multi-brand Distillers Company, still reeling from its earlier involvement in the thalidomide scandal. An inevitable wave of distillery closures and capacity rationalisation followed. More recently, Scotch has been enjoying a renaissance.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/whisky-tariff-war-gives-a-flavour-of-life-after-brexit-under-wto-trading-rules-cv98zhjgg>

Matheson pressed on Prestwick ties (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Transport secretary Michael Matheson has stressed the Scottish Government is "not hiding behind anything" amid growing scrutiny of Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial dealings with the US military. Scottish Liberal Democrats MSP Mike Rumbles asked Mr Matheson how much was allegedly waived in service fees for US armed forces aircraft on stopovers at the hub, and when he knew of the allegations, but the cabinet secretary did not directly address the questions. In a heated exchange at Holyrood, Mr Matheson said the state-owned airport was run at arms-length from the government, and that Prestwick decided on "specific commercial deals".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-not-hiding-from-prestwick-airport-allegations-1-5019917>

American woman who killed North Berwick pensioner after driving on wrong side of road spared jail sentence (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

An American woman who killed a pensioner after driving on the wrong side of the road has been spared a jail sentence. Caroline Bourgois Emmet – the granddaughter of composer Irving Berlin – emerged on to a main road from an estate in East Lothian and drove for more than half a kilometre on the opposing carriageway before a fatal collision with another car. She crashed into the other vehicle in which Elizabeth Henderson was a back seat passenger, on the A198 between North Berwick and Tranent on July 19 in 2017, after leaving the Archerfield Estate. Mrs Henderson, 83, of North Berwick, died two days later in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after she suffered multiple pelvis and limb fractures and internal bleeding.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/american-woman-who-killed-north-berwick-pensioner-after-driving-on-wrong-side-of-road-spared-jail-sentence-1-5020163>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 9:31 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court asked to consider Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Judges are to consider whether a court can sign a Brexit extension request letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. The court will also hear an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law. Lord Pentland said following an earlier hearing that there could be "no doubt" that the prime minister had agreed to abide by the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49959172>

Time for some 'panic' over Scottish independence referendum says Whitehall official (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Downing Street is too complacent about the danger of a second independence referendum a senior Whitehall official has said, with a lack of "panic" at the most senior levels about the strengthening trend in polling on Scottish independence. The last three polls on Scottish independence voting intention have put support for leaving the UK at between 49 per cent and 52 per cent, when the don't knows are removed. An online poll at the start of August conducted by Lord Ashcroft also put independence in the lead for the first time in two and a half years, while polling expert Professor Sir John Curtice has said that "it can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote 'no' again in an independence ballot".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/time-for-some-panic-over-scottish-independence-referendum-says-whitehall-official-1-5018708>

Edinburgh council cannot verify All Under One Banner's claim about nationalist rally turnout (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Council officials have been accused of suppressing attendance figures for a Scottish independence rally amid claims that a crowd of 200,000 paraded down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. All Under One Banner, the organiser of Saturday's event, said that 200,000 marched, which would put attendance on a par with the Glastonbury Festival. The claim was published by some news outlets and shared by senior nationalist politicians on social media. A Force For Good, a unionist organisation, filmed the march and said that it counted 11,286 heads. It has published the footage online to allow observers to verify its figures. Last year the organisation counted 12,789 people when All Under One Banner said that 100,000 people had marched.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-council-cannot-verify-all-under-one-banners-claim-about-nationalist-rally-turnout-jtngm6bq2>

Ditching pound after Scottish independence 'would be a gamble with livelihoods' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Proposals to stop using the pound and adopt a new currency after Scottish independence would "be a gamble with people's livelihoods", it has been claimed. Pamela Nash, the chief executive of Scotland in Union, said that a vote in favour of independence in a second referendum would put financial exports with the rest of Britain at risk. The SNP has maintained that a new currency would only be adopted when it was in the interests of the country. Analysis by Scotland in Union suggests that the export of financial services to the rest of the UK was valued at £9.1 billion in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ditching-pound-after-scottish-independence-would-be-a-gamble-with-livelihoods-5ttxcnt8>

Boris Johnson 'must convince Donald Trump to save 3,000 Scottish jobs by dumping malt whisky tariff' (The Telegraph) ECON

Boris Johnson must use his friendship with Donald Trump to save thousands of Scottish jobs by convincing the US President to scrap tariffs on single malt whisky, a former Scottish Secretary has argued. David Mundell warned 3,000 jobs and £228 million of revenue could be lost if the Trump administration presses ahead with the introduction next week of a 25 per cent trade tariff on Scotch, following a dispute with the EU over aircraft subsidies. Asking an urgent question in the Commons, he cited the figures as industry estimates of the losses that could be incurred and said Mr Johnson must "intervene directly" with Mr Trump.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/07/boris-johnson-must-convince-donald-trump-save-3000-scottish/>

Scottish Tory leadership race may start within weeks (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are likely to begin a leadership contest to find Ruth Davidson's successor within weeks if a general election is pushed back to the spring. At an awayday in North Queensferry yesterday Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, sided with those who were pushing for a snap leadership vote. The Times revealed last week that some Tory MSPs believed that a spring election would allow time to install a permanent leader. Jackson Carlaw had been due to remain interim leader until Britain left the EU but angered much of his front bench by reversing the party's position to support a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Murdo Fraser, the party's finance spokesman, spoke out about his opposition to a no-deal Brexit yesterday. It is understood that Mr Fraser, seen as a leadership frontrunner, said on the awayday that ties should be loosened between the Scottish and UK parties.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tory-leadership-race-may-start-within-weeks-7bncqsgba>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:25 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Sturgeon's EU experts warn of disastrous slump after no-deal (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Britain is facing years of economic pain and poisonous debate if Boris Johnson drags the country out of the European Union without a deal, advisers to Scotland's first minister have warned. Nicola Sturgeon's advisory council said the prime minister's latest Brexit proposals were not credible and had no realistic prospect of success. The first minister stepped up plans for a second Scottish independence referendum yesterday as the SNP said it "will never consent to this extreme Tory Brexit". Sir Anton Muscatelli, principal of Glasgow University and chairman of the Standing Council on Europe, warned in an open letter that no-deal would not be a clean break but would signal the start of a prolonged and potentially fractious trade negotiation with acrimonious EU member states.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-rejects-extreme-brexit-deal-7zg2n223s>

Op-ed: Open letter on Brexit - Sir Anton Muscatelli (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

I am writing this open letter on behalf of members of the Standing Council on Europe, which I chair. At our latest meeting we were able to look at the UK government's proposals to the EU and unfortunately our assessment was very far from positive. The EU has signalled its willingness to give the proposals a fair hearing but in our view it is already clear they do not offer any realistic prospect of helping secure a compromise. They go back on commitments made by the UK government in December 2017 and are far removed from what is known to be the EU's position. In particular it is deeply concerning that these proposals appear not to honour the Good Friday agreement and therefore risk jeopardising the fragile peace on the island of Ireland, the importance of which is obvious to all. The proposals also seem to show a worrying move away from the commitment to maintain high and equivalent levels of environmental and labour standards, and competition policy that benefits consumers.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/open-letter-on-brexit-sir-anton-muscatelli-jbgbwwnnd>

Sturgeon savages Carlaw over his conversion to hard Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has launched a withering attack on her likely opponent at the next Holyrood election, accusing Jackson Carlaw of putting his personal ambitions before his country and party in order to suck up to Boris Johnson. The First Minister said the Eastwood MSP had changed from enthusiastic Remainer to no-deal Brexiter in "a heartbeat" as he tried to become his party's full-time leader. "Shame on him for that," she said. Mr Carlaw, who represents one of the most Remain constituencies in the UK, has previously warned against a no-deal in case it imperilled the Union. It was a position he shared with previous Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson, who quit in August citing a "conflict" over Brexit after Mr Johnson said he was ready for a no-deal Brexit. However at the Tory conference in Manchester this week, Mr Carlaw flipped his position and swung the Scottish Tories behind accepting no-deal, despite only being an interim leader.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17945806.sturgeon-savages-carlaw-conversion-no-deal-brexite/>

'Everyone a loser' from US tariff on malt whisky (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Plans for a major tariff on Scottish malt whisky by the US as part of a trade war with Europe have been condemned as damaging to business and "profoundly worrying" for the industry. Nicola Sturgeon led the criticism, saying that the 25 per cent tariff due to come into force later this month was "in no one's interests". The World Trade Organisation has given the US the green light to impose charges on up to £6.1 billion of goods from the EU, including malt whisky, as retaliation for illegal subsidies the bloc gave to Airbus.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/everyone-a-loser-from-us-tariff-on-malt-whisky-v05gclqtp>

Op-ed: Tit-for-tat trade (BBC News) ECON

Why pick Scotch? Isn't Donald Trump half Scottish, with a love for its golf courses, or at least the ones that belong to him? The selection of premium end whisky from the president's late mother's homeland as retaliation for UK subsidies to Airbus may not have registered as one of the details crossing the Oval Office desk. But it came as no surprise to the Scotch whisky industry. It saw the risk that came with the European Commission's choice, in 2017, of American whiskey in its retaliation in another trade dispute. That one was about steel, with President Trump putting up trade barriers against Chinese imports of subsidised steel, and doing a lot of damage to trading relations with others by imposing import levies on them as well.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49927808>

Investigation: How the US military is using Prestwick Airport 'for free' (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is waiving service fees for inbound US military aircraft as part of an alleged practice designed to increase traffic at the beleaguered airport and safeguard its lucrative commercial relationship with the US Defence Department, multiple sources familiar with its operations have told The Scotsman. The heavily-indebted airport, at the centre of a US Congressional investigation over the US military's financial ties with Prestwick and US president Donald Trump's nearby Turnberry resort, is alleged to have waived the so-called service fees for several hundred flights by branches of the US Armed Forces. Sources with direct knowledge of US military business at Prestwick said the cost to the airport and, as a result, Scottish taxpayers, runs into seven figures. The airport, a publicly owned asset operated on a fully commercial basis, has repeatedly declined to answer a series of questions put to it by The Scotsman regarding the allegations it is waiving the service fees.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/prestwick-airport-waiving-fees-for-us-military-aircraft-1-5017211>

Brewers tap into huge Chinese tourism boost (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

The international marketing was carefully targeted to portray Scotland as a country of rugged castles and breathtaking scenery but Chinese visitors, it seems, would rather go to the pub. Visit Scotland has published a study of Chinese tourists after the number of visitors rocketed in recent years. An estimated 200,000 went through the gates of Edinburgh Castle last year compared with fewer than 1,000 two decades ago. Sampling Scottish delicacies, including whisky, craft beer, haggis, seafood, gin and ale, was the top attraction, ahead of historical sites and shopping. Hazel Sellar, Visit Scotland's market manager for China, said that visitors were clamouring to try quality food and drink in surroundings that were quintessentially Scottish.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brewers-tap-into-huge-chinese-tourism-boost-hzf3r7wgc>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:59 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Great, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:48 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I think take the ex-MP one out otherwise good to go.

From: (b)(6)
 Date: 3 October 2019 at 09:30:01 BST
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Single malt Scotch whisky targeted by United States tariffs (BBC News) ECON

Single malt Scotch whisky exported to the United States is to face a tariff of 25% from 18 October. The new duty is part of a raft of measures being imposed by the US in retaliation against EU subsidies given to aircraft maker Airbus. Other goods being targeted include cashmere sweaters, dairy products, pork, olives, biscuits, books, and some machinery. Scotch whisky exports to the US last year were worth \$1.3bn (£1bn). The US was given the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5bn (£6.1bn) of goods it imports from the EU following a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling on Wednesday. It is the latest chapter in a 15-year battle between the US and the EU over illegal subsidies for planemakers Airbus and rival Boeing.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49915034>

Scottish Tories round on Jackson Carlaw to install leader before election (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Conservatives will move to oust Jackson Carlaw as interim leader of the party next week and hold a snap contest to replace Ruth Davidson. There will be an away day for Tory MSPs in North Queensferry on Monday where Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, is expected to give an update on the process for selecting a new leader. It is understood that a group of senior politicians is likely to argue that the process should be sped up as the chances of a general election by the end of the year have fallen. Three new contenders are considering bids for the top job. Jamie Greene, 39, the transport spokesman, is understood to have used the UK party conference in Manchester to sound out

members. He allegedly asked Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, for support. Sources close to Mr Greene said that he had not decided whether to run.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-round-on-jackson-carlaw-to-install-leader-before-election-qdsgztwzv>

Michael Gove ‘ignored Scottish plea to see Brexit policing plan’ (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland’s justice secretary is angry that police were “blindsided” by ministers at Westminster who refused to share sensitive Brexit planning. Humza Yousaf wrote a month ago to Michael Gove, minister for no-deal planning, seeking clarity on public order preparations but had no reply. Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing, said on Tuesday that Police Scotland had been denied access to plans to handle civil disruption. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland’s position, he said. Mr Yousaf said: “It is imperative that Scottish ministers have the opportunity to discuss the impact of leaving the EU on devolved operational law enforcement issues.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/michael-gove-ignored-scottish-plea-to-see-brexit-policing-plan-qmx0xcpdv>

Turn ‘left-wing’ bank holiday into Union celebration, urges Alister Jack (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish secretary has suggested that Britain should turn an existing bank holiday into a day for celebrating the Union. Alister Jack said that one of the “left-wing” days off work could be replaced with a “Union Day”. He was responding to a question at an event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. “We could get rid of one of the left-wing [bank holidays]. Bring in a Union Day. It is popular,” Mr Jack said to laughter from the crowd. He argued that Westminster had “retreated” from Scotland too much during the 12 years of SNP government at Holyrood and urged British ministers to spend more time north of the border.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-left-wing-bank-holiday-into-union-celebration-says-alister-jack-mmh6dqst8>

Scottish welfare state is thriving, says UN (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland is on “a very different trajectory” to the rest of the UK when it comes to social security, according to a UN poverty expert. Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, said that the spirit of the welfare state was “alive and humming” north of the border, but was waning elsewhere. Mr Alston, 69, an Australian international human rights law professor, visited Britain last year to produce a report which said that austerity policies introduced in 2010 were continuing to have tragic social consequences. It also claimed that the Scottish government’s attempts to reduce the impact of social security cuts, such as the two-child benefit cap, were not sustainable. However, he told an event at the University of Edinburgh: “Scotland is spending a lot of money on mitigating what they see as the least humane policies that come from London. All of this indicates that Scotland is, at least for now, on a very different trajectory than England when it comes to the social protection of its population.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-welfare-state-is-thriving-says-un-mhq8gmpfk>

Ex-MP Michelle Thomson nominated for East Lothian seat (BBC News) POL

A former SNP MP who quit the party following an investigation into alleged mortgage fraud has been nominated as a candidate for the East Lothian seat. Michelle Thomson was reported to prosecutors regarding the alleged fraud after being elected as an MP in 2015. But in August 2017 the Crown Office

confirmed there was insufficient evidence to launch criminal proceedings. Ms Thomson always denied any wrongdoing and rejoined the SNP last October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49911191>

Fracking to be banned in Scotland indefinitely, leak reveals (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Fracking will today finally be banned by the Scottish Government after six years of painstaking deliberations – only to face claims it is still not going far enough. SNP ministers had been due to announce they had finalised their position on the controversial gas extraction technology in a statement to MSPS at Holyrood this afternoon. However, the development was revealed accidentally on a government website yesterday. “On 03 October 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed its final policy position of no support for unconventional oil and gas,” it said.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17943929.fracking-banned-scotland-indefinitely-leak-reveals/>

Trump’s bid for Turnberry villas rejected (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

The Trump Organisation’s plans to build swathes of housing and luxury holiday villas at its Turnberry resort have been rejected. The US president’s son, Eric, personally oversaw proposals to rezone vast tracts of farmland surrounding the historic venue for housing. However, planners at South Ayrshire Council have turned down the firm’s attempts to have the prime agricultural land redesignated. The Trump Organisation’s plans for a major expansion of its flagship Scottish resort by building swathes of housing and luxury villas have been thwarted, further jeopardising efforts by the US president’s company to stem multimillion-pound losses at its most prestigious overseas property.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/trump-s-plans-for-major-expansion-of-turnberry-resort-rejected-1-5016324>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:08 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5)

Otherwise looks

good!

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:24 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today?

Jack says Scottish Tories have been ‘brought into line’ over no-deal exit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives have been “brought into line” with the UK party following interim leader Jackson Carlaw’s endorsement of a no-deal Brexit, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has said. Mr Carlaw abandoned former leader Ruth Davidson’s opposition to a no-deal Brexit on Sunday, saying the Scottish Tories would back Boris Johnson to take the UK out of the EU on 31 October. There were reports Mr Carlaw’s shadow cabinet were left in a “cold fury” over not being consulted, but Mr Jack claimed MSPS had been told about the move, as had Ms Davidson. “He’s bringing the Scottish Conservatives into line with the rest of the UK party,” Mr Jack told STV.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17939977.nicola-sturgeon-hits-scottish-tories-brought-line-uk-government/>

Jackson Carlaw accused of misleading Scottish Tories over no-deal support (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jackson Carlaw has been accused of misleading his party when he reversed the Scottish Conservatives’ opposition to a no-deal Brexit. The interim leader has come in for criticism from opponents and colleagues after taking the decision without consulting his shadow cabinet. It emerged last night that he told an event at the Tory conference in Manchester that he had spoken to his senior MSP group. The Times revealed yesterday that some in his frontbench team were left in a “cold fury” by his move. Mr Carlaw was asked at the event on Sunday what discussions he had held with colleagues and whether his MSP team was “on board”.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jackson-carlaw-accused-of-misleading-scottish-tories-over-no-deal-support-qldz379p5>

Scottish police chief Will Kerr alleges Brexit planning snub (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Police Scotland has been denied access to sensitive plans to handle civil disruption after Brexit, a senior officer said as he accused UK ministers of stoking tensions with irresponsible language. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland’s distinct constitutional and legal position, according to Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing. “We have, frankly, at times struggled to access some of the more sensitive elements, or layers, of those planning assumptions,” he told the Holyrood justice committee. “Some of those planning assumptions have tended, at times, to be quite London or south of England-centric, and we’ve been constantly reinforcing the different legal and constitutional arrangements in Scotland.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-police-chief-will-kerr-alleges-brexit-planning-snub-and-warns-over-language-tqh7h8fcv>

UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle to Scotland was 'a mistake', says Tory MP (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish Tory MP has labelled the UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle over to Scotland as part of the devolution settlement in the 1990s a “mistake”. Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, labelled the national landmark one of the “fantastic assets” of the United Kingdom, but lamented the fact it can no longer be used for UK Government functions. On a panel alongside Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, and DUP leader Arlene Foster, the parliamentarian was speaking during the Policy Exchange segment at this year’s Conservative Party Conference on Monday about how the union can be strengthened after Brexit.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-handing-control-of-edinburgh-castle-to-scotland-was-a-mistake-says-tory-mp-1-5015478>

Call for elections reform over 'missing' voters (BBC News) POL

Campaigners have warned that a snap UK election could leave hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland unable to vote. It follows research showing that the register of people entitled to vote was out of date. The Electoral Reform Society said the issue could affect up to 745,000 Scots who were either not on the list or were registered at the wrong address. They are calling for an overhaul of the registration system.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49897699>

Burger King milkshake tweet 'encouraged' anti-social conduct (BBC News) POL

A Burger King tweet alerting customers it was "selling milkshakes all weekend" has been banned for condoning and encouraging anti-social behaviour. The fast food firm's post came after a number of European election candidates had milkshakes thrown at them. And a McDonald's in Edinburgh stopped selling the drinks before Nigel Farage addressed a rally in the city. Burger King defended the tweet, calling it a "tongue-in-cheek reaction to recent events".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49895800>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Scots Tories want election in spring after Salmond trial (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nervous Scottish Conservatives are urging Boris Johnson to go for a spring General Election to avoid Scotland's wintry weather and take electoral advantage of 'SNP turmoil' surrounding the forthcoming Alex Salmond trial. The plea to the Prime Minister came as the party's annual conference in Manchester heard another major spending announcement: a plan to raise the National Living Wage to £10.50 an hour by 2024, unveiled by Chancellor Sajid Javid as he sought to move the conference spotlight away from allegations over Mr Johnson's private life. The further sign that an election is on its way has prompted Scottish Tory MPs to urge the PM to rule out a December poll and wait until next year to go to the country, preferably in the spring. Some party insiders argue that, apart from avoiding the effects of a bad winter in Scotland, holding an election in March 2020 could bring electoral benefits for the Conservatives in their battle with Nicola Sturgeon's SNP following the high-profile Salmond court case. One senior Scottish Tory source told *The Herald*: "Irrespective of the outcome of the trial, the Nationalists will be in turmoil."

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17937580.scots-tories-back-spring-election-capitalise-snp-turmoil-following-salmond-trial/>

Sidelined Tory MSPs angered by Jackson Carlaw's reversal on Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The interim leader of the Scottish Conservatives has left his MSPs in a "cold fury" by reversing the party's position and supporting a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Jackson Carlaw, who has been interim leader north of the border since Ruth Davidson stepped down, alienated shadow cabinet colleagues when he announced his support on Sunday for leaving the EU on October 31 whether or not a deal has been agreed. His stance is a significant departure from that of Ms Davidson, who said in July

that she would not under any circumstances support Britain leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement. Mr Carlaw, who issued a note to all staff and MSPs after replacing Ms Davidson telling them to drop the word “interim” from his job title, told activists at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that the “endless drift” of failing to agree a deal was more damaging than the potential impact of leaving without an agreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sidelined-tory-msps-angered-by-carlaw-s-reversal-on-brex-5gv65tlcs>

Major military exercise Joint Warrior set for Scotland (BBC News) POL

Thousands of military personnel are to take part in a major UK-led military exercise starting this week. Joint Warrior is held twice a year, in spring and autumn. Starting on Saturday and continuing until 17 October, the second of this year's exercises will involve warships, submarines and aircraft. Most of the training takes place around Scotland's north, north west and north east coasts and will include live-firing at ranges such as Cape Wrath.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-49877455>

MI5 spied on Manny Shinwell, the Labour titan feared to be a Communist (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

A Labour cabinet member was spied on by the security services for decades, declassified files have shown. Manny Shinwell, a Scottish MP, was suspected of being a communist sympathiser and had his post and phone calls intercepted by police and MI5. The former Red Clydesider who became chairman of the Labour Party was monitored even while serving as defence minister in Clement Attlee's government from 1945 to 1951. The files, which have been stored in the National Archives in Kew, London, also show that the US authorities raised concerns about Shinwell, who died in 1986 when he was 101.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mi5-spied-on-manny-shinwell-the-labour-titan-feared-to-be-a-communist-dzksrmd2w>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good – thanks!

Official

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:20 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP pushes for a compromise caretaker PM to oust Johnson (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP will warn Labour and the Liberal Democrats they must compromise on a candidate to lead a “government of national unity” as pressure builds to oust Boris Johnson and ensure that Brexit is delayed. Opposition leaders will meet today to discuss how to thwart a no-deal Brexit, with the parties deadlocked over who should lead a caretaker administration after a vote of no-confidence in Mr Johnson’s government. With Conservatives in Manchester for their party conference, opposition MPs are expected to use parliamentary tactics at Westminster to disrupt the gathering and put pressure on the government over its refusal to push back the 31 October Brexit deadline.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-pushes-for-a-compromise-pm-to-oust-boris-johnson-1-5013650>

Davidson era ends as Carlaw declares: ‘We must leave EU, deal or no deal’ (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservative leadership has drawn a line under the Ruth Davidson era and scrapped its opposition to a no-deal Brexit, making clear it is “time for us to go” with or without a European Union withdrawal agreement. And Jackson Carlaw, the interim party leader, who indicated he is set to bid for the top job on a permanent basis, denied Prime Minister Boris Johnson was an English nationalist but was, rather, a “passionate, wholehearted” Unionist. “I stand behind him four-square, as do all my parliamentary colleagues,” said Mr Carlaw at the Scottish fringe event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. Ms Davidson was a staunch Remainer, who, as she left her role as head of the Scottish Tories, made clear they would “not support” a no-deal Brexit.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17935304.jackson-carlaw-breaks-ruth-davidson-line-swings-scots-tories-behind-boris-johnson-no-deal-brexit/>

Boris Johnson throws down gauntlet to SNP (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

Boris Johnson has told Nicola Sturgeon to stay away from a UN climate summit in Glasgow, and united the Scottish Conservatives behind a no-deal Brexit. In a defiant message to critics who accuse him of inflammatory rhetoric the prime minister said he would “stick to his guns” in using military metaphors against them. He told a Scottish reception at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that he would unite the UK after delivering Brexit on October 31. Jackson Carlaw, interim leader of the Scottish Tories, aligned with the UK party and reversed his predecessor Ruth Davidson’s opposition to leaving the EU without an agreement. Mr Johnson promised to drape the Union flag around COP26, a UN climate change conference to be held in Glasgow in November next year.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-throws-down-gauntlet-to-snp-pmtcc6x0f>

Cherry says her critics inside party driven by misogyny (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The woman tipped as the next SNP leader has said she experienced attacks from within the party driven by a “huge streak of misogyny”. Joanna Cherry, QC, a key figure behind Boris Johnson’s defeat in the Supreme Court last week, said some party members resented her for being a “successful, forthright woman”. She also confirmed she would consider a run at the leadership once there is a vacancy. The Edinburgh South West MP’s stock is riding high after she led a Scottish legal challenge to the Prime Minister’s prorogation of Parliament alongside 74 other MPs and peers. That fight, and a similar one by activist Gina Miller south of the Border, led to the Court’s unanimous ruling that the “extreme” five-week suspension was unlawful.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17935017.cherry-says-critics-inside-snp-driven-misogyny/>

Images of new Trump golf resort plans released (BBC News)

The Trump Organisation has released images of its plans for a new housing development at its Aberdeenshire golf resort. Plans for 550 houses at the Menie Estate, as well as shops and food outlets, were approved last week. Dubbed The Trump Estate, it features a range of properties from cottages to larger homes costing more than £1m. It will also have its own town hall. A second golf course at the resort was previously given the go-ahead.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49870020>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
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Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019
Date:	Tue, 5 Feb 2019 10:11:02 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

The details for accessing the Times are:

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Psw: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 9:53 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

Subject: Scotland Press - February 5, 2019

I could not access the London Times article, but found another that spoke about Trump's finances in the spotlight.

Any edits?

Trump's UK visit cost taxpayers over £14 million - and there's more to come (The National) POL
Policing US President Donald Trump's four-day UK trip last summer cost the public purse more than £14.2 million, new figures have revealed.

Thousands of officers were drafted in from every force in Britain as Trump, pictured, flew in to be greeted by protests around the country.

The president visited the Queen at Windsor Castle, Theresa May at Blenheim Palace, then played golf in Scotland over four days in July 2018.

Trump's trip to Scotland – during which he played golf at his Turnberry resort in Ayrshire on both days – cost £3.2m. Thousands of people protested across Scotland – in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee among other cities and towns – during what was deemed a “private visit”, and police investigated a paraglider who flew over the resort. Police Scotland's sum fell short of its advance estimate of £5 million because the president did not visit his Aberdeenshire estate as budgeted for.

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17406146.trumps-uk-visit-cost-taxpayers-over-14-million-and-theres-more-to-come/>

US prosecutors subpoena Trump golf courses in Scotland, which some Democrats worry might have been funded by Russian money (News Time) POL/EOCN

US prosecutors last year ordered the company that owns President Donald Trump's golf courses in Scotland to show its financial filings in an attempt to reveal its ownership, The Times of London reported on Monday. Prosecutors in Maryland in December subpoenaed documents related to properties controlled by DJT Holdings LLC, a company that owns Trump's hotel in Washington, DC, and resorts in places like Turnberry, Scotland, according to Trump's financial disclosure form. You can read the full filing at the bottom of this article. The documents are part of an investigation into whether Trump still profits from his businesses. It focuses on Trump International Washington, an old post office building in the US capital that Trump converted into a luxury hotel in 2016. Brian Frosh, the Maryland attorney general, said he was "seeking information proving that hotel revenues were flowing to the president through his affiliated entities," according to The Times. Frosh added: "We are confident that at the end of discovery we will be able to prove our case that President Trump is violating the Constitution's emoluments clauses, America's first anti-corruption laws." The US Constitution's emoluments clause prohibits public officials from receiving gifts or cash from foreign or state governments without congressional approval. Trump has attempted to have this case dismissed multiple times.

<https://www.newstimes.com/technology/businessinsider/article/US-prosecutors-reportedly-subpoena-Trump-golf-13587273.php>

On trade links (BBC News) POL/ECON

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is to visit the US and Canada next week. The trip is planned in a bid to build stronger trade links between Scotland and North America. It comes as figures show the US is still Scotland's top export country. It is estimated £5.5bn worth of exports were made in 2017. Canada is in the top 20 export destinations, and was worth £580m in the same period. Ms. Sturgeon will have trade and cultural engagements in Washington DC, New York, New Jersey, Ottawa and Toronto during the five-day visit. This will include discussing Brexit and Scotland's future at an address at Georgetown University, in Washington DC, and the launch of the Scotland is Now campaign in Canada. Ms. Sturgeon said Scotland had a "long-standing relationship with North America," and that the new figures highlighted the importance of the trade relationship between the countries to Scotland's economy. She added: "This visit will build on the existing links between our countries and provide new opportunities for us to work together and learn from each other's expertise in areas including climate change, renewables and gender equality. With the shadow of Brexit hanging over our economy, it is more important now than ever to reassure businesses that Scotland is an open and welcoming country and an attractive place to invest in, visit and live." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47102087>

Nicola Sturgeon: UK 'not remotely prepared' for Brexit (The Scotsman) POL/ ECON

The UK is "not remotely prepared" for Brexit and the process must be delayed, Nicola Sturgeon will warn in a keynote speech in the US today. The First Minister will step up calls for a second referendum with just 53 days left until the UK is due to formally leave the European Union. Ms. Sturgeon will launch a broadside at the turmoil engulfing Westminster over Brexit and insist that Scotland's interests have been treated as an "afterthought" in a speech in Washington, DC today. "The UK is not remotely prepared to leave the EU in 53 days' time," Ms. Sturgeon will say. "The UK government should finally recognize that, and it should ask the EU to agree to put back the planned date for Brexit." Such a request would have to be backed up by an "achievable plan," with Ms. Sturgeon suggesting the UK government could reconsider plans to leave the single market and customs union. She will tell her audience at Georgetown University that a "better option is to hold a further referendum on EU membership." "The Scottish Government's view is that this issue should be put back to the people," the First Minister will say on the first day of a trade mission to the US and Canada. "That no Scottish Parliament, of any political

composition, would approach Brexit in the way that the UK government has helps to explain why Brexit is also relevant to the debate on Scottish independence.” <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-uk-not-remotely-prepared-for-brexit-1-4866948>

Nicola Sturgeon hails major step forward on independence with Progress Scotland launch (The National) POL

The First Minister has welcomed the launch of a new organization dedicated to advancing the fight for Scottish independence. Nicola Sturgeon underlined her support for Progress Scotland which has been set up by former SNP depute leader Angus Robertson and polling expert Mark Diffley. The new body will help strengthen the case for independence amid the Brexit process and examine which arguments are persuading former opponents – such as the former Daily Record editor Murray Foote and former UK judge on the European Court of Justice Sir David Edward. Sturgeon wrote on Twitter: “Brilliant new independence initiative headed by @AngusRobertson – and great to hear the changed views on independence of @murrayf00te and Sir David Edward.” Its launch comes less than two months before the UK is due to leave the EU on March 29, and also amid intense and ongoing uncertainty over what sort of Brexit will happen and even if it will happen at all. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17406127.nicola-sturgeon-hails-major-step-forward-on-independence-with-progress-scotland-launch/>

Fall-off in Scottish Labour membership due to 'natural cycle' of politics, claims Sweeney (The Herald) POL

A drop of almost 20 per cent in Labour members in Scotland has been put down to the “natural cycle” of politics by one of the party’s MPs. The interpretation of the fall in membership figures by Glasgow North East MP Paul Sweeney came as the SNP claimed Scottish Labour was facing "terminal decline." A poll over the weekend put Labour across the UK seven points behind the Tories at 41 to 34 per cent and there was talk of a group of Labour MPs contemplating a breakaway to form the core of a centrist grouping at Westminster. Papers leaked to The Herald on Sunday showed Scottish Labour’s membership fell from 25,836 in January 2018 to 21,162 last month – a drop of 4,674. The number of Labour members in the party's former Glasgow heartland fell by 1,545 in the last 12 months, with membership over the nine constituency branches in the city dropping from 5,814 to 4,269. In the Eastwood Constituency Labour Party branch alone, membership was down from 621 in January 2018 to 385 last month – a reduction of 38 per cent. Kirsty Blackman, the SNP's deputy leader at Westminster, claimed the numbers showed Labour was "on the path to terminal decline and total irrelevance in Scotland". <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17406116.fall-off-in-scottish-labour-membership-due-to-natural-cycle-of-politics-claims-sweeney/>

Gove warned of no-deal Brexit disaster for Scottish seafood industry (The National) ECON

SCOTLAND’S seafood industry is facing a disastrous increase in costs if there’s a no-deal Brexit, with salmon producers alone facing extra charges of £15 million a year just to pay for export health certificates. Scotland’s fisheries secretary Fergus Ewing has written to the UK Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to highlight the potential impacts to Scotland’s salmon and other seafood products if the export health certificates issue is not resolved. He has also called for the Brexit process to be stopped and for the UK Government to reimburse any extra costs faced by the industry in the event of no deal. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17408495.gove-warned-of-no-deal-brexit-disaster-for-scottish-seafood-industry/>

Millionaire American minister buys 15th century Highland castle (The Scotsman) ECON

A millionaire minister from the United States is to turn a 15th century Highland castle into her private home. Ackergill Tower in Caithness, once used by Oliver Cromwell to garrison his troops, was most recently run as a hotel - with actors Jack Nicholson and Michael Douglas among those who stayed at the castle. Now, wealthy Episcopalian minister Dr. Betsee Parker from Virginia has been given permission to turn the castle, which was recently valued at £3.9m, back into a single private home. The widowed

American philanthropist - the 17th Baroness of Lochiel - is reportedly going to use the former stronghold as a holiday home. It comes after the 5* hotel and wedding venue - which charged up to £900 a night - shut in December, with the loss of 40 jobs. The stunning castle sits on the rugged shoreline at Sinclair's Bay on the northernmost tip of Scotland near Wick and is surrounded by a 3,000 acre private estate. <https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/millionaire-american-minister-buys-15th-century-highland-castle-1-4866371>

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Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
CC:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 6, 2019
Date:	Wed, 6 Feb 2019 11:42:16 +0000

Thanks, just edited a few things. Good to send out and we'll be heading out to the National Library at 11:50.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 9:40 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Scotland Press - February 6, 2019

Any edits?

Scottish independence: new vote depends on Brexit outcome – Sturgeon (The Guardian) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has played down the prospects of an early vote on Scottish independence by warning her supporters that “calm consideration” was needed first. Scotland’s first minister told the US broadcaster PBS that it was too soon to be sure where Brexit would lead, adding that voters had a right to see “some clarity emerge” around the consequences of Brexit. Her remarks will be seen as a rebuff to Scottish National party MPs and senior activists, including her predecessor Alex Salmond, who have been pressing Sturgeon to exploit the chaos around Brexit at Westminster by calling for a new independence vote now. In a keynote speech during a visit to the US on Monday, Sturgeon told an audience at Georgetown University in Washington DC she believed the most pressing issue was delaying the date of EU withdrawal, currently due on 29 March, and holding a second referendum on EU membership. She confirmed she would update Holyrood and Scottish voters on her thinking about a second independence vote in “in the next few weeks,” but later indicated on PBS’s flagship NewsHour current affairs programme the time for that vote was not yet right.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/05/scottish-independence-new-vote-depends-on-brexit-outcome-sturgeon>

First Minister signs climate change agreement with New Jersey governor (Evening Express) POL/ ESTH

The First Minister, on a visit to North America, announced the deal at a meeting with Phil Murphy on Tuesday. It follows the signing of a climate change agreement between Ms. Sturgeon and governor of California Jerry Brown on a previous visit to the US in 2017. “We all have a moral responsibility to tackle climate change and the Scottish Government has set ambitious targets to reduce emissions and increase our electricity from renewable sources. Climate change is a global problem and agreements like these, working in partnership with like-minded administrations, will help us tackle the harmful effects it has on the planet. I look forward to working with New Jersey as we work towards our shared ambitions.” New Jersey has developed an offshore wind initiative and has established a goal of 3,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind energy by 2030. Mr. Murphy said: “As New Jersey progresses on the path to 100% clean

energy, we are grateful to partner with Scotland to tackle the issue of climate change head on. Scotland has a world-class offshore wind industry and we are looking forward to learning from them as we establish offshore wind farms in our state." The agreement commits Scotland and New Jersey to sharing experience and best practices on tackling climate change; working with like-minded countries, states and regions to increase ambition on climate change, and promoting business and economic opportunities created by the transition to a low-carbon economy.

<https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/first-minister-signs-climate-change-agreement-with-new-jersey-governor/>

MSPs agree remit for Salmond inquiry group (BBC Scotland) POL

MSPs have agreed the remit for a Holyrood inquiry into the Scottish government's handling of harassment complaints against Alex Salmond. Several inquiries were set up after the government admitted its investigation of internal complaints had been flawed. A special nine-member committee will consider the actions of officials as well as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. The probe will focus on government process and is separate to the criminal charges brought against Mr. Salmond. He insists he is "innocent of any criminality" and said he would defend himself "to the utmost" in any court case. On Tuesday, a meeting of Holyrood's business bureau management group of MSPs settled the remit of the special inquiry group, which will be titled the "committee on the Scottish government handling of harassment complaints." Its remit will be to "consider and report on the actions of the first minister, Scottish government officials and special advisers in dealing with complaints about Alex Salmond, former first minister, under the Scottish government's procedure," as well as "actions in relation to the Scottish ministerial code." The SNP is currently in line to chair the committee, with a Conservative deputy, although the election of a convener will be down to a vote of members. The remit and membership of the committee is to be confirmed by a vote of all MSPs on Wednesday, although parties have unanimously backed the plans through the business bureau. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47129218>

Police Scotland numbers lower despite Brexit concerns (The Scotsman) POL

The number of Police Scotland officers fell in the past year despite looming concerns over Brexit. Figures from the national force show there were 81 fewer officers (17,175) on 31 December when compared with 2017. Chief Constable Iain Livingstone recently postponed plans to reduce numbers by a further 300 amid uncertainty over Britain's exit from the EU, and has brought forward the recruitment of around 100 new officers. Justice secretary Humza Yousaf said the situation in Scotland compared favorably with England and Wales where there has been a 14 per cent fall in numbers since 2007. But Labour said officer numbers had "fallen dramatically" since Scotland's eight regional forces were merged to form Police Scotland in 2013. A previous commitment to keep numbers 1,000 officers higher than the situation inherited by the SNP in 2007 was dropped from the party's last election manifesto. Police Scotland is under pressure to lower headcount to reduce its budget deficit, but last month postponed a decision to cut 300 officer posts, a move which would have saved the force £12.6 million.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/police-scotland-numbers-lower-despite-brexit-concerns-1-4868230>

Police Scotland question protesters amid fears of Brexit chaos (The National) POL

Police Scotland are so desperately worried about Brexit that the force are now phoning up political activists to ask if they plan on causing any trouble when Britain leaves the EU. One of those contacted was campaigner Kirsty Haigh, who was involved in organizing the Scotland Against Trump march that brought tens of thousands to the streets of Edinburgh during the summer. Haigh said she found the experience "unsettling." "The police just phoned me wanting information about any upcoming anti-

Brexit activity. The [Police Liaison Officer] said he'd been instructed to phone me every week. Deeply unsettling for the police to be breathing down the backs of campaigners like this – who has instructed them to do this?" she tweeted. She said the officer told her police were "getting in touch with loads of groups. From what was said it seems they plan to just get in touch with all the activists they know of," Haigh added. Green MSP John Finnie, who chairs Holyrood's policing committee, said the force needed to "reflect on their approach". "The police have a legitimate role to play in ensuring the safety of those involved in peaceful protests and understanding the cumulative demands this may place on the service. "However, contacting known activists in this way is understandably open to the interpretation that the police are on a wider fishing expedition. I hope the police will reflect on their approach as it's self-evident that it has concerned active citizens who've been contacted."

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17411043.police-scotland-question-protesters-amid-fears-of-brexit-chaos/>

Donald Trump's Scottish finances just got even more interesting – Martyn McLaughlin (The Scotsman) POL

Donald Trump tried to get a loan from the Bank of Scotland to buy Hamilton Hall in St Andrews, but who else did he try to borrow from, asks Martyn McLaughlin. For anyone who believes that Donald Trump's portfolio of loss-making properties in Scotland is a sideshow to the investigations threatening to ensnare his presidency, a report in the weekend edition of the New York Times should be required reading. In it, the newspaper's finance editor, David Enrich, wrote of how in early 2016, as his campaign for the White House was in full tilt, the Trump Organization tried to extend an existing loan facility with Deutsche Bank against its Doral resort in Miami by nearly £8m in order to pay for work at Trump Turnberry in South Ayrshire. An internal committee of the bank, the report went on, rejected Trump's request in March 2016, deeming the proposal too "risky." The bank has declined to comment on the story, while Amanda Miller, senior vice-president of marketing and communications at the Trump Organization, issued a vehement denial...By the end of 2015, its parent company, Golf Recreation Scotland Limited, had received loans totaling £63 million from a New York trust controlled by Trump and Allen Weisselberg, the Trump Organization's longstanding chief financial officer. A year later, the loan total had reached £112m. It still stands at £107m today. Was that money generated from Trump's other businesses? It is impossible to say. What is beyond dispute is that Trump has tried – and failed – in the past to borrow money for business deals in Scotland. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/donald-trump-s-scottish-finances-just-got-even-more-interesting-martyn-mclaughlin-1-4868398>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 7,2019
Date:	Thu, 7 Feb 2019 10:03:30 +0000

I think there was an item in the Times about concerns about Scottish food and drink being threatened by Brexit - (b)(5)

(b)(5) Otherwise, the below is good to go.

Thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 9:24 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - February 7,2019

Looks like you've caught all the main things to me. Thank you!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:14 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Scotland Press - February 7,2019

Any edits?

Brexit drains confidence from Scotland's industry (The Times) ECON

Business confidence has continued to fall across key Scottish industries. The quarterly economic indicator from the Scottish Chambers of Commerce paints a gloomy picture, with Brexit uncertainty being blamed for dwindling levels of investment and falling profits. The research, compiled by the Fraser of Allander Institute, looks at trends in construction, financial and business services, retail and wholesale, tourism and manufacturing. It takes responses from almost 400 companies and uses a net balance method, where results are calculated by subtracting the number of respondents reporting an increase compared with those stating a fall. Confidence dropped across all five sectors in the final three months of last year. The decline was sharpest in retail and wholesale, where it fell from 29 per cent in the third quarter to -5 per cent. Manufacturing optimism was at its lowest since 2012, with a -18 per cent reading. Profit projections were also down across all five areas, while expectations for growth in sales revenue in the first quarter of this year fell. Neil Amner, chairman of the chamber of commerce's economic advisory group, said that trading had been challenging for many businesses. "It is clear that

many companies have pressed the pause button as political uncertainty and increasing cost pressures take their toll on business investment and confidence," he said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brexit-drains-confidence-from-scotland-s-industry-ll9cpdtd9>

Mike Russell: Scotland facing 'deep recession' under no-deal Brexit (The Scotsman) POL/ECON

A No deal Brexit could plunge Scotland's economy into a "deep recession" with widespread job losses and firms leaving the country, Brexit Secretary Mike Russell has warned. Scots could also face food price hikes of 5-10% with rural areas of the country facing particular issues, he told MSPs at Holyrood. The cabinet Secretary spoke out as the likelihood of a No deal scenario looks increasingly likely, with Prime Minister Theresa May struggling to salvage her much-maligned Withdrawal Deal after its Commons rejection. The Scottish Government has been "steadily intensifying" its preparations for a No deal in the early months of the year, Mr. Russell revealed today. He warned: "A No-Deal Brexit has the potential to generate a significant economic shock which could tip the Scottish economy into recession - potentially into a deep recession. It would also have a severe impact on the labour market resulting in potential job losses, business relocations and closures, underemployment and a reduction in recruitment." He even called for extra cash reserves be to pumped into the banking system, with small business likely to be worst hit. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election/mike-russell-scotland-facing-deep-recession-under-no-deal-brexit-1-4868786>

SNP MSP Linda Fabiani to be convener of Alex Salmond committee (The Scotsman) POL

Long-standing SNP MSP Linda Fabiani is set to be appointed to lead a Holyrood investigation into the Scottish Government's handling of harassment claims against Alex Salmond. MSPs have voted today to establish the Holyrood committee, with those assembled told the intention was to appoint deputy presiding officer Linda Fabiani as convener. There will be four former SNP ministers in total appointed to the committee. Ms. Fabiani has been a MSP since the creation of the Parliament in 1999 and served in Mr. Salmond's government. The MSP for East Kilbride served as minister for Europe, external affairs and culture from 2007 before being replaced in the role by Mike Russell halfway through the SNP's term. Concerns have been raised over the appointment of an SNP MSP as convener of the committee.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/main-players/snp-msp-linda-fabiani-to-be-convener-of-alex-salmond-committee-1-4869087>

Ross Thomson: Tories investigate MP bar incident (BBC Scotland)

The Scottish Conservatives are investigating reports that one of their MPs was escorted from a House of Commons bar by police following complaints about his behaviour. The incident is understood to have involved Aberdeen South MP Ross Thomson. Police were called to the Strangers' Bar on Tuesday night following a complaint about "sexual touching." No formal complaint was made to the officers, and there were no arrests. In a statement, the Metropolitan Police said: "Police were called at approximately 23:00 on 5 February to a bar within the Palace of Westminster following a report of sexual touching. Officers attended and spoke to the parties involved - three men in their 20s and 30s. However, no formal allegations were made to the officers and no arrests were made." Sources have told the BBC that 31-year-old Mr. Thomson was escorted from the bar following the incident.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47149988>

President Donald Trump could visit Scotland during Nato summit trip (Edinburgh Evening News)

The UK is set to host Donald Trump twice this year after London was confirmed as the venue for a major Nato summit in December. With an invitation still outstanding for the US President to make a formal state visit, the huge protests and expensive police operation when Mr. Trump visited the UK last year could be doubled in 2019. The US president is set to meet with heads of state in London, Nato secretary

general Jens Stoltenberg announced on Wednesday. The visit also raises the prospect of another trip to Scotland by the US President, who spent the weekend at his Turnberry 5-star hotel and golf courses following a meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May in July. The ring of steel for his stay at the Ayrshire resort cost Police Scotland £3.2m in additional expenditure. Mr. Stoltenberg said: "I am pleased to announce that allies have agreed that the next meeting of Nato heads of state and government will take place in London in December 2019. The meeting in London will be an opportunity for allied heads of state and government to address the security challenges we face now and in the future, and to ensure that Nato continues to adapt in order to keep its population of almost one billion people safe." <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/president-donald-trump-could-visit-scotland-during-nato-summit-trip-1-4869102>

Trump plans for luxury villas at Aberdeen golf estate delayed (The Guardian) POL/ ECON

Proposals to build 550 luxury homes at Donald Trump's golf course near Aberdeen have been delayed after a fresh row over the planning application. Aberdeenshire council has cancelled plans to consider the Trump Organization's controversial bid to build a large luxury housing estate near his golf course, which has received a record number of objections from the public. In an unusually public conflict between the two sides, the council said Trump's family firm had failed to provide the correct information quickly enough, and said it cannot be considered until the new material was properly reviewed by outside agencies and councilors. Sarah Malone, a senior executive with Trump Golf Scotland, hit back by accusing the council of "a gross misrepresentation of the facts and handling of our application." She blamed the council for the delay. The council confirmed on Wednesday the planning application had been withdrawn from a Formartine local area committee hearing next week and would no longer be put to a full Aberdeenshire council meeting on 7 March.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/feb/06/plans-for-550-luxury-flats-at-donald-trump-golf-estate-delayed>

Man living 'off grid' in the Highlands saved after his emergency beacon SOS signal picked up in Texas (Inews)

A man living in a cabin "off grid" in a remote area of Scotland who fell ill had been saved by a rescue team – after his distress signal was picked up in America. The man, who is known only as Ken, is in his mid-seventies and lives in a cabin in a remote area of the Highlands. He is believed to have lived in the area 13 miles east of Fort William for the last 25 years. Ken, who doesn't have access to a phone, keeps in touch with his family and friends by putting his SPOT beacon in check-in mode to let his loved ones know he is safe and well, according to the BBC. But on Sunday he switched his signal to SOS mode after suffering from a potentially life-threatening head injury. The signal was not picked up by local rescuers but instead by the International Emergency Response Coordination Center in Houston, Texas. After receiving the signal, the team decided to get in touch with the UK coastguard's national operations center in Fareham, Hampshire to tell them about the distress signal.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/scotland/scottish-highlands-off-grid-saved-emergency-beacon-signal-texas/>

Official
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Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - January 29, 2019
Date:	Tue, 29 Jan 2019 09:39:08 +0000

A few minor edits – otherwise good to go!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press - January 29, 2019

Any edits?

Scotland hurries legislation to protect against no-deal Brexit (The Guardian) POL

Scottish ministers are rushing through dozens of urgent legislative changes in an last-minute effort to protect Scottish businesses and consumers from a no-deal Brexit. The Scottish government has identified 36 legislative measures it believes are critical and must be in place before 29 March to ensure devolved areas such as farming, fisheries, food safety, the environment, animal welfare, and forestry are protected if the UK crashes out of the EU. Officials and party business managers at Holyrood are preparing to order late parliamentary sittings, cancelling non-essential debates or votes and holding extra committee hearings to sit at the same time as parliament is in session to help cope with the surge in work. Mike Russell, Scotland's secretary for constitutional affairs, said his government had a duty to prepare for Brexit and was redeploying staff to do so.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/28/scotland-minister-critical-legislation-dozens-measures-protect-against-no-deal-brexit-mike-russell>

Scottish government facing defeat in budget bill vote (BBC Scotland) POL/ECON

The Scottish government's budget is facing defeat after the Scottish Greens said they would vote against the plans unless changes were made. MSPs will hold their first vote on the budget on Thursday, with the minority SNP government in need of backing. The Conservatives and Lib Dems have dismissed doing a deal unless ministers rule out a new vote on independence. And the Greens have stated that they cannot back the budget as it stands unless more money is given to councils. Party co-convenor Patrick Harvie said the current proposals would be "hugely damaging" for local government, but Finance Secretary Derek Mackay said councils would be worse off if the budget bill was not passed. Mr. Mackay unveiled his plans in December 2018, with extra funding for education, the health service and infrastructure coming alongside a widening of the tax gap for higher earners north and south of the border. However, the minority SNP administration needs opposition MSPs to either back its proposals or abstain when the stage one vote on the budget bill takes place on Thursday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47028223>

Sturgeon: 'Case for independence bigger than one man' (BBC Scotland) POL

The criminal charges against Alex Salmond will not dent the chances of a second independence referendum, according to Nicola Sturgeon. The former first minister faces 14 charges, which include attempted rape and sexual assault. He vehemently denies the charges and said he would defend himself "to the utmost". His successor told the BBC: "The case for independence is bigger than one man, it's bigger than one woman." "It's not about individual personalities," Ms Sturgeon added. "It's about what's best for the country now and in the longer term." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47020057>

Scots travel giant beats Brexit to post best-ever week (The Herald) POL/ECON

The new leader of Barrhead Travel has revealed the firm has defied Brexit uncertainty to record the best trading week in its history, while signalling the company's commitment to continue expanding its branch network in England. In her first press interview since being unveiled as president of Barrhead Travel in December, Jacqueline Dobson highlighted the benefits brought to the company as a result of its acquisition by US-based Travel Leaders Group (TLG) on February 6 last year. https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/17391403.barrhead-beats-brexit-to-post-best-ever-week/

Jacobs and AECOM to Lead Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review (PR Newswire) POL/ECON

U.S. engineering firms Jacobs and AECOM have been awarded a contract by Transport Scotland to lead its second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2). The STPR2 is a strategic review which will provide recommendations to Scottish Ministers on future transport investment in Scotland focused on themes of economic prosperity, equality, health and wellbeing and climate action. Jacobs and AECOM will be supported by Big Partnership and the University of Leeds Institute of Transport Studies, as well as other industry technical experts. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/jacobs-and-aecom-to-lead-transport-scotlands-strategic-transport-projects-review-300785530.html>

Police Scotland spent £3.2 million on Donald Trump's visit last summer when he stayed for two nights at his own Trump Turnberry hotel (The Daily Mail)

Police Scotland spent more than £3 million on Donald Trump's private visit last summer, it has been revealed. The force had to arrange for hundreds of officers to attend protests and other events during the US President's trip in July. He spent two nights at Trump Turnberry resort in Ayrshire after meeting the Queen and holding talks with Theresa May. Despite the short stay, it was costly. The force has disclosed it spent £3.2million over its usual budget to provide policing for the visit. In response to a freedom of information request from the Guardian, Police Scotland said 5,537 personnel had claimed overtime or time off in lieu, with the overtime bill reaching nearly £1.6million. Acting Chief Constable Iain Livingstone had to cancel leave and rest days to ensure sufficient manpower for the visit. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6639421/Police-Scotland-spent-3-2million-Donald-Trumps-visit-stayed-hotel.html>

(b)(6)

Tel: (b)(6)

Mob

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Official
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Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - June 28, 2019
Date:	Fri, 28 Jun 2019 12:47:20 +0000

Hey (b)(6) apologies – this looks great, many thanks.

Best,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 11:38 AM
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - June 28, 2019

Added the new article

Corbyn to back indyref2 in pact to make him PM, says Kezia Dugdale (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jeremy Corbyn would probably grant the SNP a second independence referendum as part of an election pact that made him prime minister, Kezia Dugdale has claimed. The pair worked together during the two-year period that Ms Dugdale was the Scottish Labour leader and often clashed, particularly over comments by Mr Corbyn that she interpreted as being vague about the future of the Union. With the prospect of a no-confidence vote in the British Conservative government, and a subsequent general election, being openly discussed, there is speculation that Labour would have to seek the support of the SNP to take control of the Commons.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/corbyn-to-back-indyref2-in-pact-to-make-him-pm-says-kezia-dugdale-s06ncpk5r>

Davidson: Boris 'not in position' to predict result of no deal (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish Conservative Party's leader says she is "not sure" Boris Johnson is "in a position to answer" questions about what would happen if the UK left the EU without a deal. "In terms of the butterfly flapping its wings, and what are the consequences of that, I'm not sure I'm in a position to answer that and more importantly I'm not sure he {Mr Johnson} is," Ruth Davidson told Newsnight's Kirsty Wark. She also said she does not think the 31 October deadline for Brexit "should be written in stone". "There's nothing that's written in stone that says that if we're really close to a deal, at one minute past midnight on the 31, that actually we can't do that deal on the 1 [November]," she said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48793060>

Ruth Davidson tells Boris Johnson: It's not Brexit do or die, it's the Union do or die (*The Telegraph*) POL

Ruth Davidson has challenged Boris Johnson to show he will prioritise the UK's integrity over Brexit if he becomes Prime Minister by telling him: "It's the Union do or die." The Scottish Tory leader demanded assurances from the Tory leadership frontrunner over his promise this week to "do or die" on Brexit by getting the UK out of Europe by October 31, no matter what. She said Mr Johnson's unequivocal "do or die" pledge should instead apply to preserving the Union, and contrasted this with Jeremy Hunt's promise to prioritise the latter "every time." In a rebuke to Mr Johnson, she said that was why she had decided to back Mr Hunt in the contest after MPs whittled down the candidates to two.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/27/boris-johnson-have-good-relationship-ruth-davidson-will-strengthen/>

SNP hit out at Swinson for 'making things up' on indyref2 mandate (*The National*, circulation 7,800, pro-independence) POL

Libdem leadership candidate Jo Swinson has been accused of "denying reality" on a second independence referendum. Appearing in a LibDem leadership contest special of the Victoria Derbyshire show, Swinson claimed Scotland had "no mandate" for an independence referendum. The SNP said her comments showed Swinson "denying reality", and accused her of "stinking hypocrisy", as she said the UK must be given a second say on the Brexit vote. Derbyshire asked the LibDem MP if she was a hypocrite for backing a People's Vote but not a fresh Scottish independence referendum.

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17735426.snp-hit-out-at-swinson-for-making-things-up-on-indyref2-mandate/>

Op-ed: Is a supposed benefit of Scottish Parliament one of its biggest problems? – Paris Gourtsoyannis

Twenty years ago on Monday, the Queen formally opened the first session of the reconvened Scottish Parliament on the Mound, giving it the power to legislate and ushering in a new constitutional era. She told the nation's new parliamentarians that "the test for Scotland and for this new Parliament will be to harness [its] great strengths, to channel them through the energy of the young and the experience of the old, to shape the future". That was the job and Holyrood did it. Land reform, national parks, the smoking ban, free personal care, equal marriage, minimum alcohol pricing – the past two decades have seen society – changing policies reach deep into the lives of ordinary citizens.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/is-a-supposed-benefit-of-scottish-parliament-one-of-its-biggest-problems-paris-gourtsoyannis-1-4955465>

Trump golf course dunes to lose special status (BBC NEWS) ECON

The sand dunes at Donald Trump's Aberdeenshire golf resort are expected to lose their status as a nationally-important protected environment. Government watchdog Scottish Natural Heritage has recommended that Menie links be removed from an existing site of special scientific interest (SSSI). SNH concluded Mr Trump's golf course had "destroyed" the sand dune system, causing permanent habitat loss. The Trump Organisation reacted by calling the move a "stitch-up". It said the organisation had spent millions on the care, protection and maintenance of the SSSI area.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-48789620>

Million cruise passengers to visit Scotland next year (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Scotland's booming cruise passenger total is expected to reach one million next year, nearly a decade ahead of previous forecasts. The prediction came as one of the world's newest cruise ships paid its maiden visit to Edinburgh, complete with planetarium and a "snow grotto" in its spa. More than 900 passengers who arrived in Newhaven on board Viking Jupiter will help swell Scotland's total to at least 920,000 this year. However, industry body Cruise Scotland said the annual growth rate of around 15 per cent would see the total top one million in 2020, nine years ahead of past expectations.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/million-cruise-passengers-to-visit-scotland-next-year-1-4955530>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 11:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - June 28, 2019

I think it might have been in the Telegraph first?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/27/boris-johnson-have-good-relationship-ruth-davidson-will-strengthen/>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 11:19 AM
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - June 28, 2019

Can we add this article (although I'm not able to find the full article).

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17735489.ruth-davidson-accuses-boris-johnson-of-putting-brexit-before-the-union/>

Ruth Davidson accuses Boris Johnson of putting Brexit before the Union

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 11:09 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press - June 28, 2019

Corbyn to back indyref2 in pact to make him PM, says Kezia Dugdale (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jeremy Corbyn would probably grant the SNP a second independence referendum as part of an election pact that made him prime minister, Kezia Dugdale has claimed. The pair worked together during the two-year period that Ms Dugdale was the Scottish Labour leader and often clashed, particularly over comments by Mr Corbyn that she interpreted as being vague about the future of the Union. With the prospect of a no-confidence vote in the British Conservative government, and a subsequent general election, being openly discussed, there is speculation that Labour would have to seek the support of the SNP to take control of the Commons.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/corbyn-to-back-indyref2-in-pact-to-make-him-pm-says-kezia-dugdale-s06ncpk5r>

Davidson: Boris 'not in position' to predict result of no deal (BBC NEWS) POL

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48793060>

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<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17735426.snp-hit-out-at-swinson-for-making-things-up-on-indyref2-mandate/>

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constitutional era. She told the nation's new parliamentarians that "the test for Scotland and for this new Parliament will be to harness [its] great strengths, to channel them through the energy of the young and the experience of the old, to shape the future". That was the job and Holyrood did it. Land reform, national parks, the smoking ban, free personal care, equal marriage, minimum alcohol pricing – the past two decades have seen society – changing policies reach deep into the lives of ordinary citizens.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/is-a-supposed-benefit-of-scottish-parliament-one-of-its-biggest-problems-paris-gourtsoyannis-1-4955465>

Trump golf course dunes to lose special status (BBC NEWS) ECON

The sand dunes at Donald Trump's Aberdeenshire golf resort are expected to lose their status as a nationally-important protected environment. Government watchdog Scottish Natural Heritage has recommended that Menie links be removed from an existing site of special scientific interest (SSSI). SNH concluded Mr Trump's golf course had "destroyed" the sand dune system, causing permanent habitat loss. The Trump Organisation reacted by calling the move a "stitch-up". It said the organisation had spent millions on the care, protection and maintenance of the SSSI area.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-48789620>

Million cruise passengers to visit Scotland next year (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Scotland's booming cruise passenger total is expected to reach one million next year, nearly a decade ahead of previous forecasts. The prediction came as one of the world's newest cruise ships paid its maiden visit to Edinburgh, complete with planetarium and a "snow grotto" in its spa. More than 900 passengers who arrived in Newhaven on board Viking Jupiter will help swell Scotland's total to at least 920,000 this year. However, industry body Cruise Scotland said the annual growth rate of around 15 per cent would see the total top one million in 2020, nine years ahead of past expectations.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/million-cruise-passengers-to-visit-scotland-next-year-1-4955530>

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
CC:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - March 7, 2019
Date:	Thu, 7 Mar 2019 10:41:32 +0000

I took out one piece but otherwise ok to go.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 9:24 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Scotland Press - March 7, 2019

Any edits? (b)(5) (please see Lord Mayor of the City of London backs Scots growth) – Thank you

Russian war games in Scottish waters (The Times) POL

A Russian frigate carrying a weapon that makes enemies vomit conducted “air defense and counter sabotage exercises” in waters close to Scotland’s only air force base. A Royal Navy warship has been deployed to track the Russian naval task group that is thought to be journeying towards the Mediterranean. HMS *Defender*, a guided missile destroyer, was dispatched over the weekend to keep watch on *Admiral Gorshkov*, the first of a new class of Russian frigates, and three auxiliary ships. The Russian vessels sailed from Murmansk, the port town on the Barents Sea in the Arctic Circle that is home to Russia’s northern fleet. Russian media said that the ship had been conducting “air defense and counter sabotage exercises” inside Scottish waters, close to RAF Lossiemouth. Reports emerged last month that the Russian navy had begun fitting warships with the 5P-42 Filin or “Owl”, a so-called visual optical interference weapon that can provoke hallucinations and sickness in enemies using fast pulses of high-intensity light beams. A navy spokesman said that HMS *Defender*, which is usually based at Portsmouth, was “monitoring the Russian task group and keeping track of their activity in areas of national interest.” <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russian-war-games-in-scottish-waters-gxr6r3qd9>

European parliament to keep Scotland office after Brexit (BBC News) POL

The European Parliament has decided to retain an office in Scotland after Brexit. BBC Scotland understands the parliament’s Edinburgh operation will stay open until at least the end of next year. MEPs said it would provide advice to EU citizens living in Scotland and Scottish organizations seeking to maintain EU links. The Scottish government said it hoped the office would become permanent. The decision to keep a presence in Scotland was taken by the parliament’s president, Antonio Tajani, and his senior team. They have agreed a temporary reprieve to the end of 2020. The Labour MEP, David Martin, said that made “absolute sense” because the UK is supposed to keep operating under EU rules during that period, if it leaves with a deal. He said the parliament would also be aware of the political situation, where the current Scottish government seeks independent membership of the EU. SNP MEP, Alyn

Smith, said the decision "proves the active interest in what's going on in Scotland." It is thought a decision on the longer term future of the office will be made later this year, after the European elections. The elections, in May, will end the terms of all 70 UK members of the Brussels and Strasbourg based parliament. The Brexit supporting MEP, David Coburn, formerly of UKIP, said the Edinburgh office was a "waste of money" and would duplicate the work of EU consulates. A spokesperson for the Scottish government said: "we are pleased that the European Parliament is to retain its office in Edinburgh and hope that it will maintain a permanent presence." The European Commission has already decided to close its office in Scotland, despite efforts by the first minister and others to keep it open.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47477629>

SNP plan for Scottish currency branded 'fantasy' by Theresa May (Press and Journal) POL / ECON

Proposals by the SNP to ditch the pound and establish a new currency in the event of independence have been dismissed as "fantasy" by Theresa May. The prime minister rubbished the plan, announced by Keith Brown last week, saying the SNP should instead be focusing on delivering her Brexit deal. The comments came after Gordon Tory MP, Colin Clark, used prime minister's questions to brand the announcement "reckless". The Scottish Conservative MP said the SNP had "resurrected" Alex Salmond's call for a Scottish pound – after arguing in 2014 that a separate Scotland would keep sterling. Senior figures in the SNP, including finance secretary Derek Mackay, have suggested that Scotland could float its own currency within years of becoming independent, while continuing to use the pound informally in the meantime. Mr. Clark said: "The SNP Scottish Government has resurrected Alex Salmond's call for a Scottish currency. "Does the prime minister agree this is reckless and risks destabilizing the Scottish economy?" Mrs. May responded: "I seem to recall back in the 2014 referendum that the SNP were absolutely adamant that Scotland would keep the pound. There have been a few changes since then, they have gone through looking at the option of the Euro, then they went back to sterling and now they are into an independent currency. This government is working to secure a Brexit deal that protects jobs and our economy. The SNP should focus on that rather than continuing to pursue their independence fantasy." <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/westminster/1692981/snp-plan-for-scottish-currency-branded-fantasy-by-theresa-may/>

Scotland set for multi-billion pound economic boost under new deal for offshore windfarms (The Herald) ECON

Scotland is set for a multi-billion pound economic boost under plans to dramatically increase the number of offshore wind farms around Britain's coastline. Under the plan, one-third of all Britain's electricity will come from offshore wind by 2030 as the UK Government unveils a new deal with the industry as part of its ongoing strategy to kick start manufacturing. Offshore wind currently provides about seven per cent of British power, but that would increase to more than 30% by the end of the next decade and provide 27,000 jobs. It would mean that, for the first time in UK history, more electricity is generated by renewables than fossil fuels, with a predicted 70% of power coming from low-carbon sources by 2030. It is hoped the green power "revolution" will be helped by a new deal between the Government and industry to develop the supply chain and boost global exports. Scottishpower will today confirm that as part of a £6 billion investment plan it is actively pursuing future offshore wind projects in Scotland to ensure the targets are met.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17481601.scotland-set-for-multi-billion-pound-economic-boost-under-new-deal-for-offshore-windfarms/>

Lord Mayor of the City of London backs Scots growth (BBC News) ECON

The person in charge of promoting the UK's financial industry around the world has said there is great potential for Scottish firms to expand abroad. Peter Estlin, Lord Mayor of the City of London, also said

industry's move to operating outside the EU would be "relatively smooth". An estimated 161,000 people work in financial services in Scotland. Mr. Estlin said he wanted Scots firms looking to expand to join him on foreign trips to places like China. The recent announcement by Barclays Bank that it would open a big operation in Glasgow is one of several signs of growth in Scotland's financial sector. The Lord Mayor, who has been travelling abroad to promote the UK industry, said companies like Edinburgh-based investment firm Baillie Gifford were looking to expand in China. "It may be that we can help," he said, adding: "It can be better if you've got the businesses with you. "I can talk well but I'm not sure I can talk as well as they can in terms of their own businesses." Mr. Estlin added that The City of London was "largely not" worried about Brexit, due to happen on 29 March. He said: "We have had turbulence in the sense that businesses have by and large prepared for the worst-case scenario - a no-deal. But in the meantime, the city's seeking to promote 'we want a deal' because we believe that's the best outcome." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-47467561>

Counter terrorism police say suspect packages linked (BBC News)

Counter terrorism police officers have said the suspect package found at Glasgow University is linked with devices discovered around London. Bomb disposal officers detonated the item after it was found in the mailroom on Wednesday morning. Police Scotland is now "working closely together" with officers investigating finds at Heathrow and London City airports and Waterloo station. Staff and students were evacuated from buildings and no-one was injured. Classes were expected to return to normal on Thursday. Assistant Chief Constable Steve Johnson of Police Scotland said: "The package sent to the university was not opened and no-one was injured. A controlled explosion of the device was carried out this afternoon by EOD. "There are similarities in the package, its markings and the type of device that was recovered in Glasgow to those in London. Therefore, we are now treating it as being linked to the three packages being investigated by the Met in London and both investigations are being run in tandem. Our inquiries into the Glasgow package are at an early stage but there is no ongoing risk to the public." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-47474290>

Donald Trump: Scotland international criticized after becoming ambassador for US president's golf course (The Independent)

Aberdeen star Scott McKenna has been criticized after announcing he has become a club ambassador for Donald Trump's golf course. Trump has an increasing influence in Scotland with his investment in golf, adding to his portfolio of clubs in the United States, where he has routinely played with professional players, such as Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods. McKenna, an avid golfer, was delighted to accept the position to promote the US president's links experience. "I am privileged to have been appointed club ambassador Trump Scotland," McKenna wrote on social media. "A keen golfer and supporter of the property, I look forward to working with Trump International, Scotland to promote the property as a leading leisure destination. #ClubAmbassador." <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/donald-trump-golf-course-news-latest-scott-mckenna-twitter-scotland-memes-aberdeen-ambassador-links-a8809766.html>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - November 14, 2018
Date:	Wed, 14 Nov 2018 09:29:18 +0000

I added a bullet of the FM's tweets verbatim

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 9:23 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press - November 14, 2018

Any edits?

Draft Brexit deal 'must be shared' with Scottish ministers (BBC Scotland) POL

The Scottish government has demanded to see details of the draft Brexit deal set to be discussed by UK ministers, after a major breakthrough in talks. Prime Minister Theresa May is to hold a special cabinet meeting on Wednesday to discuss a draft withdrawal agreement. UK government ministers are also being asked to see Mrs May for one-to-one talks on Tuesday evening. Scottish External Affairs Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "We must see this deal, Scotland must not be forgotten". <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-46191749>

First Minister's Tweets on Draft Brexit Deal

"If the PM's 'deal' satisfies no-one and can't command a majority, we mustn't fall for her spin that the UK crashing out of EU without a deal is then inevitable - instead we should take the opportunity to get better options back on the table."

"Also, though the Withdrawal proposals will get most attention initially, the declaration on future relationship is just as important. If that is vague and dodges tough issues, a blindfold Brexit would beckon - it would be deeply irresponsible for parliament to sanction that."

"PM's approach would take Scotland out of the single market (despite our 62% remain vote) but leave us competing for investment with Northern Ireland that is effectively still in it."

Hundreds expected at Steve Bannon protest in Edinburgh (The National) POL/PA

More than 600 executives, journalists, presenters, and bloggers are descending on Edinburgh today for the start of a two day-conference "focusing on bright ideas, opportunities and challenges for the international news industry". But the summit, organised by the European Broadcasting Union's News Xchange, will be dominated by a session at 3pm with Donald Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon, whose inclusion led to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon pulling out of the event. Hundreds of people are expected to attend a protest outside the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, organised by Stand Up to Racism Scotland. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17221318.hundreds-expected-at-steve-bannon-protest-in-edinburgh/>

Diageo to pour off brands for £428m (Aberdeen Press and Journal) ECON

Drink giant Diageo is offloading a string of brands to US firm Sazerac for £428 million in order to focus on fast-growing demand for its “premium and above” range in the US. Diageo, whose whisky portfolio includes the world’s best-selling Scotch Johnnie Walker, as well as Bell’s, J&B, Haig Club and Vat 69, said proceeds of the deal would be returned to investors through a share buyback. The 19 brands being sold include three Canadian whiskeys – Seagram’s VO, Seagram’s 83 and Seagram’s Five Star. Also going the way of Louisiana-based Sazerac are rum brands Myers’s and Parrot Bay, Romana Sambuca and Popov vodka. Drink companies are targeting strong global demand for pricier, upmarket spirits.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/scotland-business/1608328/diageo-to-pour-off-brands-for-428m/>

Wellbeing platform targets US market from Scotland (The Scotsman) ECON

A Scottish entrepreneur is set to launch a wellbeing platform, harnessing the expertise of executives who have worked for FanDuel, Asos and Starbucks, and with a £1 million seed funding round in hand. Jon-Paul Kitching, who founded music and lifestyle media brand Clash and creative agency Public Worldwide, is behind Alyke – described as a “people-powered healthcare and wellbeing technology platform, dedicated to simplifying consumer wellness”. It is targeting the US, the largest wellbeing market globally, from a Scottish base. And it will focus on personalised digital healthcare and lifestyle branded products, initially vitamin-rich drinks delivered direct to consumers. Alyke plans to develop additional products over time and locate a small “but highly experienced” marketing team in the US supported by a Scottish headquarters.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/companies/retail/wellbeing-platform-targets-us-market-from-scotland-1-4829040>

Donald Trump’s Turnberry resort plans major expansion with housing and luxury villa development (The Scotsman)

The Trump Organisation is planning to build swathes of housing and luxury villas on hundreds of acres of land next to its lossmaking Turnberry resort, Scotland on Sunday revealed. The firm, owned by US president Donald Trump, is urging officials to greenlight the major development across a vast tract of farmland in the remote corner of South Ayrshire. Neither the Trump Organisation nor Trump Turnberry have made public the plans, but Trump’s second son, Eric, has been personally overseeing the project for the past ten months.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-s-turnberry-resort-plans-major-expansion-with-housing-and-luxury-villa-development-1-4827328>

Scotland Women edged out by world champions USA (Edinburgh Evening News)

Scotland Women put up a spirited display in a 1-0 friendly defeat by world champions the USA in Paisley. Alex Morgan’s first-half volley proved the difference between the sides in the Scots’ first home fixture since qualifying for the 2019 World Cup in France.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/sport/football/scotland-women-edged-out-by-world-champions-usa-1-4829410>

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From: (b)(6)
To:
CC:
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - September 26, 2019
Date: Thu, 26 Sep 2019 10:01:08 +0000

The US firm doing student housing.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 26 September 2019 at 10:53:45 BST
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - September 26, 2019

Which article/text has the hyperlink?

(b)(6)
 Tel: (b)(6)
 Mob

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland



UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:48 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - September 26, 2019

Thanks (b)(6) looks great. The only thing I'd say there's one address in an article that is a hyperlink that I think we should change to plain text.

I think we should also follow up on the group of entrepreneurs that are going to the US and the Dept of Ag grant (worth tweet!)

The distro list for the press daily has changed slightly so take a look at the recent ones from (b)(6)
 Thanks for doing this!

From: (b)(6)
Date: 26 September 2019 at 10:38:32 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - September 26, 2019

Any edits?

Scotland gets 'toughest climate change laws in the world' as Holyrood vote passed (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

New legislation aimed at tackling climate change means Scotland now has the most ambitious targets anywhere in the world, environment secretary Roseanna Cunningham has insisted. Holyrood approved a cut in emissions of 75 per cent by 2030 - a new target tougher than the 70 per cent reduction originally proposed by Scottish ministers. Campaigners welcomed the passing of the new legislation, which was approved by 113 votes to zero with six abstentions. But Scottish Green MSPs refused to back the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)(Scotland) Bill, insisting that it did not go far enough. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-gets-toughest-climate-change-laws-in-the-world-as-holyrood-vote-passed-1-5010955>

Scottish independence: Secret plans for indyref2 revealed (*The National*, circulation 7,800, pro-independence) POL

Civil servants began secretly working behind the scenes two years ago to pave the way for Scotland to be set up as an independent country, Scottish Government documents have dramatically revealed. The bombshell memo written by civil service chief Leslie Evans to Nicola Sturgeon and copied to John Swinney and Derek Mackay informed the First Minister that officials would prepare for arrangements for a “transition” period between a Yes vote and the creation of the new state. In it the Permanent Secretary wrote: “It will be important too for the civil service to develop robust plans to ensure our readiness to implement either outcome of the referendum. That work will include transitional planning for moving to an independent Scotland.” The memo was sent by Evans on 29 March 2017 – two weeks after the First Minister announced her plans to hold a second referendum between the autumn of 2018 and the spring of the following year. Amid the turmoil of Brexit she later dropped plans to hold a vote in that timescale and subsequently set out proposals for a second independence vote in late next year. The memo also reveals Evans telling the First Minister that work on the referendum would be carried out alongside work on EU withdrawal as well as work on education and implementation of its wider policy agenda. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17927477.civil-servants-work-preparations-independent-scotland/>

UK immigration system could be tailored to help Scotland, says study (*The Financial Times*) POL

Canada’s immigration system shows how UK policy could be tailored to help Scotland head off a looming demographic crisis over the balance between pensioners and working age Scots, a study has concluded. The UK government has repeatedly dismissed calls for devolution of powers over immigration from Scottish ministers, who argue Scotland’s economy will suffer major damage if Brexit ends the free movement of EU citizens into the UK. Under the government’s current plans, EU nationals entering the UK between the planned Brexit date of October 31 and the end of 2020 will be granted a three-year temporary leave to remain in the country. But Scotland’s very low birth rate, rapidly ageing population and relatively low levels of net immigration means it has clearly distinct needs from England, said the David Hume Institute, a think-tank. The institute highlighted how Canada’s system allows provinces greater flexibility in attracting workers in specific fields as well as overall numbers of immigrants —

depending on the needs of the local economies. <https://www.ft.com/content/2f63d6f4-dfa4-11e9-b112-9624ec9edc59>

Scotland sends 16 entrepreneurs on training mission to America (*Insider*) ECON

A cohort of 16 emerging entrepreneurs will travel to America next week to take part in a programme at Babson College in Boston. The visit, facilitated by Unlocking Ambition and Entrepreneurial Scotland, aims to help the delegates develop advanced leadership skills and receive business growth training as well as building networks in North America. The delegates are recognised as ambitious individuals heading-up businesses and projects with high potential to make a significant contribution to the Scottish economy. <https://www.insider.co.uk/news/scotland-sends-16-entrepreneurs-training-20172517>

US firm enters student housing market in Scotland with Glasgow and Edinburgh developments (*The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist*) ECON

A US property investment firm is making a multi-million pound move into the Scottish student accommodation market with developments in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The move by CA Ventures reflects confidence in the potential of the market in the Scottish cities amid growth in the university sector in recent years. The firm is developing a 422 bedroom facility on Cathedral Street in central Glasgow and one with 216 bedrooms on Dundee Street in the Fountainbridge area of Edinburgh. https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/17891799.us-firm-enters-student-housing-market-scotland-glasgow-edinburgh-developments/

Trump Turnberry resort singled out in airport's pitch to US military (*The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist*)

Donald Trump's Turnberry resort is the only hotel named by Glasgow Prestwick Airport in promotional material distributed at private meetings with US military aircrews in an attempt to win their custom, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The document, prepared by the Scottish Government owned airport and handed out at 'closed' meetings with US Armed Forces personnel, emphasises the "five star" status of the US president's flagship Scottish property, even noting how it has been "newly refurbished." Two sources familiar with the gatherings said Prestwick staff also delivered presentations in which they offered to arrange rounds of golf at Turnberry for visiting US Air Force (USAF) crews as part of their layovers. Amid growing scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic of US military payments and patronage of the beleaguered airport and Mr Trump's nearby loss making resort, both Prestwick and the Scottish Government have stressed that Turnberry is one of 13 hotels used to accommodate inbound US military aircrews, and that there is "no commercial relationship" between the airport and Mr Trump's firm. However, the pamphlet, widely distributed at the private meetings with aircrews, raises further questions over the relationship between Mr Trump's business and the airport, given the way it singles out Turnberry. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trump-turnberry-resort-singled-out-in-airport-s-pitch-to-us-military-1-5011598>

Scotland stands to gain from US research grant (*The Press and Journal, circulation 48,200, centrist*) FAS

The wet mountains of the southern Highlands of Scotland are dramatically different in landscape and character from the arid rangelands of the south-western United States. And from a livestock manager's perspective, you may think that these two areas have only one issue in common – how best to manage water. With too much water, in the form of rain, impacting on livestock here and too little water, in the form of dependable watering points, affecting livestock in that part of the US. But if you look at the livestock systems, primarily focused on sheep here and exclusively on beef there, you find that the challenges they face are very similar. Both involve grazing livestock at low densities over large areas of relatively unproductive pastures. A combination of poor nutrition, pests, diseases and predators

impacts adversely on both productivity and growth rates during the lambing and calving seasons. Therefore the hill farmers, crofters and ranchers involved have to sell on their lambs and calves for finishing elsewhere. And the price obtained for those animals is dictated as much by the buyers' assessments of their size at the point of sale as opposed to their growth potential at their final store or feedlot destination. Hence much of what we are focusing on at Kirkton and Auchtertyre is just as relevant in the south-western US, such as genetic improvement of livestock productivity, managing on-farm forage and fodder resources more effectively, using sensors to physically track livestock or using Electronic Identification (EID) associated equipment to better track the performance of individual animals. I am therefore happy to announce that my team here in Scotland are part of a larger consortium, led by colleagues at New Mexico State University, who have just been awarded a major research grant by the United States Department of Agriculture.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/farming/1848873/scotland-stands-to-gain-from-us-research-grant/>

Davy Crockett blamed for triggering US adoration of guns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

He is revered in the United States as the hero of the Alamo and the rugged, raccoon-hat-wearing king of the wild frontier. Now a historian has blamed Davy Crockett and his macho persona for triggering America's toxic contemporary gun culture. Matthew Ward, a senior history lecturer at the University of Dundee, said that the country's fetishisation of firearms had been shaped by popular — and heavily fictionalised — accounts of Crockett's belligerent behaviour. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/davy-crockett-blamed-for-triggering-us-adoration-of-guns-nqh9d8wxx>

(b)(6)

Tel: (b)(6)
Mob

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland



UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	"Austrian, Courtney E (London)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	
Subject:	RE: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening
Date:	Thu, 3 Oct 2019 15:00:29 +0000

I think having (b)(6) with you is enough - (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening

He wasn't aware we had a consulate up here (and he was certainly not on the list of people for my introductory calls) (b)(5)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Official - SBU
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: Austrian, Courtney E (London)
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2019 3:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening

(b)(5)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2019 3:31 PM

To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening

Hi (b)(6)

We've gotten a request from (b)(6) to meet (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 11:36 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); Austrian, Courtney E (London); (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening

We can expect continued attention from McLaughlin on this and related issues. He's had a series of articles for *The Scotsman* or *Scotland on Sunday* (see below and on his website: <https://martynmclaughlin.com/donald-trump/>)

Trump Turnberry resort singled out in airport's pitch to US military (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump's Turnberry resort is the only hotel named by Glasgow Prestwick Airport in promotional material distributed at private meetings with US military aircrews in an attempt to win their custom, *The Scotsman* can reveal. The document, prepared by the Scottish Government owned airport and handed out at 'closed' meetings with US Armed Forces personnel, emphasises the "five star" status of the US president's flagship Scottish property, even noting how it has been "newly refurbished." Two sources familiar with the gatherings said Prestwick staff also delivered presentations in which they offered to arrange rounds of golf at Turnberry for visiting US Air Force (USAF) crews as part of their layovers. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trump-turnberry-resort-singled-out-in-airport-s-pitch-to-us-military-1-5011598>

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there is “no commercial relationship” between the airport and Mr Trump’s firm. However, the pamphlet, widely distributed at the private meetings with aircrews, raises further questions over the relationship between Mr Trump’s business and the airport, given the way it singles out Turnberry. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trump-turnberry-resort-singled-out-in-airport-s-pitch-to-us-military-1-5011598>

US deal with Prestwick put on hold (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

A lucrative new US military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport has been put on hold amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and President Trump’s flagship Scottish resort, The Scotsman can reveal. A US Defence Department agency has postponed a lucrative new military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and president Donald Trump’s flagship Scottish resort.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Calls for Prestwick Airport's links with US military to end over Donald Trump 'corruption allegation' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

An influential committee in the US Congress has threatened the Pentagon with subpoenas unless it releases details of US military spending at President Donald Trump’s flagship Scottish resort. In a further twist to the growing scandal surrounding the US government, Trump Turnberry and the Scottish Government-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, the House Oversight Committee warned it would “consider alternative measures” if the US Defence Department did not disclose details of expenditure at Mr Trump’s loss making South Ayrshire hotel and golf course. It comes as Scottish Greens co-leader, Patrick Harvie MSP, said the airport’s dealings with the US military should be suspended, warning that otherwise the Scottish Government risked damaging the country’s international reputation.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/calls-for-prestwick-airport-s-links-with-us-military-to-end-over-donald-trump-corruption-allegation-1-5001506>

Crackdown on US State Dept payments to Donald Trump’s firms (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Donald Trump’s loss making hotel and golf resorts in Scotland will no longer be allowed to receive payments from the US federal government, under a strict new law being brought forward in the US Congress. Politicians in a little-known House of Representatives sub-committee have voted to adopt an amendment that prevents the US State Department from spending taxpayers’ money at the US president’s properties, which remain in his ultimate ownership via a New York-based revocable trust. As revealed by The Scotsman last year, Mr Trump’s flagship Scottish resort at Turnberry in South Ayrshire has received tens of thousands of pounds in payments from the State Department in the first two and a half years of his administration. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/crackdown-on-us-state-dept-payments-to-donald-trump-s-firms-1-4952396>

UK accused of ‘sweetheart deal’ with Donald Trump over Turnberry lighthouse (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump’s flagship Scottish business is paying just £100 a month to a UK government public body to lease buildings at the world-famous Turnberry lighthouse, The Scotsman can reveal. The 19th century lighthouse, the centrepiece of the US president’s loss making Trump Turnberry hotel and golf resort, houses what is billed as “one of the world’s finest suites,” the

interiors of which are bedecked in marble, gold, and mahogany. While the Stevenson-designed lighthouse tower forms part of Trump Turnberry's corporate insignia, and features prominently in a range of Trump-branded golfing apparel, it is owned not by Mr Trump, but the Edinburgh-based Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), an executive non-departmental public body. In what has been described as a "sweetheart deal" which binds Scotland to the "toxic Trump brand," The Scotsman has learned that the NLB, which is responsible to the Department of Transport, has struck a lengthy lease deal with Mr Trump's company. It sees Trump Turnberry pay the NLB just £1,200 a year to rent a cluster of buildings at the B-listed lighthouse, rising to £1,440 a year once VAT is included. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-accused-of-sweetheart-deal-with-donald-trump-over-turnberry-lighthouse-1-4938289>

Scottish Government-owned Prestwick Airport paid £9m by Trump administration (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

The publicly-owned Prestwick Airport has received more than £9m from Donald Trump's administration in the past two years to refuel hundreds of US Armed Forces aircraft, an investigation by The Scotsman can reveal. The loss making state-owned hub, which was put up for sale earlier this month by the Scottish Government, has received close to 650 orders since October 2017 for jet fuel. Contract details drawn up by a US Defense Department agency indicate the deal could ultimately secure Prestwick's parent company an additional £8m, while a new contract is set to extend the arrangement until autumn 2024. The flurry of transactions - the equivalent of more than 35 a month - has reignited criticism of the SNP government for fostering close economic ties with the US military while publicly admonishing the president's character and his foreign policies.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-owned-prestwick-airport-paid-9m-by-trump-administration-1-4954141>

Donald Trump's Turnberry firm paid £11,000 by US State Department for rooms over summer (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Donald Trump's flagship Scottish hotel and golf course has received another five-figure windfall from his own government to cover accommodation costs at the loss making resort, The Scotsman can reveal. The US State Department authorised the payment, worth more than £11,000, for rooms at Trump Turnberry over the next three weeks. It is the first such payment made by the US federal government to Mr Trump's struggling property in nearly a year, and comes amid growing unrest in the US Congress over the spending of US taxpayers' money at the president's companies. Since Mr Trump entered office, the State Department has made at least four separate payments to Turnberry's corporate entity. The latest brings the total spend to more than £75,000. Ethics watchdogs warned the American public was "effectively subsidising" Mr Trump's company, which has yet to turn a profit under his ownership, and said the 73-year-old was becoming "more and more brazen about using the presidency to advance his businesses."

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-s-turnberry-firm-paid-11-000-by-us-state-department-for-rooms-over-summer-1-4962105>

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Evans, John-Paul (London); (b)(6)
 (b)(6); Austrian, Courtney E (London);
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening

We are waiting for guidance from DC on this one.

Best, (b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Evans, John-Paul (London); (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:48 AM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6); Austrian, Courtney E (London); (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport - 6 pm deadline this evening
Importance: High

Morning all,

I received a call from the Scotsman this morning regarding the enquiry below. I know we have dealt with similar stories in the past but I cannot recall who has the lead on this issue?

His print deadline for a comment/no comment is today at 6 pm. As you'll note, he has already been through DoD.

Thank you

John-Paul Evans
Media and Communications Manager
U.S. Embassy, London

office: (b)(6)
 mob: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Evans, John-Paul (London); (b)(6)
Subject: Scotsman Enquiry - Prestwick Airport

Hi John Paul

Martyn McLaughlin at The Scotsman here, thanks for chatting a moment ago.

As mentioned, I'd be grateful if you could assist with a story I'm writing concerning US Armed Forces aircraft stopovers at Glasgow Prestwick Airport in South Ayrshire, Scotland. It's obviously been the focus of extensive media coverage over the past few weeks, but the story I'm writing isn't directly concerned with Trump Turnberry.

Instead, it's focused on fees - known as 'service fees', 'aircraft handling fees' or 'ramp fees' - that are ordinarily charged to inbound aircraft. It's my understanding that these fees are being waived by Glasgow Prestwick Airport for US military flights. Multiple sources have told me that this arrangement is in place.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) here in the UK have also confirmed to me that other fees - known as landing, navigation and parking fees - for US military traffic at Prestwick are being picked up by the MoD itself, but this is a longstanding reciprocal agreement, which sees Royal Air Force planes exempted from similar fees when stopping over at US airports.

I hope that's a comprehensive background of the story. I'd be grateful if the US embassy could tell me: is it aware that service fees (also known as aircraft handling or ramp fees) are being waived for US Armed Forces aircraft at Glasgow Prestwick Airport?

By way of further background, I initially directed this enquiry to (b)(6) at the US Air Force, who referred me to (b)(6) at the DoD, who referred me to the Department of Transportation, who said it's a State Dept matter. The State Dept referred me to the embassy. For reference, (b)(6) at the DoD advised this policy is at play: <https://www.transportation.gov/policy/aviation-policy/international-relations/air-service-agreements>

I hope the above is clear, but you need any clarification, please get in touch. My deadline is 6pm BST today (2 October).

Regards

Martyn McLaughlin

(b)(6)

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UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Austrian, Courtney E (London)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 28, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated April 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified two additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	David Benrimon (b)(6)
To:	<friedmanD(b)(6)>
Date:	Tue, 20 Jun 2017 02:12:20 +0000

Released in Part

To his excellency David,

It was an honor and privilege to meet you yesterday.

I would be delighted to work on the project you mentioned in Herzilya. I'll be in Israel end of July if you'd like me to take a look then.

I hope you will visit my gallery. I'm located in the Crown building on 5th Avenue and 57th Street, right across Trump tower. I can show you the amazing collection I have here. I'm also involved with many charities and causes, including holocaust restitution of important works of art.

If now or in future you can think of any meaningful avenues for my participation, please do not hesitate to let me know.

All the best,
David Benrimon

David Benrimon Fine Art LLC
The Crown Building
730 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10019

t: (b)(6)
f: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

This message and any attachment are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please telephone or email the sender and delete the message and any attachment from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you must not copy this message or attachment or disclose the contents to any other person. The price quote for the above mentioned artwork shall only be available and valid to the client on this email for forty eight (48) hours from when the email is sent.

Sender:	David Benrimon (b)(6)
Recipient:	<friedmanD(b)(6)>

From:	"Davidson, Terry R" (b)(6)
To:	David Friedman (b)(6) Friedman, David M (b)(6)
CC:	Davidson, Terry R (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Ze'ev Chafets
Date:	Wed, 31 Jul 2019 12:34:01 +0000

Since you met with him, thought you'd want to see this piece (nothing from your off-record conversation) Terry

Politics & Policy

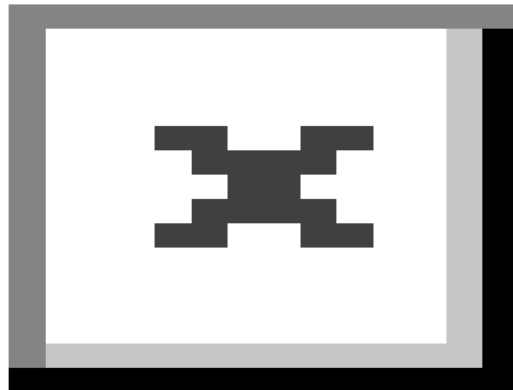
Trump's 'Deal of the Century' Is Getting Even Better for Israel

The U.S. envoy says international law does not apply. That's bad news for the Palestinians.

By

Zev Chafets

July 30, 2019, 11:00 AM GMT+3



Will the Golan Heights get a Trump Tower?

Photographer: Amir Levy/Getty Images

Zev Chafets is a journalist and author of 14 books. He was a senior aide to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the founding managing editor of the Jerusalem Report Magazine.

David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, caused a diplomatic firestorm earlier this summer by telling the New York Times that, under circumstances, “Israel has the right to retain some, but not likely all, of the West Bank.”

This was rightly seen as a departure from traditional American policy and, since Friedman is known to have President Donald Trump’s ear, an early sign of where the U.S. is taking its still undisclosed “Deal of the Century” for an Israel-Palestine peace agreement. Yet Saeb Erekat, the longtime chief negotiator for the Palestinians, dismissed Friedman’s conjecture as impossibility: “Annexation of occupied territory is a war crime under international law.” What more was there to say?

But if the Palestinians saw Friedman’s remark as a one-time gaffe by an inexperienced diplomat, they were disabused of that notion last week when Jason Greenblatt, the U.S. envoy for the region, informed the United Nations Security Council that, in the view of the Trump administration, international law does not apply to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“We have all heard cogent arguments claiming international law says one thing or another about this or that aspect of Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” Greenblatt told the assembled ambassadors. “Some of those arguments are persuasive, at least to certain audiences. But none of them are conclusive.”

Nor, in the American view, does the UN or any international institution have the standing to arrive at and enforce a legal ruling. “There is no judge, jury or court in the world that the parties involved have agreed to give jurisdiction in order to decide whose interpretations are correct,” Greenblatt said. “Let’s stop kidding ourselves. If so-called international consensus had been able to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it would have done so decades ago. It didn’t.”

Greenblatt’s challenge to cherished UN conventions evinced outrage from his audience. Oddly, it didn’t get much public attention. The Times and other major media ran only wire-service reports on it. Perhaps this was due to heavy interest in Robert Mueller hearings in Washington or Boris Johnson becoming the U.K.’s new prime minister. More likely, it reflected the point that Greenblatt himself was making, that the UN Security Council is a predictable and impotent body.

In fact, Greenblatt’s rebuke to the Security Council, along with Friedman’s June musings on the validity of Israeli territorial claims in the West Bank, are the two dropping shoes of the still unpublished but soon to arrive Trump peace plan, which is being overseen by Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law. The proposal will no doubt be impatient for results, blunt-spoken and exclusive. The Israelis and the Palestinian Authority will be involved, face-to-face, under the sole auspices of the U.S. The international community, (which Greenblatt mocked as “fictional”) will be treated as uninvited kibitzers.

The U.S. will not even pretend to be a neutral broker. It is Israel’s ally, and supports it on almost every issue. That doesn’t mean the Palestinian side will get nothing. But it does mean that after decades of friendly UN resolutions and international declarations of solidarity, the Palestinian negotiators will start again at zero and make their case. “It is true,” Greenblatt said, “that the PLO and the Palestinian Authority continue to assert that East Jerusalem must be a capital for the Palestinians. But let’s remember, an aspiration is not a right.”

For Erekat and other Palestinian peace processors, this is a dismal situation. They have spent their lives constructing a fortress out of paper resolutions, unenforceable legalisms and alliances with nations now preoccupied by their own

existential problems. Faced with what amounts to an American diktat, who — apart from Jeremy Corbyn, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Rashida Tlaib and the government of Venezuela - will stand with them?

The Palestinians will certainly object and declare their resistance. But at a certain point, gallant gestures become counterproductive. If they walk away, they will find themselves on the wrong side of a regional map made to American specifications that reflect the real life balance of power.

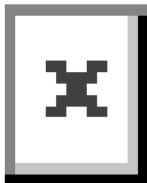
This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

To contact the author of this story:

Zev Chafets at zchafets@gmail.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story:

Tobin Harshaw at tharshaw@bloomberg.net



Terry R. Davidson

Counselor for Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy Israel

Tel. office: (b)(6)

Tel. mobile (b)(6)

Email (b)(6)

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Sender:	"Davidson, Terry R" (b)(6)
Recipient:	David Friedman (b)(6)
	Friedman, David M (b)(6)
	Davidson, Terry R (b)(6)
	(b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 29, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated May 28, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

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- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Porter, Gregory J" (b)(6)
To:	Juster, Kenneth I (b)(6) Carlson, MaryKay L (b)(6) Mission India CG <MissionIndiaCG@state.gov>; Garverick, J. Robert (b)(6)
CC:	Novak, Nicholas R (b)(6) (b)(6) Suri, Akash R (b)(6) Kennedy, David H (b)(6)
Subject:	POTUS Remarks at CPAC - India Mentions
Date:	Mon, 4 Mar 2019 02:34:07 +0000

Good morning,

President Trump gave remarks at the CPAC conference this weekend and briefly mentioned India. Those references are below, for your awareness. Several news outlets have mentioned his saying "India is a very high-tariff nation," but most of the articles didn't go into much detail.

"...Last year, we lost eight hundred -- this for many years -- almost \$800 billion on trade. It's not sustainable. You can't do that. And now we're making great trade deals. But when some of the senators -- good people; I think they're good people. I just don't understand the thinking. So I say, India is a very high-tariff nation. They charge us a lot. When we send a motorcycle to India, it's 100 percent tariff. They charge 100 percent. When India sends a motorcycle to us, we brilliantly charge them nothing.

So I want a reciprocal tax, or at least I want to charge a tax. (Applause.) It's called a mirror tax, but it's a reciprocal tax.

Now, here's what I don't understand: I've had a lot of people -- Lindsey Graham. I said, Lindsey - it's not his thing necessarily. It's not the thing that he's most adept at. But he's adept and he's smart. I said, "Lindsey, if they charge us a hundred, I'd like a reci-..." If they charge us, we charge them. He goes, "That makes sense to me." (Laughter.) And then he gets on to judiciary and things that, frankly, he likes and finds very interesting. But he's a smart guy, and he said -- I'll never forget. It took me about a minute, which is a long time. I did a bad description. It's so easy. They charge 100; we charge nothing. Now we have reciprocal, so it's 100.

But what happens now, for those that really think about tariffs and don't like tariffs for whatever reason might be -- and that's okay. What's going to happen is, in many cases, instead of 100 and 100, you're going to have zero and zero, so you won't have any tariff. Okay? (Applause.) It's going to happen. That's going to happen. But you have to -- you have to start working on some of the senators that say "I can't approve this deal." I say, "You know what? I want to just charge India" -- as an example, I'm using it. But India is a very high-tariff nation. I mean, nobody --

nobody knows it because nobody knows what they're doing in Washington. (Laughter.) But India is a very, very high-tariff nation, and they charge tremendous -- tremendous numbers.”

Greg Porter
Press Officer
U.S. Embassy New Delhi
Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Porter, Gregory J" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Juster, Kenneth I (b)(6)
	Carlson, MaryKay L (b)(6)
	Mission India CG <MissionIndiaCG@state.gov>;
	Garverick, J. Robert (b)(6)
	Novak, Nicholas R (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Suri, Akash R (b)(6)
Kennedy, David H (b)(6)	



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2019

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

AT THE 2019 CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

National Harbor, Maryland

March 2, 2019

12:17 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, thank you very much. Thank you very much. And thank you very much also to a man named Matt Schlapp. What a job he's done. (Applause.) And to CPAC -- I actually started quite a while ago at CPAC, and came here -- probably made my first real political speech. And I enjoyed it so much that I came back for a second one, then a third. Then I said, what the hell, let's run for President. Right? (Applause.)

But it's wonderful to be back with so many great patriots, old friends, and brave young conservatives. What a future you have. (Applause.)

Our movement and our future in our country is unlimited. What we've done together has never been done in the history maybe of beyond of country, maybe in the history of the world. They came from the mountains and the valleys and the cities. They came from all over. And what we did in 2016 -- the Election, we call it, with a capital "E" -- it's never been done before. And we're going to do it, I think, again in 2020, and the numbers are going to be even bigger. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: And we all had to endure, as I was running. So you had 17 Republicans, plus me. (Laughter.) And I was probably more of a conservative than a Republican. People just didn't quite understand that. They didn't understand it.

I think now, with what we've done with the judiciary and so many other things, I think they get it very well. And it's driving the other side crazy. (Applause.) But we all had to endure, remember? How many times did you hear, for months and months, "There is no way to 270"? You know what that means, right? "There is no way to 270." They couldn't get me there. We might as well have just given up. But there wasn't any way to 270.

In fact, I actually went up to Maine to get one, and I did win the one. But we didn't need the one. (Applause.) We didn't need it. We won Maine. We won our half of Maine, remember? You have Nebraska. We won both in Nebraska. We won the half we had to win in Maine. So we got the one, but we didn't need the one, because we didn't get 270; we got 306 to 223. (Applause.) 223-306.

A state called Wisconsin, a state called -- (applause) -- Michigan, where -- by the way, where Fiat Chrysler just announced a \$4.5 billion incredible -- (applause) -- expansion and new

plant, doubling their workforce. Many, many car companies have moved back to Michigan and are continuing to do so. (Applause.) Big numbers. Nobody every thought they'd see that happen.

So I think we're going to do even better in 2020. I think we're going to do numbers that people haven't seen for a long time. (Applause.)

The men and women here today are on the frontlines of protecting America's interests, defending America's value, and reclaiming our nation's priceless heritage. It's true. (Applause.)

With your help, we are reversing decades of blunders and betrayals. These are serious, serious betrayals to our nation and to everything we stand for. It's been done by the failed ruling class that enriched foreign countries at our expense. It wasn't "America first." In many cases, it was "America last." Those days are over. Long over. (Applause.)

America is winning again. (Applause.) America is respected again. (Applause.) And the world knows it. When I meet with prime ministers, when I meet with presidents -- and I get along with them -- because they know that what's taken place over many years -- not just the Obama administration; long before that -- they can't believe, themselves, that they got away with it. They can't believe it. An impossible thing. And they like me. (Applause.)

And the reason they like me -- they tell me; they say, "Mr. President..." I said -- as an example, President Xi of China, I have great respect. We have a great relationship. I say, "How is it possible that you got away with this for so long?" (Laughter.) And he said, "Because nobody ever asked us to change." It's true.

When they charge 40 percent tariffs on our cars going into China,

and we charge them nothing coming into our country; when they raise their tariff from 10 percent to 25 percent and then to 40 percent -- and they said to me, "We expected that somebody would call and say you can't do that." (Laughter.) "Nobody called, so we just left it." And I don't blame them. We should've been doing the same thing to them. But we didn't. (Applause.) True. Right? Hard to believe. It's hard to believe.

But now things are different. Now we're negotiating with China. They wouldn't negotiate with previous administrations. But I found some very old laws from when our country was rich -- really rich. The old tariff laws -- we had to dust them off; you could hardly see, they were so dusty.

But, fortunately, they weren't terminated. We started getting politically correct, even back then. But I said, when we were doing the great things, what happened to those laws? And I checked, and I found 301 and 382. I found one, 1938, where we can do what we have to do.

But, you know, they had a debate in -- it was really a tough time in our country because we had so much money we didn't know what the hell to do with it. Tough, tough, tough. It was called the Great Tariff Debate. Mark Levin will look this up. (Laughter.)

And the problem is, with Mark, if I make a little mistake, he'll let us know on Sunday night. (Laughter.) I got to be very careful when I talk about this.

But it was the Great Tariff Debate of 1888. And the debate was: We didn't know what to do with all of the money we were making. We were so rich. And McKinley, prior to being President, he was very strong on protecting our assets, protecting our country. And he made statements that, "Others cannot come into our country and

steal our wealth and steal our jobs, and build their country and not defend our country. We can't do that. We can't ever allow that to happen." (Applause.)

And, you know -- I don't know, maybe you know. You know I'm totally off-script, right?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, darling. (Laughter.) You know I'm totally off script right now. And this is how I got elected, by being off script. (Applause.) True. And if we don't go off script, our country is in big trouble, folks. Because we have to get it back. And when I look at what's happening on the other side, I encourage it. I say, "No, no..." -- I think the New Green Deal, or whatever the hell they call it --

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: The Green New Deal, right? Green New Deal -- I encourage it. I think it's really something that they should promote. (Laughter.) They should work hard on. It's something our country needs desperately. They have to go out and get it. But I'll take the other side of that argument only because I'm mandated to. I'm mandated. But they should stay with that argument. Never change. (Laughter.) Never change. (Applause.) No planes. No energy. (Laughter.) When the wind stops blowing, that's the end of your electric. (Laughter.) Let's hurry up. "Darling" -- "Darling, is the wind blowing today? I'd like to watch television, darling." (Laughter and applause.) No, but it's true.

So the Great Tariff Debate of 1888 -- and then we had so much money we could do whatever we wanted. We built forces up that were incredible. Then, in 1913, they ended tariffs, okay? They ended

tariffs. Somebody got stupid and they ended tariffs. They said, "Oh, it's okay for other nations to come in." I won't use a certain words because it's not politically -- but everybody knows the word I'd love to use. Should I use it? I won't do it. (Applause.)

Our great First Lady always said, "Don't use certain words, please." I said, "But the audience wanted me to do it." She said, "Don't do it." And the problem is, if I do do that, they won't put the little preamble that we just went through. They'll just use the word, and they'll said, "Isn't that terrible." So I won't use it. (Laughter.) I've learned. Because with the fake news --

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: -- if you tell a joke, if you're sarcastic, if you're having fun with the audience, if you're on live television with millions of people and 25,000 people in an arena, and if you say something like, "Russia, please, if you can, get us Hillary Clinton's emails. Please, Russia, please." (Applause.) "Please get us the emails. Please!"

AUDIENCE: Trump! Trump! Trump!

THE PRESIDENT: So everybody is having a good time. I'm laughing, we're all having fun. And then that fake CNN and others say, "He asked Russia to go get the emails. Horrible." (Laughter.) I mean, I thought -- like, two weeks ago, I'm watching and they're talking about one of the points. "He asked Russia for the emails." These people are sick. (Laughter.) And I'm telling you, they know the game. They know the game, and they play it dirty -- dirtier than anybody has ever played the game. Dirtier than it's ever been played.

But the thing that we've done is very special. Because, on trade, and because of tariffs -- and I know there are people in the Republican Party and people -- really, even conservatives -- good conservatives -- they don't like tariffs. I'm not liking or not liking. The minimum, the greatest negotiating tool in the history of our country.

Do you think China would be sending their top representatives over? Right now, China is paying 25 percent tariff on \$50 billion worth of technology goods. I was then going to charge them 25 percent on \$200 billion. Not like \$200 million -- that's a lot. This is 200 with a "B" -- billion. Two-hundred billion. So -- but I was nice, because we're having a very strong negotiation, which if it weren't for tariffs -- and I tell this to President Xi; this is nothing to hide. I would never be talking like this because, in theory, it could hurt your negotiating position. But in my case, it can't, because it's true.

I was nice, and I left it at 10 percent on \$200 billion. And here's the beauty: We've lost so much money with China -- \$500 billion a year. And on trade, it's such a disaster; it's \$507 billion a year. China -- just one country. We lose with everybody, almost. But China is one country. \$507 billion, for many years.

So the beauty is this: I have \$250 billion more to put tariffs on. The numbers are staggering. Billions of dollars, right now, are pouring into our Treasury. And for those of you that haven't done the research, if you look, of the 25 percent, our country -- as it's turned out, because it's now been on there for a long while. Our -- and I'm in no rush because I'm fine with it. I'm fine with it. Of the 25 points, we've paid for 4 points, and China has paid for 21 points. Okay? Twenty-one. That's what the numbers are. It's very simple. You know, everyone said, "Oh, it's a tax on our..."

It's not really.

And what China and other countries do sometimes is they will subsidize it. So the tax really is incredible. But what it is, beyond everything else, I can negotiate.

But then you have senators and a few congressman, but not Mark Meadows. Where is the great Mark Meadows? He's here someplace. (Applause.) Man, has he been good. Mark and Jim Jordan, and -- (applause) -- I want to name every one of those couple of hundred people. Because we do have a lot. I want to name every damn one of them. They have been incredible. They've been fighting. And I just see Mark in the audience. They've been fighting -- with Deb, much more important. His wife is incredible. What an asset. He would be nowhere without her. (Laughter and applause.) Right?

But they fight so hard on this witch hunt, this phony deal that they put together; this phony thing that now looks like it's dying. So they don't have anything with Russia. There's no collusion. So now they go and morph into, "Let's inspect every deal he's ever done. We're going to go into his finances. We're going to check his deals. We're going to check..." These people are sick. (Laughter.) They're sick. (Applause.)

I saw little Shifty Schiff yesterday. No, it's the first time. He went into a meeting and he said, "We're going to look into his finances." I said, "Where did that come from?" He always talked about Russia -- collusion with Russia. The collusion delusion. (Laughter and applause.)

So now we're waiting for a report, and we'll find out whether or not, and who we're dealing with. We're waiting for a report by people that weren't elected. We had -- think of this: We had the greatest election -- in all fairness, I used to hear Andrew

Jackson. This was now greater than the election of Andrew Jackson. People say that. No, people say it. (Applause.) I'm not saying it. Right? This was the equivalent or greater.

You know, they used to go to Ronald Reagan, when I first started. "This is Ronald Reagan." Then we started really doing well, and they were coming from everywhere to vote. Those red hats -- and white ones. The key is in the color. The key is what it says. "Make America Great Again," is what it says. (Applause.) Right? Right?

But we had the greatest of all time. Now we have people that lost. And unfortunately, you put the wrong people in a couple of positions, and they leave people for a long time that shouldn't be there. And, all of a sudden, they're trying to take you out with bullshit. Okay? (Laughter.) With bullshit. (Applause.)

Now, Robert Mueller never received a vote, and neither did the person that appointed him. And as you know, the Attorney General says, "I'm going to recuse myself." (Laughter.) "I'm going to recuse." And I said, why the hell didn't he tell me that before I put him in? How do you recuse yourself? But the person that appointed Robert Mueller never received a vote. Robert Mueller put 13 of the angriest Democrats in the history of our country on the commission. (Laughter.) Now, how do you do that? These are angry, angry people. You take a look at them. One of them was involved with the Hillary Clinton Foundation, running it. Another one has perhaps the worst reputation of any human being I've ever seen. (Laughter.) All killers. In fact, it would've been actually better for them if they put half and half, and Mueller can do whatever he wants anyway, which he'll probably do.

But we have conflicts. I had a nasty business transaction with Robert Mueller a number of years ago. I said, why isn't that

mentioned? He wanted the job as FBI Director. I mean, these are things that are out there; they know it. Why isn't that -- and I didn't give it to him. Why isn't that mentioned? Jim Comey --
Lying James Comey --

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: -- is his best friend. James Comey is his best friend. And those are a few of the conflicts. Other than that, it's wonderful. (Laughter.)

So -- so everybody is waiting. I thought of it this morning, Mark. And I heard you made an incredible speech and statement today. Mark Levin. I heard it was incredible. (Applause.) And I was on the way. But I'll see it later. I guarantee I'll be watching it later. I have one of the great inventions in history. It's called TiVo. (Laughter.) I think it's actually better than television, because television is practically useless without TiVo, right? (Laughter.) But I'll be watching it later, Mark.

But people that got no votes. But I heard this morning, "President Trump is waiting for the Mueller report." I said, wait a minute, let me get this straight. (Laughter.) So the Attorney General recuses himself, and I don't fire him. No obstruction. That's the other thing: If you use your right, if you use your power, if you use Article 2, it's called obstruction. But only for Trump. For nobody else. (Laughter.)

So the Attorney General is weak and ineffective, and he doesn't do what he should've done. Somebody that never got a vote writes a powerful letter -- horrible -- about Comey. Every single Democrat said Comey should be fired, or worse, if possible. (Laughter.) Every Republican said -- everybody -- in fact, when I fired Comey, I said, "You know..." -- First Lady -- I said, "Melania, I'm doing

something today. I'm doing it because it really has to be done." He's bad. He's a bad, bad -- he's a bad, bad guy. That's been proven now with all of the emails and the texts.

"I'm doing something that has to be done. But you know the good news? It's going to be bipartisan. It's going to be so popular, it's going to be bipartisan." (Laughter.) Every Democrat hates him. Every Republican hates him. He did a horrible job at the FBI. Speak to the real agents, the real people. Because the people in the FBI are incredible people -- not the sleaze on top. (Applause.)

And I said to the First Lady -- I said, "But you know the good news? The good news is that this is going to be so bipartisan. Everyone is going to love it."

So we fire Comey. And Schumer -- who called for his resignation many times -- Podesta, I believe that day -- because he still hasn't gotten over getting his ass kicked, okay? (Applause.) I believe that day called for his resignation. That day. Podesta, the great genius of campaigns. (Laughter.) He called for the Comey resignation. Others -- almost every, I would say. Mark, would you say virtually every Democrat, virtually every -- I can't think of anybody that said he's doing a good job.

So I said to Melania, "Melania, the good news, this will be a popular thing." (Laughter.) And I fire a bad cop. I fire a dirty cop. And all of a sudden, the Democrats say, "How dare he fire him. How dare he do this." And that's where we are, folks. That's where we are. We're in this swamp of Washington, D.C.

But you know what? We're winning, and they're not. We're winning. (Applause.)

So, just to finish -- and I'll tell you, Matt Schlapp is loving this. (Laughter.) He's saying, "This is a lot more than we paid for." You know, normally you read a few pages and you say, "Bye, folks." But you know what I like about this? Number one, I'm in love, and you're in love. We're all in love together. We've done something that nobody has ever done. (Applause.) Right? It's easy. No, it's easy.

You know, a great friend of mine from New York, he's a stone-cold killer. He's a brutal man. He's actually not even a good friend of mine because he'd turn on me in two seconds if it was (inaudible). (Laughter.) But he's a very rich guy. And he said, "What are you going to speak about today? Like, what are you going to speak?" I said, "I don't know. I don't know." (Laughter.) He said, "I just heard that you have the biggest crowd in the history of CPAC. They're all over. By the way, not only in this giant room. They're in many hotel rooms all over the place. You're just better at real estate than they are." (Laughter and applause.) True.

But this guy -- you all know his name -- very rich guy. And he has a problem with a thing called public speaking. If he has to speak to more than like five people, he chokes. (Laughter.) He can't breathe. You know, juh-juh. "Are you okay?" He kills people for a living -- meaning mentally and financially -- but if there's like an audience of nine, it's like "augh." (Laughter.) So he said to me, "How the hell do you do that?" And I said, "It's easy." And the reason it's easy -- I really mean this -- there's so much love in this room, it's easy to talk. You can talk your heart out. You really could. There's love in this room. (Applause.) You can talk your heart out. It's easy. (Applause.) It's easy. It's easy.

And we've had that from the day I came down with your First Lady on the escalator in Trump Tower. It's been easy. (Applause.)

And you know what? We never had an empty seat. We went out and helped Ted Cruz. We went out and helped so many people. And I'll tell you what: If we didn't do those 32 rallies -- and it wasn't easy. When you're doing rallies with 25-, 30,000 people -- in Texas, we had 109,000 people sign up. We used the Houston Rockets arena; it holds 22,000. Tens of thousands were outside. We were sending notices, "Please don't come." That's a little different. Usually, people are begging. "Well, yeah, like can somebody come?" (Laughter.) We never had an empty seat. Of course, the Washington Post -- a guy named David Weigel -- he wrote an article, some arena --

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: No, listen to this. He wrote an article. He got there four hours early. He took pictures of an empty arena. He then put out a note -- something to the effect, "Not very good crowd size, Mr. President." And I never saw it because I don't follow the guy. But thousands of people that were in that arena that was packed with 25,000 people outside that couldn't get in -- he got there four or five hours early because he doesn't fly private. You know. (Laughter.) And maybe it's because of the carbon footprint. You think maybe that's it? (Laughter.) Maybe. Must be the carbon footprint. He just doesn't want private.

But he got there hours early. And, you know, the place hadn't started taking in people. They weren't going to take them in. So there were virtually nobody. And, you know, whatever it was -- 18,000 -- when you have nobody, it's a little scary-looking. So he took pictures. And you know who really got even? Our people. Because they were incensed. We had people sitting on the stairwells. We had people sitting in every seat. I don't think we've had an empty seat since we announced. And from the day we

came down the escalator, I really don't believe we've had an empty seat at any arena, at any stadium. It's been an incredible thing. And that's why I say this has never, ever happened before, and now we have to verify it in 2020 with an even bigger victory.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

THE PRESIDENT: And, by the way, just to finish that story, the great Sarah Huckabee and Mercedes, who is incredible, sitting right here -- (applause) -- Mercedes, thank you. They always say -- you know, they're good people, right? Much better than I am. They always say, "Don't bring it up. Don't fight. Don't fight. Everyone understands." I said, "They don't understand." If I don't explain it, how are they going to understand?

So remember the arena one, right? And then it was shown. And the Washington Post had to do -- and this particular writer -- had to do a -- I thought he was going to get fired. I mean, if that were a conservative, he would've been fired on the spot. He would've been humiliated for what he did. Because it was fake news. Nobody was in the arena. There were thousands outside but they hadn't opened the gates yet.

They did the same thing at our big inauguration speech. You take a look at those crowds. And I watched one of the evening shows that are ridiculous, how horrible they are, how mean -- how horrible. And I watched it by mistake. (Laughter.) And they showed -- they showed from the White House all the way down. They showed from the Cap- -- they showed -- there were people. Nobody has ever seen it. The Capitol down to the Washington Monument -- people. But I saw pictures that there were no people. (Laughter.) Those pictures were taken hours before. Right? And they always mention crowd

size. "He talks about crowd size."

So I'm constantly bugging Mercedes. Whenever we have a slow moment, I say, "Mercedes" -- and Sarah -- "show them the pictures. Show them. And compare them with what they put on television. Those pictures were taken hours before." And remember this also -- not that Obama would ever do this: But we had fencing all the way down to the Washington Monument. And it was raining and it was wet, and the grass was wet. And women and men -- and I consider them totally equal, so I'm not going to say it's harder. (Laughter.) In fact, it's probably, with the men I know, it's actually easier for the women to make the walk, right?

AUDIENCE: No!

THE PRESIDENT: But they had to walk all the way down. They had to walk with high heels, in many cases. They had to walk all the way down to the Washington Monument and then back. And I looked, and I made a speech, and I said, before I got on -- I said to the people that were sitting next to me, "I've never seen anything like this. Look at that crowd." And it was wide. Wide.

We had a crowd -- I've never seen anything like it. And I have to live -- I have to live with "crowd size." It's all a phony deal. But I saw a picture just the other night of practically no people. It was taken hours before our great day. That was a great day for us. That was a great, great day. People came from all over. (Applause.) People came from all over.

So, Sarah said, and Mercedes said, "Sir, it doesn't matter. Nobody cares." I said, "But I care." (Laughter.) And people care. People care.

So what I'm going to do is I'll give it to the great one. I'll

give it to Mark Levin. And I'll give him the picture. Then I'll show you where they showed, just the other day, an empty field -- like nobody on it. And you'll see the sun. You know, you can see it's very dark, because the sun is like starting to rise, right? (Laughter.) And you can have some fun. You're going to get big ratings on your show, I'll tell you that. Sunday night, everybody. Sunday night. (Applause.) Huh? Ten o'clock, right? Sunday night at 10 o'clock.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughs.) Thank you. I knew that, actually. But thank you.

All right, now let's get back to what I'm here for. (Laughter.) And don't fall asleep. Don't fall asleep, right? Don't fall asleep. You know, somebody said, "Oh, the speech you made, sir, the State of the Union speech was incredible." (Applause.) They said it was incredible. They said that was so great.

And I said -- I said -- I did; I got great reviews, even from some of the really bad ones out there. (Laughter.) Of course, by the following morning, they had to change because the head people called up, "What are you doing?" (Laughter.) A lot of it is not the people on television, you know. A lot of it is their bosses -- which someday we're going to have to figure out why, Meadows, why that is. Because, you know, if you're building a great country, you have the best employment and unemployment numbers we've ever had. More people are working today in the United States than ever before in the history of our country. (Applause.)

And you say, why are they upset by that? Why? Why are they upset by that?

We've slashed 30,000 pages of job-killing regulations from the Federal Register. That's an all-time record in the history of the United States, even by Presidents there for eight years, and in one case more. We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history. (Applause.) And we got rid of the individual mandate, which was a big deal. (Applause.) Which should lead to the ending of the disaster known as Obamacare. (Applause.) It should.

The great state of Texas has a case, and it was literally based on the individual mandate. Now that it's gone, I don't know how they rule against it. Now we'll have to find out. But that'll soon be up in the Supreme Court of the United States, I hope. And we're going to see what happens. And then we're going to get together with the Democrats and come up with really great healthcare, okay? Really great healthcare. (Applause.)

And of the other things we did in our tax package is ANWR. Perhaps the largest field in the world -- oil and gas. (Applause.) I got it approved. And I didn't want to get it approved for a certain reason, because I thought somebody treated me very badly. Very badly. Don't get that vote very often. And I said, you know, I don't want to get it.

Then I get a call from a friend of mine, and he's in the oil business. He's not asking for anything. He said -- but he really is a knowledgeable guy when it comes to oil and gas. He said to me, "Hey" -- and they all call me "Mr. President." I have friends that, for 35 years, "Hey, Don, how you doing? Hey, Donny. I love you, Donny." For 35 years. Now they call, "Mr. President, sir." (Laughter.) "How are you?"

I have a friend -- a very rich guy -- Richard LeFrak, in New York. A builder. A good builder. He calls me all my life, "Hey, Don, how

you doing?" I've known this guy so long -- from kindergarten. (Laughter.) It's true. "Hi, Don, how you doing? How's everything?" And now I get a call the other day, "Mr. President, how are you, sir? How are you?" I said, "Richard, lighten up. Lighten up." (Laughter.) "Call me 'Donald'." (Applause.) "Richard, call me 'Donald'." You've known me for -- I don't want to say, because I don't want my wife to hear the number." (Laughter.) But -- it's true. Actually, that's true. That's actually true.

Richard came up; he said, "I've known your husband for 65 years." I said, "Don't say that." (Laughter.) I say, "Say 25, 30. Don't say 65 years." But I said, "Richard -- Richard, call me 'Donald', like you always do. Call me 'Don'." "Okay." "Okay, Don. Okay." He gets his breath. "Uh-huh." Two minutes later -- "Mr. President..." (Laughter.) That's called respect for the office, right? Maybe that's a good thing, right? (Applause.) Many -- many of my friends.

And that wasn't in the script either, Mark. (Laughter.)

But we're renegotiating, right now, horrible trade deals that we're cracking down -- and we are really doing a number -- cracking down on countries that cheat, and standing up for the American worker for the first time in many, many decades. (Applause.) Many decades.

Our workers have been treated horribly. A country announces they're closing their plant in Michigan or Pennsylvania or Ohio -- they're closing. They're closing a plant; they're going to move to Mexico. They're going to move to China. They're going to move someplace else. They fire all their workers. And then they sell their cars, no tax; just make them in Mexico, sell them back to here. No tax, no nothing. Those days are all gone, folks. They're

all gone. (Applause.) They're all gone.

And in the new deal with Mexico and Canada, called the USMCA, it's very, very hard -- prohibitively hard -- for a company to fire its 4,000 workers and move to Mexico or some other location. It's now a very costly -- they can do it, I guess, if they want. But it's costly. It's painful. It used to be almost -- I said -- I used to -- I've been talking about this for a long time. I used to say it's almost like we're giving them an incentive to leave our country. Again, I'm for America first. That wasn't for America first. (Applause.)

And we have great companies that are now moving back to our country. They're coming back in. (Applause.) They're coming back in. And, by the way, you know I'm building the wall. We're finishing the wall. We got a lot of money. (Applause.) It's in the thing.

AUDIENCE: Build that wall! Build that wall! Build that wall!

THE PRESIDENT: But -- and there will be some people in the room that don't like this. We're down to 3.7 percent unemployment -- the lowest number in a long time. But think of this: I got all these companies moving in. They need workers. We have to bring people into our country to work these great plants that are opening up all over the place. This was not necessarily what I was saying during the campaign because I never knew we would be as successful as we've been. Companies are roaring back into our country, and now we want people to come in. We need workers to come in, but they've got to come in legally, and they've got to come in through merit, merit, merit. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: They've got to come in through merit. They have to be people that can help us. They have to be people that can love our country, not hate our country. We have people in Congress -- right now, we have people in Congress that hate our country.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: And you know that. And we can name every one of them if they want. They hate our country. It's sad. It's very sad. When I see some of the things being made, the statements being made, it's very, very sad. Very, very -- and find out, how did they do in their country? Just ask them, how did they do? Did they do well? Were they succeeding? Just ask that question. Somebody would say, "Oh, that's terrible that he brings that up." But that's okay, I don't mind. I'll bring it up. (Laughter.) How did they do in their country? Not so good. Not so good.

But we need workers. We have to bring in workers. One other thing -- because we have a lot of people here that are important people in terms of votes. We have some senators. We have some congressmen. When a senator tells us that he's a free trader, so am I. I'm a fair trader. I'm a free trader. But when a senator said we can't do tariffs, where we make a fortune, or at a minimum, we're able to use this tremendous power that I found -- tremendous -- old stuff. Nobody even knew it existed. I'm able to use it, at a minimum, to negotiate great and fair trade deals. They wouldn't even be talking to us because it's so one-sided.

Last year, we lost eight hundred -- this for many years -- almost \$800 billion on trade. It's not sustainable. You can't do that. And now we're making great trade deals. But when some of the senators -- good people; I think they're good people. I just don't understand the thinking. So I say, India is a very high-tariff

nation. They charge us a lot. When we send a motorcycle to India, it's 100 percent tariff. They charge 100 percent. When India sends a motorcycle to us, we brilliantly charge them nothing.

So I want a reciprocal tax, or at least I want to charge a tax. (Applause.) It's called a mirror tax, but it's a reciprocal tax.

Now, here's what I don't understand: I've had a lot of people -- Lindsey Graham. I said, Lindsey -- it's not his thing necessarily. It's not the thing that he's most adept at. But he's adept and he's smart. I said, "Lindsey, if they charge us a hundred, I'd like a reci-..." If they charge us, we charge them. He goes, "That makes sense to me." (Laughter.) And then he gets on to judiciary and things that, frankly, he likes and finds very interesting. But he's a smart guy, and he said -- I'll never forget. It took me about a minute, which is a long time. I did a bad description. It's so easy. They charge 100; we charge nothing. Now we have reciprocal, so it's 100.

But what happens now, for those that really think about tariffs and don't like tariffs for whatever reason might be -- and that's okay. What's going to happen is, in many cases, instead of 100 and 100, you're going to have zero and zero, so you won't have any tariff. Okay? (Applause.) It's going to happen. That's going to happen.

But you have to -- you have to start working on some of the senators that say "I can't approve this deal." I say, "You know what? I want to just charge India" -- as an example, I'm using it. But India is a very high-tariff nation. I mean, nobody -- nobody knows it because nobody knows what they're doing in Washington. (Laughter.) But India is a very, very high-tariff nation, and they charge tremendous -- tremendous numbers.

So they charge 100. So I say, "I'm not going to charge 100, but I'm going to charge 25 percent." And I hear this turmoil in the Senate because we're charging 25. So I call a couple of the guys up. I say, "Fellas, listen, they're charging us 100 for the exact same product. I want to charge them 25." And I feel so foolish charging 25 because it should be 100. "But I'm doing 25 only because of you. I want to get your support." "Sir, that's not free trade."

Where do these people come from? (Laughter.) Where do they come from? Where? Where do they come from? I need your help. I need your help -- the voters' help. Where do they come from?

So it can only be one of two or three things. Number one, I know they're very smart people. I know they are. And I even like some of them. (Laughter.) But they're smart. So we take that out of the equation. So even -- and I know they don't have evil intentions. And the other thing could be, I guess, maybe -- you know, these companies are all owned by people, and these people are very generous. Campaign contributions -- they're very, very generous people. Can that be possible? I don't think so. I hope not. Because we're talking about our country. We can't allow a country to charge 100 percent and we get nothing for the same exact product.

For one thing, they don't respect us. They think we're "stupido." They don't respect us. (Laughter.) But let me tell you something: The world respects our country again. (Applause.) They respect us. (Applause.)

And America is now booming like never before. Other countries are doing very poorly. Other countries are doing very poorly, and that makes it even harder for us to be successful.

Plus, we have a gentleman that likes raising interest rates in the Fed. We have a gentleman that loves quantitative tightening in the Fed. We have a gentleman that likes a very strong dollar in the Fed. So with all of those things -- and we want a strong dollar, but let's be reasonable. You understand that. With all of that, we're doing great.

Can you imagine if we left interest rates where they were? There's no inflation, essentially. There's no inflation. (Applause.) Can you imagine if we left interest rates where they were? If we didn't do quantitative tightening, taking money out of the market? If we didn't do quantitative -- and this would lead to a little bit lower dollar. A little bit. I want a strong dollar, but I want a dollar that's going to be great for our country, not a dollar that's so strong that it is prohibitive for us to be dealing with other nations and taking their business. (Applause.)

Since the election, we've created a number that if I would have said during the campaign, the fake news just back there would have said this is crazy. 5.3 million new jobs, including over, now, 600,000 beautiful, brand-new manufacturing jobs that were never going to come back to our country. (Applause.) These are jobs that were never coming back to our country. Remember? Not to talk badly about the other administration, but if that theory went forward with Crooked Hillary winning the election, instead of being up almost 50 percent with the stock market, you would have been down 50 percent. It was heading down. It was going to be a disaster.

We have nearly 5 million Americans that have been lifted off of food stamps. Nobody ever thought that was possible. (Applause.)

The unemployment rate has reached the lowest in over 51 years. And African American -- and you've heard me say this many times -- Hispanic American, Asian American unemployment rates are at their

all-time historic lows. (Applause.) And African American income has reached an all-time high.

So when I'm on the debate stage with one of these maniacs -- (laughter) -- I mean, trains to Hawaii. "How do you get to Europe?" "We haven't figured that one out yet. We don't use airplanes anymore." (Laughter.)

You saw what I'm doing in California, right? They have a fast train. The fast train goes from San Francisco to Los Angeles. It's over budget by hundreds of billions of dollars, so they have a great idea -- the new governor; nice guy. Yeah, he's a nice guy. When I'm with him face to face, nice. When he speaks about me, not so nice. But face to face, he loves me. (Laughter.) He called me up. He said, "You're a great President. You're doing a great job." He actually did, two weeks ago, three weeks. So he'll probably deny it, but check the phone records at the White House. Everybody else does. (Laughter.) Check them. Check them. (Applause.) Check them.

Called me up three or four weeks ago. I think they need some forest money, because honestly, the management of the forests is very bad and that's one of the problems they have. I said, "You got to get those forests." We can't keep spending billions and billions and losing hundreds of lives, more importantly. Got to clean it up. It's called management. When a tree falls, you can't let the environmentalist say you can't take that tree out. It becomes like a matchstick, that tree. It hits a flame, it goes up. The leaves -- every once in a while, you have to remove the leaves because they are so -- a guy smoking a cigarette, he throws it away, he doesn't mean it. The thing catches on fire and we lose 400,000 acres and people are killed. You got to have management.

But he called me up the other day, recently -- let's say four

weeks ago or so. He said, "I just want to tell you you're a great President and you're one of the smartest people I've ever met." That's what he said. Now, that's what he said. Will he admit it? No, I doubt it. (Laughter.) But that's what he said. "And you're doing a great job."

And then he did start talking about, in all fairness, additional money for the fire, which is -- (laughter) -- it's okay. That's okay. We have great talks. I mean, I like him. Gavin Newsom. I like him. Nice guy. But they say things -- you know, politicians, they say things to your face, and then you see two days later they're giving a news conference -- just like, where did that guy come from? Where did he come from?

But everyone in this great country, right now, because of our great new economy, is doing well -- except, of course, for the Never Trumpers. But they are on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. (Laughter and applause.) Mouth to mouth. Mouth to mouth. They're hanging in. A couple of them. I mean, these guys have gotten me wrong. Not only Never Trumpers. You have Never Trumpers; you have certain hardline.

They're basically dishonest people -- because, look, let's face it: Whether you like me or not -- if my name is Smith instead of Trump, and if you told him I put in over 100 federal judges -- it'll soon be 145 federal judges and 2 Supreme Court judges. (Applause.) And 17 appellate division judges.

That we've got the best economy maybe in our history. That we've got the best employment numbers and unemployment numbers in our history. That we've cut more regulations in two years than any President has ever done, whether it's for eight or beyond. (Applause.) That we've taken care of our military with -- (applause) -- \$1.7 billion. Think of that. Think of what we did.

Think of what we did with our military. Think of the numbers that we have for our military. We have numbers -- nobody has ever heard of these numbers before. And you know, part of the problem that we have -- because I'm a cost cutter.

But -- and you are all cost cutters. But we have to take care of our military. We have to. (Applause.)

Seven hundred billions dollars we spent. And that was the first year. And then the second year, \$716 billion. Now, I have no choice. I'd like to spend much less. Obama was spending much less but our military was being depleted. He was fighting in endless wars; they'd never end.

And, by the way, as of probably today or tomorrow, we will actually have 100 percent of the caliphate in Syria. One hundred percent. (Applause.) One hundred percent. And we'll leave a small group of guys and gals. But we want to bring our people back home. We want to bring our people back home. It's time. Been in these wars. We were going to be in Syria for four months. We ended up five years. This fighting -- they just like to fight.

We want to fix our country. We want to fix our bridges, our highways, our roads, our schools. We want to fix our country up. It's time. (Applause.) It's time.

But I was told by a general, who I had to fire -- I said, "General, how long before we get 100 percent of the caliphate?" He said, "Sir, two years." I said, "I can't take it two years." And then I flew to Iraq; first time I left the White House -- because I stayed in the White House for months and months because I wanted the Democrats to get back from their vacations from Hawaii and these other places. (Laughter.) And I figured it would look good if I stayed in the White House so that you people all love me and

vote for me, okay? I figured it would look good. (Laughter and applause.) I figured it would look good.

So I stayed in the White House. And I'll tell you what: I was there -- I told my wife, "Go to Florida. Enjoy your Christmas." I stayed for Thanksgiving. I said -- I mean, I was in the White House for a long time. Months. Months. I had cabin fever in the White House. (Laughter.) But if you've got to have cabin fever, that's the place to do it, okay? (Laughter.) But I was there, I don't know, for a number of months, through Christmas. I spent my New Year's all by myself. (Laughter.)

AUDIENCE: Aww --

THE PRESIDENT: Don't cry. All -- it was me and about 500 men and women outside with machine guns. (Laughter.) I never saw so many beautiful-looking machine guns. I'd look at that equipment and I'd say, "Man..." They sit in the trees. They sit on the lawn. I told people, "I'm in this mess" -- you know, people don't know how big the White House. First of all, it's one of the most beautiful places in the world. It's really -- I made a lot of money with luxury. (Applause.) This building is -- 1799 -- which, of course, when President Xi comes, I say "1799," like it's old. To him, that's like a brand-new house in China. (Laughter.) In China, they go back -- they go back 8,000 years. So that's -- that's like a new -- that's like a new residence.

But I sat in the White House for months and months, except I took a day off. I flew to a lovely place called Iraq, and I flew at night and I got there at night. And I said to myself, this is interesting, because they say, "Sir, all of the lights in the plane, sir, are going off." I say, "Why?" (Laughter.) "Because we're getting ready to land." We're an hour out. I said, "What about the shades?" "Well, we want it better than that. May be like

(inaudible). So we turned the lights off, put the shades down. This is a big seven forty -- Air Force One.

And we're landing, and I go up and I look. And I've landed; I like to sit with pilots. I respect people that know what they're doing, and these are the best in the world. I really do. (Applause.) These are the best in the world.

And the pilot says, "Sir, we're landing in approximately one and a half minutes." I say, "But there's no runway." "No, sir, the runway is right up there, sir." I say, "I don't see it." I have pretty good vision. (Laughter.) At least for my age I have good vision. (Laughter.) I guess for my age I have great vision. But I don't have vision like a 35-year-old captain.

He said, "No, it's right up there." I said, "I'm sorry, Captain, how about this: Should we lift off and try it again? Captain, there's no runway." Anyway -- he sits right up there and we land. There's practically no lights. These are little pin spots. And I said, think of this: We spent \$7 trillion in the Middle East and we can't land with the lights on -- (laughter) -- 20 years later. How bad is it? No, seriously, how bad is it? (Applause.) How bad is it? Seven trillion dollars and we have to fly in with no lights.

But I met some incredible people. I met some incredible people -- generals. One of them came from Syria -- the operation in Syria. And I was upset with my generals because they weren't getting it finished. I want the job done. I want to bring our people back home. (Applause.) It's not fair. And this is why I flew.

So I met generals I didn't know. General one, general two, general three. I mean, these generals -- there's no person in Hollywood that could play the role. These guys are like perfect people. I

said, "What's your name?" "Sir, my name is Raisin." What the hell kind of a name? (Laughter.) I said, "Raisin, like the fruit?" He goes, "Yes, sir, Raisin." "What's your last name?" "Caine. Raisin Caine." (Laughter.) I said, "You got to be kidding me." (Applause.) It's true. Raisin Caine.

I just made him a big star. (Laughter.) Just like I did with Mattis when I said, "We're going to give you a new nickname, because 'Chaos' is not a good nickname." So we changed his name. Called him "Mad Dog." But it wasn't working too well. Mad Dog wasn't working too well.

So what happened is I flew to Iraq. I wanted to meet the people on the site, because I learn more sometimes from soldiers, what's going on, than I do from generals. I do. I hate to say it. And I tell that to the generals all the time. (Applause.)

But I didn't have to go there. I didn't have to go there. Because I meet -- and I land in this airport, the most incredible thing. We must have spent \$3 billion building it. It's one of the reasons I don't want to leave Iraq so fast. I said, "Well, how do we leave this thing?"

So I have Raisin Caine and three other generals, colonels, sergeants. And I said, "Bring the cameras. I'm going to make a movie. This is the most incredible thing." (Laughter.) And I said to the generals, "Listen, we got to get out. I want to know why is it going to take two years to knock off 2 or 3 or 4 percent, which is what we had left." "It won't, sir." And I said, "Tell me why it won't." "It won't, sir. If we attack them in a different manner, we can do it much faster." "Okay, General Raisin Caine, how fast can" -- "Sir, we can have it totally finished in one week." I said, "One week? I was told two years." (Laughter.) One week? "That's right, sir. We're only hitting them from a temporary base

in Syria. But if you gave us permission, we could hit them from the back, from the side, from all over -- from the base that you're right on, right now, sir. They won't know what the hell hit them." (Applause.) "They won't know what the hell hit them, sir."

And I said, "Why didn't my other generals tell me that? Why didn't they tell me that?" I said, "Did you tell them that?" "Not our place to say it, sir. They come in from Washington, sir. We have to take orders. You're the first one to ask us our opinion." (Applause.) It's true. It's true. True. True.

So I went back and I said, "I'm going to get back to you soon, Raisin. I think you're great." (Laughter.) "I like you, Raisin Caine." But I did say -- I said, "Well, hey, listen, we're in Iraq. Isn't that very far away from..." "I was here in a very short time, sir. I flew right in." Of course, he's taking a plane that goes 2,000 miles an hour, you know.

But incredible. What you learn from being on the site -- my father was a builder. He always used to say, "Nobody ever got rich by sitting behind their desk." (Applause.) It's true. It's true. He'd say, "You got to be on this site. You got to be with the contractors. You got to see if they're ripping you off. You've got to collect every nail that's dropped, every piece of wood. You can sell it. You got to be on the site. You got to see while they're building, while they're under construction, is that wall straight or if it's crooked. And you have to fix it before they build it, not after they build it, when you rip everything down." (Applause.) True.

You don't get rich by sitting behind a desk. So I didn't want to do that.

And I'm in the White House and I was lonely. I said, "Let's go to

Iraq." (Laughter.) And I had a hell of a meeting in Iraq.

And I'll tell you, those generals -- not just Raisin Caine, General Caine. Those generals were great. They were great. They knew their stuff. They were gung-ho.

And it is true -- I mean, you talk central casting. These guys -- you couldn't -- I mean, it's incredible. They had a master sergeant. I could take him right now, bring him to Hollywood, make a military movie, and he's the star of the movie. That happened once before, you know. That did happen once before. Remember? They brought a man in -- a sergeant, a drill sergeant -- to teach some actor how to be a drill sergeant. The drill sergeant was so incredible that he ended up starring in the movie, and he should have gotten the Academy Award, by the way, but he didn't. That's because Hollywood discriminates against our people. (Applause.) You know the movie I'm talking about, right? What was that movie? You know the movie.

But while we're making great strides, and our country is doing as well -- and maybe, in many ways, better than it's ever done before -- Democrat lawmakers are now embracing socialism. They want to replace individual rights with total government domination.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: Just this week, more than 100 Democrats in Congress signed up for a socialist takeover of American healthcare. Their radical government-run plan -- if you call it that -- would lead to colossal tax increases -- increases like you've never seen before -- and take away private coverage from over 180 million Americans.

AUDIENCE: No!

THE PRESIDENT: And we have some great private coverage, and we've initiated some incredible plans, like the new cooperative plan, where you get better insurance than Obamacare for a fraction of the cost.

But perhaps nothing is more extreme than the Democrats' plan to completely takeover American energy and completely destroy America's economy through their new \$100 trillion Green New Deal.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: Under the Green New Deal -- which somebody described as a high school term paper written by a poor student -- (laughter and applause) -- it's true. It's true. Who would believe it? It so -- it's so bad. But I don't -- I'll be honest with you, folks. I said -- you know, it's Saturday morning, and I said, "Matt, should we do a little more, like, spend time?" He said, "Yeah, would you do that?"

By the way, everybody okay? (Applause.) I haven't seen anybody leaving. I haven't seen anybody. I know one thing: If Mark Levin gets up and leaves, I'll finish very quickly, because then I know. (Laughter.) But I haven't seen anyone leaving. Nobody has left. I watch those doors. Because a lot of times -- a lot of times -- well, one time, the press said people left. Yeah, you know where they went? To the bathroom. And then they came back. (Laughter.) Two people. (Applause.) They showed two empty seats in a stadium of 19,000. They showed two empty seats. The people left right in front of me, and I said, "Oh, man, maybe this isn't a good job I'm doing." Then they came back. They went to the bathroom. (Laughter.)

And a certain fake news deal showed a picture on the front page of these two empty seats. They said Trump had empty seats. We never

have empty seats.

The Green New Deal would completely abolish the American oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power industries, of which we're now the leader in the world. We're the biggest now in the world because of moves that I've made. (Applause.) Happened over the last two years, by the way.

And we're trying to speed up pipelines in Texas, which would have taken 15 years. We think we're almost very close to getting them approved. When that happens, we'll go probably another 30 to 40 percent. We need pipeline approval. We're going to have it very quickly. It would have taken -- it was going to be a 14- to 15-year process. We should have it done. We'll pick up 30 to 40 percent more. (Applause.)

Their plan would remove every gas-powered car from American roads. Oh, that's not so bad. They want you to have one car instead of two, and it should be electric, okay? So tell people, no more cars. No more cars.

I think the auto industry is not going to do too well under this plan. What do you think, Meadows? How is this? Will the auto industry be good? I don't think so. It's not looking good. I think maybe -- maybe you're going to see some bad stock prices if that passes. It would end air travel. But you'll get on a train, don't worry about it. You just have to cross off about 95 percent of the world.

And it would force the destruction or renovation of virtually every existing structure in the United States. New York City would have to rip down buildings and rebuild them again. I don't think so. This is the craziest plan, and yet I see senators that are there for 20 years -- white hair. See, I don't have white hair.

(Laughter and applause.) I don't have white hair.

No, I see these white-haired, longtime senators standing behind this young woman, and she's ranting and raving like a lunatic.

(Laughter.) And these senators -- these senators: "Yes, I agree with this. Yes, I agree."

The crazy female senator from the state of Ohio, the state of Hawaii. Right? She's like -- she's like a crazed person. What she said about men is so bad. What she said about men is so bad. But she's standing in the hallway. And she didn't know too much about the plan because she's -- you know, she can't understand that plan. (Laughter.) Which probably makes her smart, actually.

Now, this is the senator from Hawaii, and they're saying to her, "What do you think? Well, I don't know how people are going to get to Hawaii, but I'm in favor of the plan." (Laughter and applause.) I don't get it. I don't get it. I don't get it.

So she's in favor of the plan, but you won't be able to get to -- well, we can take boats, I guess. We'll go back to boats.

This is the new Democrat platform for the -- and I don't want to talk them out of it. I don't. I don't. I swear I don't. This is a killer.

I got to get off this subject. I want them to embrace this plan. I want them to go and sell this plan. I just want to be the Republican that runs against them for that. (Applause.) I'm going to regret this speech. This speech should have been delivered one year from now, not now, damn it. (Laughter.) Because they're going to grab out together, and they're going to say, "You know, this guy is really laying for us." I should've saved the Pocahontas thing for another year. (Laughter.) Because I've destroyed her

political career, and now I won't get a chance to run against her, and I would've loved it. (Laughter.)

We got to -- you know, I don't want to knock out all of the good stuff and end up with somebody that's actually got talent. That would be terrible. (Laughter and applause.)

So I do like the Green New Deal. (Laughter.) I respect it greatly. It should be part of the dialogue of the next election. (Laughter and applause.) And I think it has tremendous promise and tremendous potential for the future of our country.

Socialism is not about the environment. It's not about justice. It's not about virtue. Socialism is about only one thing. It's called "power for the ruling class." That's what it is. (Applause.) Look at what's happening in Venezuela and so many other places.

All of us are here today because we know that the future does not belong to those who believe in socialism. (Applause.) And I heard, yesterday, a great speech from our Vice President Mike Pence, talking about this very subject -- (applause) -- and talking about it beautifully. (Applause.)

The future belongs to those who believe in freedom. I have said it before and I'll say it again: America will never be a socialist country -- ever. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: Young Americans -- I love young Americans. Speaking of young Americans -- Candace, stand up. (Applause.) Candace is getting married. (Applause.) Stand up. You've been incredible. Thank you. Your whole group has been great. You're getting married. Seems like a nice guy to me. (Laughter.) Congratulations.

You've been so great. Thank you very much, Candace. Thanks.

(Applause.)

And, Charlie, what a job you're doing. Where's Charlie? Where's Charlie? Where is Charlie Kirk? Because he has done an incredible job. Thank you very much, Charlie. (Applause.)

But young Americans like you are leading the revival of American liberty, sovereignty, and self-determination in the face of left-wing intolerance. The anger -- the unbelievable anger -- I see it every day. Fortunately, for you, it's mostly pointed at me.

(Laughter.) You have the courage to speak the truth, to do what is right, and to fight for what you believe, and keep doing it.

(Applause.)

We reject oppressive speech codes, censorship, political correctness, and every other attempt by the hard left to stop people from challenging ridiculous and dangerous ideas. These ideas are dangerous. (Applause.)

Instead, we believe in free speech, including online and including on campus. And, by the way, there's a young gentleman with us today. (Applause.) There's a young gentleman. I turned on my television the other day, and I saw somebody that was violently punched in the face. Violently punched. And I said that's disgusting. By a bully I'd like to do a lot of things.

But, of course, we would never do that. Because if I ever said violence, they would say, "Donald Trump attacked." No, no, no. Just for the media: I'm sure he's a lovely young man; just had a little temper tantrum. (Laughter.) I've been there before with those people. I don't want to do it again.

So, the man's name is Hayden Williams. (Applause.) Where's Hayden?

Where is he? Where is he? Hayden, come up here. (Applause.) Come up here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Thank you. So, at the Leadership Institute, we're committed to making campuses great again. And I thank you so much for bringing me up here to let me speak.

It's great -- it's great that I'm being recognized, and -- but there's so many conservative students across the country who are facing discrimination, harassment, and worse, if they dare to speak up on campus. So I'm glad that we could -- we could, you know, bring this to the forefront.

And I'd just like to say, you know, if these socialist progressives had their way, they would put our Constitution through the paper shredder in a heartbeat. So, you know, it's as important now than ever the work at Leadership Institute and Campus Reform -- you know, exposing these liberal abuses to the public -- (applause) -- it's as important now as ever.

And these students -- these students do it because they have a love of our nation and freedom, and frankly, a love for you, Mr. President.

So if you keep defending us, we'll keep defending you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Stay here for a second. So, here's the one thing.

I was going to call him, but I don't have to now. I see him here. But here's the one thing: I learned a number of things. First of all, he can take a punch. If Muhammad Ali could take a punch, he can take a punch. (Laughter.) Because you weren't going to go down

no matter how -- that was a hell of a hard punch. He was a strong guy. But you know what? You've got yourself a great lawyer. I know your lawyer. She is a great lawyer. Just tell her to do me a favor: Sue him. But he's probably got nothing, but sue him forever. But sue the college, the university. (Applause.) And maybe sue the state.

Ladies and gentlemen, he took a hard punch in the face for all of us. Remember that. He took a punch for all of us. And we can never allow that to happen.

And here is, in closing with Hayden -- here's the good news: He is going to be a very wealthy young man. That's okay. (Laughter and applause.) Go get 'em, Hayden.

Today I'm proud to announce that I will be very soon signing an executive order requiring colleges and universities to support free speech -- (applause) -- if they want federal research dollars.

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: If they want our dollars, and we give it to them by the billions, they've got to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people, and old people, to speak. (Applause.) Free speech.

And if they don't, it will be very costly. That'll be signed very soon. Every day, we're restoring common sense and the timeless values that unite us all. We believe in the Constitution and the rule of law. We believe in the First Amendment right. And we believe in religious liberty. (Applause.) And we believe strongly in the Second Amendment and the right to keep and bear arms -- (applause) -- which is under siege, folks. They have a lot of

plans. It's under siege. Be careful. But I'll protect you, I promise you that. I'll protect you. (Applause.) Because it all has to come through my office. And we hopefully are going to be here for six more years, so you're in good shape. (Applause.)

We believe in the American Dream, not in the socialist nightmare. And we believe in the words of our national motto: In God We Trust. (Applause.)

Every day, my presidency will defend American families. We will defend America's workers -- our great, great cherished workers -- that now we're taking care of. They're not losing their jobs. We're creating those jobs. We're not letting those companies destroy their lives anymore.

We will defend the American way of life, and we will always defend America's borders. Because without borders, as I've said many times before, we don't have a country. (Applause.)

The lawless chaos on our southern border provides a lucrative cash flow to some of the most dangerous criminal organizations on the planet. Deadly cartels constantly -- daily, hourly -- violate our borders to flood our cities with drugs that kill thousands and thousands of our citizens violently. What are these people talking about when they talk about the border? "Keep it open." Keep what open? Have you been there? Have you seen? I just got back. I've been there many times. I see what's happening. I don't like it.

But I have to tell you, our Border Patrol, our ICE agents, our law enforcement, the job they do -- (applause) -- and they don't have the backup of a wall, in many cases -- the job they do is incredible.

These ruthless cartels terrorize innocent communities on both

sides of the border and spread instability throughout our hemisphere. When I was there two weeks ago, 26 people were killed very close to where I was, on the Rio Grande. Sounds nice, right? The Rio Grande. Rough. Rough stuff. Twenty-six people were killed, and they were buried right near where I was standing. And the paper doesn't write about it. The news doesn't write about it.

In the last two years alone, ICE officers made 266,000 arrests. Think of what that means. Think of that -- arrests. I'm not talking about people coming in. I'm talking they went out and arrested 266,000 people who have criminal records and, in some cases, for murder. Who the hell wants to do that? Thank God they're doing it because I don't want to do it. It's dangerous. (Applause.) It's hard. But they love our country, and they're tough people, but they love our country.

Including those charged or convicted of approximately 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, 25,000 burglaries, 4,000 kidnappings, and 4,000 violent murders. These are people that ICE is going in and getting, and either putting in jail or ideally bringing them back to other countries and letting them put in jail, because we don't want them. We don't want to have to pay for them for 50 years. You want them to pay a price, but we don't want to have to pay for them for 50 years.

And all the nonsense you hear about "the people that come in illegally are far better than the people we have" -- it's not true, folks. Okay? It's false. It's false propaganda. (Applause.) Right?

One recent study from FAIR -- F-A-I-R -- found that illegal aliens are incarcerated at three times the rate of legal residents. Those are the numbers. And if you look at prison population in federal prisons, these federal prisons are -- the number is staggering.

The number of illegals -- far, far, far greater than any proportion of our population. But you don't hear that; you hear like these people are the greatest people in the world.

Just ask the Angel Moms how good are there. Those great Angel Moms who were treated so badly -- so badly. (Applause.) Incredible people.

But the simple reality is that every crime committed by an illegal immigrant is a crime that should never have happened in the first place. (Applause.) The border crisis is also a heartbreaking humanitarian tragedy. Vicious coyotes, smugglers, and human traffickers prey upon innocent women and children. One in three women is sexually assaulted on the dangerous journey north.

When I ran for president, my first speech, I mentioned the word "rape." The press went after me; I couldn't believe it. I said, "Will it be like this always?" The answer was yes. It even got worse. From day one, I mention the word "rape." If you look at that speech, that was so innocent compared to what's really happening. That was a very innocent speech compared to the real facts.

Illegal immigration is not compassionate. It's inhumane, unjust, and cruel. (Applause.)

The media fights me on this, but I say it: Mothers who love their daughters, when their daughters are getting ready to make that 2,000-mile trek up through Mexico -- and frankly, I wish Mexico would stop them at their northern border, at our -- (applause) -- I wish Mexico would stop them. Because you know, they have a border. They call it their southern border. It's 2,000 miles down from our southern border. I wish Mexico would stop them.

But they have their own difficulties. Frankly, I understand that. We're working along well with them. And they are doing a lot of things to help us with asylum and other elements of what we're doing.

But mothers, who love their daughters, give them massive amounts of birth control pills because they know their daughters are going to be raped on the way up to our southern border. Think of that. True story, told to me by the Border Patrol. So true and so sad. Think of how evil that is. Think of how bad it is.

Those caravans -- you look at those caravans, and some are phenomenal people. But in those caravans you have stone-cold killers. You had the interview done by some innocent person who I think is actually back there now. "And what is it that you want asylum for? Why are you coming to America?" "Uh, murder." She goes, "What?" "Murder."

I mean, what's going on is incredible. And when those caravans are formed, do you think those countries that we used to give a lot of money to -- I've cut it way back. I've cut it way back.

(Applause.) Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador. Do you think they're giving us, as we say, their best and their finest? "Oh, let's send our best people up to America. Let's have our best people go in the caravan so we can give America our greatest people." No, no, no, no. They give us some very bad people. People with big, long crime records. People with tremendous violence in their past. Murderers, killers, drug dealers, human traffickers. They want to keep their good people because they're smart. It's so sad to see how stupid we've been.

Border Patrol recently reported apprehending 7,000 unlawful migrants in a single week on just one part of the Texas border, a couple of weeks ago. Our immigration system is stretched far

beyond the breaking point.

To confront this national security crisis, last month I declared a national emergency. A national emergency. (Applause.) And when I see these people -- and they're good people -- some senators, mostly -- I tell you, the House has been fantastic.

The House -- you know, backing we've had from the House has really been -- I'm talking about in the last short period of time. There's a lot of spirit in the House, and I think in the Senate too, but we're going to have to see because we have a vote coming up.

And a lot of people talk about precedent. Precedent. That if we do this, the Democrats will use national emergency powers for something that we don't want. They're going to do that anyway, folks. The best way to stop that is to make sure that I win the election. That's the best way to stop that. (Applause.) They're going to do it anyway. They'll do it anyway.

I watch -- good people, they're friends of mine, "We're very concerned with setting precedent." That's "precedent" not "president." (Laughter.) Precedent. "We're very concerned about setting precedent." I'm very concerned with having murderers and drug traffickers, and drugs and drug cartels, pouring into our country. That's what I'm concerned about. (Applause.)

And the Democrats, they're going to do whatever they do if they get into power, and it won't have a damn thing to do with whether or not we approve our national emergency. Because let me tell you -- they don't like it when I say it -- but we are being invaded. We're being invaded by drugs, by people, by criminals. And we have to stop it. And we want people to come in, as I said before, but

they have to come in legally and with merit. (Applause.)

Previous presidents have used their national emergency power to promote democratic elections in Belarus, to ensure political stability in Burundi, and to defend the sovereignty of Lebanon. And you know what? That's okay. In Lebanon -- it's good. Fine. Use it. But we need it right here in our country. We have to use it for our country.

Many emergency declarations have been used to protect people in faraway nations and distant lands. Now we are protecting, finally, our people. You. Our people. (Applause.) And we are proudly standing with the heroes of ICE and Border Patrol and law enforcement. (Applause.)

Illegal immigration is also deeply unfair to American workers and taxpayers, including millions and millions of hardworking legal immigrants. If you care about helping immigrants and care about their success, if you care about reducing poverty and raising living standards, then you must support a safe, strong, and very, very secure border.

We need an immigration policy that helps all Americans thrive, flourish, prosper. We need an immigration policy that's going to be great for our corporations and our great companies. We need an immigration policy where people coming into our country can love our country and love our fellow citizens. (Applause.) And this includes shutting down sanctuary cities. (Applause.)

And we want to end catch-and-release. We catch them, we realize they're a criminal, and we have to release them. Think of this: They come onto our land, they put one foot on our land. We now have to take them through a massive court trial. Who does this? Other countries say, "Get the hell out of here." We have to take

them through court.

So we catch them. We talk to them. If they're criminals, or if they're not, we release them. We say, "Come back for a hearing in front of a judge." You know how many judges you need to do this? We have 900,000 people backlogged. That's the good news. The bad news? Nobody shows up. Three percent of the people come back for a trial. It's insane.

Not my fault I inherited this mess, but we're fixing it.

(Applause.) We have to end chain migration, and we have to cancel the visa lottery. Every American, no matter where they're born, will benefit from the creation of a lawful immigration system. It is such -- you talk about an emergency. Our immigration system is so broken, folks. It's so broken. It's so sad to see. It's incompetent. It's laughed at all over the world.

We have people pouring in from not just the southern border in Mexico. From China. They have a baby on our land. The baby becomes a citizen. "Welcome to the United States" for hopefully 90 years. Okay? And then the parents come in with the baby because the baby is a citizen. This is like crazy. They used to call it "anchor babies" but they don't use that term anymore because it doesn't sound nice.

Our laws are so crazy. But one by one, we're finding ways. You know, they call them loopholes. A lot of our laws -- loopholes. Well, I'm finding loopholes to get around the loophole. Okay? (Laughter and applause.) Because our Congress can't act. They can't act. They just can't act.

The Democrats in Congress don't want to touch any of it. Visa lottery -- that's where they put in the names; they put it in a lottery, and you pick, "Oh, here's a wonderful person. Wonderful."

You know, he killed four people. "Here's -- here's another wonderful." (Laughter.)

And then they get in and we say, "Gee, that person just came into our country. He just robbed a store and killed somebody." How is that possible? Because they send us the people they don't want. (Applause.) The biggest form of subsidy we give to other nations. Immigration systems that prioritize the admission of those who can support themselves financially and contribute. We want people that can help themselves, that can support themselves. We have people coming in. We support them from the day they come in until the day they die. We can't do that as a country. We can't afford to do that as a country. (Applause.)

Sadly, on immigration and so many other issues, Democrat lawmakers have totally abandoned the American mainstream. But that's going to be good for us in 2020. They're embracing open borders, socialism, and extreme late-term abortion.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: Weeks ago, lawmakers in New York cheered as they passed legislation to allow babies to be ripped from the womb of their mother right up to the very moment of death. Then, in an act and a statement, the likes of which I don't think I've ever heard, in Virginia, the governor -- a Democrat -- stated that he would allow babies to be born, to be born outside. He would wrap them. He would take care of them. And then he'll talk to the mother and the father as to what to be done. And if they didn't want the child, who is now outside of the womb -- long outside of the womb -- they will execute the baby after birth.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: They will execute the baby after birth. And that's one many people have never even heard of or thought about.

This is a radical agenda by the Democrats. And when you put something up, as was just put up before the Senate, everybody on the Democrat side votes for it.

By the way, I have to say one thing: They're lousy politicians and they have lousy policy. They have policy I could never sell if I wanted to. But -- but -- big but -- they always stick together. And the Republicans don't remember that. (Applause.) Remember that. They always stick together. They vote in blocs. They have 47.

We had a tremendous victory. We were given no credit. I can't go and campaign for all of the people in the House. Too many. And guys like Meadows wins by so many points he doesn't need any help. He doesn't need it. I say, "Mark, do you need any help?" "No, I'm okay." (Laughter.) He'll win by 30, 35. They're okay. These guys -- you know a funny thing? The ones that love Trump, the ones that are really the Trumpers -- like Meadows, Jordan, Gates, so many of them. I don't want to -- I could just name so many. They're the ones that win with that. I mean, it's like they don't even have an election.

It's the ones that sort of -- they're a little shy about embracing what we're all about, they get clobbered. They get clobbered. Take a look. Those are the ones that get clobbered. But the good news is they're all starting to find that out.

Just this week, Senate Democrats opposed legislation to prevent the killing of newborn infant children who survive abortions. Virtually every Democrat voted against protecting these precious

babies. Every one. They vote in groups.

And we did have that great victory. We won for 51. And two that we didn't like got out. They said they retired. They didn't retire. They were retired. (Applause.) They said, "These two senators have decided to retire." No, no, no. They retired because they had like very little support. Like how about 5 percent? Any percent.

No, we did great. We had 53 we picked up in the Senate. They were going to win the Senate, remember? And I'll tell you, folks, I worked hard. I did 32 big, fat rallies. (Applause.) And those rallies brought us to a tremendous Senate victory so that we can continue onward with our judges and our approvals.

And the fake news back there, they love to say "Donald Trump suffered a big defeat." First of all, we won the Senate, which, frankly, judges -- you know, I hate to say it: In all due respect for us, the Senate, far more important. I really worked hard.

But think of it. We won the Senate and we had this, like, tremendous victory. We get no credit at all. Wait until you see what happens. They say, "Donald Trump suffered a humiliating defeat." I said, "I wasn't running." (Laughter.) And one of the commentators -- and I appreciate it -- one of the shows where they were saying how I suffered a defeat, this commentator said, "Excuse me, he didn't run." You know, not all our candidates were exactly great. Let's face it. You know, you can only do so much.

But wait until you see what's happening when I do run. And what they don't say is -- governor of Ohio, great guy. Mike. Mike. Mike was down six. He won by seven with one day. Right? (Applause.) He was down by six. One day into the election, I went out, I campaigned, worked hard, made a speech. Jim Jordan was there. Everybody was there. It was a fantastic crowd like this. Like

this. And all the people in the other ballrooms that are waiting for us.

And he ended up winning. He was down by six; he won by seven. One day. (Applause.) Then we have Georgia -- the governor of Georgia. Great guy. Where's Georgia? Great guy. He was losing in the primary by 10. I got a call from David Perdue and Sonny Perdue -- two great guys. "Could you endorse him?" I said, "Let me check." And I checked him. He was a Trumper before Trump was a Trumper. (Laughter.) And I said, "I love this guy." He's down by 10. He won by 40. (Applause.) Can you believe that? I endorsed him, Mark. He won by 40. Then he had a tough race against the new star of the Democrat Party -- not Democratic. It's Democrat. We have to do that.

You know, it sounds prettier when we use "Democratic." I even like -- I hate to say in the speech, the "Democrat Party" because it doesn't sound good. But that's all the more reason I use it, because it doesn't. (Laughter.) They should change it because it sounds much better. Rhetorically, it's much better. Much better.

But then, he had an election against their star who followed me after the State of the Union Address. I didn't think she was great. But she's their star. And who showed up? Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, and President Obama.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: And they campaigned for her, and they worked so hard. And all our man had was Trump. (Laughter.) And we kicked their ass. (Applause.) True.

We had a rally at the airport, where 55,000 people showed up to the airport. It was one hangar. They had three other hangars that

were full. They went so far back. The problem was they gave the press, like these guys -- they gave the press too good a location because the people behind them couldn't see properly. I was so angry. But we had 55,000 people show up. I said, "You're going to win the election." He won the election. He won it fairly easily, against their star. And now David Perdue is going to win for senator in 2020. (Applause.)

And then -- and then we had Florida, and many others. (Applause.) And we have a candidate, Ron DeSantis -- (applause) -- a friend. A friend of many of us in this room. But nobody knew he was running. He was running against, in the primary, somebody that was easily going to win. He was scheduled to be the next governor of Florida.

But Ron has been great to me on the witch hunt. He's been a defender of me against these phony charges of Russia. Russia, Russia, Russia, Russia. My wife said, "You never spoke to anybody from Russia, darling." I said, "That's right." (Laughter.) But Ron DeSantis -- I like people that defend me. You know, when people defend me, I defend them. (Applause.)

So he came. That's why I like Mark. That's why I like Mark Levin. And I'm not sure a lot of people like him. He's tough as hell. But I like him. I love him.

But then we have Florida. So, Ron DeSantis is at three. Three. He calls up, "Sir, can I have your endorsement?" I said, "Ron, you're at three. Your opponent is, I guess, agriculture commissioner -- has 22 million in the bank. His poll numbers are very good. He's up in the 20s or 30s." I said, "Ron, don't make me do this, Ron." (Laughter.) "Sir, I can win." "All right, Ron. Here we go." Because I know if he loses -- which almost never happens when I endorse somebody. Almost never. Only one time, and that was because it was done in the middle of the day of the election.

Nobody knew I did it. They got home, they said, "I didn't know Trump endorsed him." But we rarely, rarely lose.

But I said, "Ron, don't do it." I said, "All right, I'll do it." He went from 3 to 60. To 60. (Applause.) And then he ran against a guy who had unbelievable support. He had every celebrity go into Florida. He had money all over the place. And Ron was in there pitching, and I was in there pitching with him. And we now have a great governor in the state of Florida. (Applause.)

And I could mention many others -- other governors, many other states. But I'm not going to bore you with it. And I think -- I really think that it's incredible what we did in the midterms. I think it's incredible.

Governor of Florida. Governor of Ohio. Remember, "You can't win unless you win the state of Ohio." We got the governor of Ohio, and he's great. Mike. We love you, Mike. (Applause.)

As we defend American values at home, we are also defending American security abroad. We have secured all sorts of funding, all sorts of record everything. And we will never forget our military. We will never forget our veterans. We are taking care of our veterans like they've never been taken care of before. (Applause.)

We just got them Choice, so now they can go see a doctor. (Applause.) Now they can go and see a doctor instead of waiting on line for weeks and weeks and weeks.

And we got them Accountability. You couldn't fire anybody in the VA. You had sadists. You had people that took advantage of our veterans. They've hit them. They were sadists. They were sick people. You couldn't fire them. You had thieves that were stealing

-- openly stealing. You couldn't fire them.

I got a bill passed: VA Accountability. Now you look at the guy, you say, "Get the hell out of here. You're fired. Get out."

(Applause.) Nobody thought we could get it. For 40 years they tried to get it. For 40 years they tried to get it; they couldn't get it. And VA Choice, they thought -- for many, many decades they'd been trying to get VA Choice. You couldn't get it.

Now, instead of waiting on line for two days, nine days, three weeks -- people were dying. People that weren't very sick would be dead by the time they saw a doctor, six weeks later. Now these great veterans, if there's a big wait, they go outside, they go to a local doctor. We pay the bills. They get better. Everybody is happy. And we actually save a lot of money, if you can believe it. (Applause.) And I got that approved after 44 years of being unable to get it approved -- for our veterans. We love our veterans. (Applause.)

And just in finishing up, as you know, I just returned from Vietnam, where I had very productive meetings with Chairman Kim Jong Un. Very productive. We get along. (Applause.) We've developed a good relationship -- very good -- and made great historic progress. And I do get a kick out of all these people in previous administrations: "Donald Trump should not, under any circumstances, be doing this or that." You know, they're telling me how to negotiate. These guys died.

One administration gave billions of dollars to him and got nothing. And we haven't given him anything yet. I look forward to maybe doing something at some point. But I know one thing: I'm going to get other countries to give. Maybe not us, but I'm going to get other countries to give, and if it all works out.

(Applause.) If it all works out.

But I had to walk. Because every once in a while, you have to walk, because the deal wasn't a deal that was acceptable to me. I don't like these deals that politicians make. They make a deal just for the sake of doing it. I don't want to do that. I want to make a deal that either works, or let's not make it. (Applause.)

But the one thing we have, though, is we have no testing, no missiles going up, no rockets going up. No nuclear testing. We got our great people back. We get our great, great people. And that includes our beautiful, beautiful Otto -- Otto Warmbier -- whose parents I've gotten to know, who's incredible.

And I'm in such a horrible position, because in one way I have to negotiate. In the other way, I love Mr. and Mrs. Warmbier, and I love Otto. And it's a very, very delicate balance. He was a special young man. And to see what happened was so bad. It was so bad.

And a lot of what I do with respect to North Korea, and any success that we hopefully have -- and we've had a lot. We're given no credit. They don't remember that, in the last days of the Obama administration, rockets were flying all over the place, nuclear testing was going on. Mountains were being -- these are big mountains. They were being shoved over three, four inches. People thought it was massive earthquakes, then they found out, no, that was nuclear weapons -- nuclear testing. So much. We're getting the remains back of a lot of our soldiers from many, many years ago. (Applause.) Mike Pence was in Hawaii. It was one of the most beautiful ceremonies.

We've made a lot of progress, and we'll continue to make progress. And I really think what we're doing there is very important. But

we actually had to walk, but I think we had a very good meeting. In fact, when I came home, they put out a statement that, actually, they were willing to do much less on the sanction front. But you see, that's not what happened there.

So already, I think we're negotiating. And I'll tell you this: North Korea has an incredible, brilliant economic future, if they make a deal. But they don't have any economic future if they have nuclear weapons. It's really a bad thing for them. So we'll see how it all goes. But I think it's going well. I think we learned a lot over the last couple of days.

And again, the relationship seems to be very, very strong. And that's an important thing, especially when we're dealing with this kind of a situation. (Applause.)

For years, you watched as your leaders apologized for America. You saw that. Would you like to apologize? No. I'm not apologizing. (Applause.) Now you have a President who is standing up for America.

After decades of building up foreign nations, we are finally building up our nation, and we are doing it with American hands, American grit, and with beautiful, beautiful American steel. (Applause.)

We are fighting to ensure that every young American inherits the same blessings and the same boundless opportunity that our ancestors fought to secure with all of their heart, might, and soul.

Now more than ever, we need the proud men and women of CPAC. And I want to thank everybody here, because it is incredible. Your organization is incredible. Matt and Mercedes, incredible.

(Applause.) You're energized, you're mobilized, and you're engaged. We need your voice. We need your patriotism. We need your commitment.

We need your incredible spirit on the Fourth of July. We are having, in Washington, D.C., a great tribute to America. I hope you can all come. Fourth of July -- keep it open. We want to bring millions of people into the city, and we want people to come who love our country. Those are the people we want. The Fourth of July. (Applause.) A salute to America.

Now is the time to embrace the promise of our history. Now is the time to defend our American legacy. And now is the time to seize our glorious destiny.

And, by the way, I'm watching those doors. Not one person has left, and I've been up here a long time. (Laughter.) I said, "Matt, is that okay?" He said, "I love it. Don't leave."

But not one person. So if you hear tomorrow, when they read "people left" -- nobody left early. There hasn't been one person that's left. But when you read it, you just say "fake news." (Applause.)

This magnificent nation will always be the home of those who cherish life, who love liberty, and who defend the sacred rights given to us by Almighty God. (Applause.)

Together, we are one people, one family, and one nation, forever united behind one great American flag. (Applause.)

Thank you to everybody in this room and to all of the other rooms, all over the campus and all over the country. We're hooked in all over the country. Thank you very much.

I want to thank CPAC. What a job they've done. What a job Matt Schlapp and his family have done in such a short period of time, in bringing this to a level like it's never been before.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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US ambassador to India to highlight bilateral strategic ties at Houston event

The Economic Times, PTI :US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster is set to highlight the strategic relationship between the two countries and the bilateral trade at an event organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston on Saturday, IACCGH said. Juster was invited to the 20th gala celebrations of the chamber to deliver a keynote address by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and IACCGH president Swapan Dhairyawan and its founder & executive director Jagdip Ahluwalia in November last year. IACCGH Gala is the annual fundraiser for the chamber and attracts over 800 attendees. CEOs of Fortune 500 companies in the energy, healthcare, education and technology, space as well as Indian and US ambassadors, senators have been speakers at the high-caliber chamber events. Ahluwalia said the chamber has come a long way since its inception in 1999. "Now after two decades it is instrumental in building bridges between India and Houston, boosting trade and major investments and is cited among the upper echelons of the US Small Business Administration as a model chamber." Some of the things that IACCGH has been advocating and made investments possible between Houston & India are — BMC, HP – Compaq's investment in India, MD Anderson's partnership with Tata cancer, United's non-stop service to India, Mahindra Tractor's (Americas) presence in the US, Reliance, ONGC & GAIL's investment in the US. Dhairyawan said the chamber has graduated from conducting informational events to strategic outcome driven programs on all facets of business.

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"US Least Protectionist, India High-Tariff Nation": Official

NDTV, PTI :US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross asked India to remove the overly restrictive market access barriers for American companies. Describing India as a "high-tariff market", US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Thursday urged the government to execute reforms that will open up the Indian economy and market. In unusually blunt remarks, Mr Ross asked India to remove the overly restrictive market access barriers for American companies. "As President Donald Trump has said, we look forward to working with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his administration, to address mutual trading opportunities and investment potentials," Mr Ross said in his key note address to the India Ideas Summit of US Indian Business Council in Washington. Mr Ross said he is planning a trip to India to discuss and address some of the key issues challenging the India and US trade ties. The US Commerce Secretary was in India just before the Lok Sabha elections during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top Indian government

officials. The Trump administration has been addressing a more balanced and reciprocal trade relationship, not only with India but also with its other trading partners across the world. Mr Ross said that US is the "least protectionist" major country, but India has "one of the highest levels of tariffs in the world, adding that protectionist practices also hurt the countries themselves. He expressed hope that since PM Modi has been voted back to power with a stronger mandate, he would be able to carry out necessary reforms and take India towards "a more open economy". "The mindset of moving towards a more open economy" is very important, he said, adding that both the US and India would benefit from this change. For the development of a viable commercial relationships, US companies need more predictability, more transparency or more consistency of regulations, Mr Ross said as he spoke of Trump administration's decision to withdraw the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for India.

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Mike Pompeo says India 'perfect partner', great place to figure out how to grow economies

The Times of India, PTI :India is a perfect partner and great place for the US to figure out how to grow the economies of the two countries and get win-win solutions, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo has said as he pushed for the further liberalisation of the Indian economy. The Trump administration is trying to take down financial barriers and non-tariff barriers, and create open markets consistent with the central ideas that they hold here in the United States, he said. "But we remain open to dialogue and hope our Indian friends will drop their trade barriers and trust in the competitiveness of their exporters and private-sector companies," Pompeo said. The US will also push for the free flow of data across borders — not just to help American companies — but to protect data and ensure consumer privacy, he said. "I think that makes India a perfect partner and a great place for us to figure out how to grow our economies and get win-win solutions for both nations," Pompeo said in his keynote address to the India Ideas Summit of the US India Business Council (USIBC) on Wednesday. "That is, when you invest, your return on investment often extends beyond any particular Congress or any particular administration," the top American diplomat said. If the US government can lay the foundation, Pompeo said, the businesses will take risk, invest capital here and in India, and will grow both sides of the relationship."India, by purchasing oil and gas from the US, can have a fully diversified energy portfolio where it doesn't have to rely on nations that aren't as reliable as the United States and have good outcomes, outcomes that their business leaders can count on, and frankly that Americans thinking about investing in India can count on as well," he said. "Countries that have partnered with us and chosen to invest alongside us and opened their markets and prepared to allow American businesses to invest on the same terms in their country

that their country has permitted to invest here, and that we get fair and reciprocal trade, they've seen America open up to them, and seen the real opportunity," he said. America's energy sector, Pompeo said, provides a real opportunity for American businesses and for global growth as well. "We've been blessed with abundant affordable energy right here in the United States, and we're now out producing it at enormous levels, not just crude oil but natural gas as well. "On our side we've got to make sure that we build out the infrastructure that's necessary, so that we have the infrastructure so that we can deliver it and provide these opportunities," he said. "And then the state department's role is to make sure that we're out talking about that, sharing with other countries that we can be a reliable partner for their energy," Pompeo added.

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Modi hai to mumkin hai, says Mike Pompeo

US open to discussion with India on GSP programme, says Mike Pompeo

An unpredictable US means India must get on right side of other big powers, like China

The Print, Bureau :PM Modi has chosen well to pick China as his first big power engagement in his second term. Despite the bonhomie with President Xi Jinping in the first term, ties rode a roller-coaster. With an increasingly unpredictable America, India must get on the right side of all other big powers. BJP lets go of one-man-one-post rule and home ministry gets a distracted minister That Home Minister Amit Shah will remain the BJP's president at least until state elections later this year shows the party is unwilling to let go of its election-winning magician. Not only is BJP diluting its one-man-one-post rule, but challenges of internal security and Kashmir don't deserve a distracted minister.

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India, US work towards signing 2 more defence pacts

The Indian Express, Sushant Singh : INDIA AND the US are working towards signing two more defence pacts, the Industrial Security Annexure (ISA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) to further institutionalise defence cooperation between the two countries. Pentagon had already submitted a draft ISA to the Defence Ministry and sources said that a positive response is expected from India. The two sides could announce the signing of the ISA at the next 2+2 meeting between the two countries. The next 2+2 meeting between the defence and foreign ministers and their counterparts is scheduled to be held in the US, as the last 2+2 meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2018. No firm dates have been set for the meeting but it could be scheduled around September, sources said. An ISA, which is an Annexure to the General Security Of

Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) between the two countries, will enable the US government and US defence companies to share classified information with Indian private defence manufacturers. India and the US had the GSOMIA 17 years ago, which allowed sharing of classified information from the US government and American defence manufacturers with Indian government and government-owned defence firms but not with Indian private companies. Signing the ISA is seen as a prerequisite for meaningful private sector participation in defence production in India, if it has to get modern technological inputs from US in a secure manner. With the Defence Ministry stressing Strategic Partnership model in defence manufacturing as part of Make in India, an ISA gains even greater importance. The US has also shared a draft of BECA, which will allow exchange of geospatial information between India and the US for both military and civilian use. Getting accurate locations will allow Indian weapons systems and military platforms to accurately hit their targets. India had responded with its observations leading to a fresh draft from the US, and further discussions on it are expected before a draft is finalised. BECA is the last of the three foundational agreement and the only one remaining to be signed. The two countries had signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in August 2016, wherein both the militaries can provide logistics support to the other side from their bases. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), amended to meet Indian requirements, was signed last September at the 2+2 dialogue.

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India, China do not pose 'threats' to each other: Chinese President Xi Jinping to PM Modi

The Economic Times, PTI :President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday that India and China "do not pose threats" to each other as he expressed Beijing's willingness to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides. President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek - their first interaction after Modi's re-election following the stunning victory of the BJP in the general elections last month. In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said that President Xi told Prime Minister Modi that India and China should deepen cooperation by properly handling differences and called for strengthening Confidence Building Measures to maintain stability at the border. "China is ready to work with India to continuously advance the closer development partnership between the two countries," Xi said. He urged the two sides to stick to the fundamental judgement that "China and India offer to each other chances for

development, and do not pose each other threats," state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the statement. Xi called on the two countries to keep deepening mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, and properly handling their disputes so as to turn the bilateral relationship into a positive element for their respective development. He pointed out that China and India are the only two emerging markets with a population of one billion in the world, both of which are at an important stage of rapid development. Working together, China and India will not only boost each other's development, but also contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and the world at large, he said. Xi said both the countries should deepen mutual trust, focus on cooperation and properly handle differences, so as to make China-India relations a more positive asset and energy for the development of the two countries, the statement said. On the vexed boundary issue, Xi said, "we need to make good use of the meeting of the Special Representatives on the boundary issue and other mechanisms, strengthen Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) and maintain stability at the border areas". National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives of the boundary dispute. So far, the two countries have held 21 rounds of talks to resolve differences over the 3488-km long Line Actual Control (LAC). "We need to expand cooperation channels, carry out cooperation in investment, production capacity and tourism, expand common interests, and jointly promote regional connectivity, including the development of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) so as to achieve better cooperation and common development," he said. The mention of BCIM, which is part of China's multibillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative is regarded significant as it has not yet taken off unlike the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other corridors of the initiative.

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India, Russia and China to hold trilateral meeting on sidelines of G-20 Summit in Japan

Business Standard, ANI :India, Russia and China will hold a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Osaka in Japan later this month. This was disclosed after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting here. "It is planned that there will be a Russia, India and China trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan," Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told the media while briefing on the meeting between Modi and Putin. Ever since G20 was formed, India has been actively participating in the meetings. Although there are no binding commitments in G20, it sets the agenda for multilateral trade relations. The G20 members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 per cent of its economy. Gokhale also said that Modi will visit Russia

in early September as the main guest at the Eastern Economic Forum to which he was formally invited by Putin. "President Putin has invited Prime Minister Modi formally to be the main guest at Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia in early September, and Prime Minister Modi has warmly accepted the invitation. So, this will be a bilateral visit that Prime Minister will make and thereafter for the India-Russia annual bilateral summit," Gokhale said. Russia has also activated the first batch of orders of AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles, he said. "Naturally, discussions took place on defence related issues. Prime Minister thanked President Putin for the rapidity with which Russia had responded to our request for Make in India to manufacture the AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles in Amethi. This is a project which was set up in record time and President Putin infact confirmed that the first batch of orders was already activated. Both leaders were very pleased with it. In a sense, this marks the beginning of the process where we will move away from the buyer, seller relationship to one way that is technology transfer and Make in India, job creation and content creation in India," he said. It was during his official visit to India last October that Putin and Modi reached an agreement on producing Kalashnikov assault rifles' 200 series in India. On 3 March, Modi launched an AK-203 rifle manufacturing unit in Amethi as part of the Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd - a joint venture between India's Ordnance factory and a Russian firm. "One of the areas President Putin particularly mentioned was the modernisation of Indian Railways. In this regard, they are doing a study for the upgrading of the Nagpur-Secundrabad line and this was the area in which Russia is interested in. During his meeting with Putin, Modi said, "I am obliged with the highest respect order of St Andrew the Apostle, on behalf of people of India. I am very grateful for your support for the rifle manufacturing unit in Amethi. We will meet in (G-20 summit) coming days in Japan.

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PM Modi meets Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of SCO summit in Bishkek

The Hindu, PTI :Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek. Mr. Modi arrived in the Kyrgyz capital on June 13 for the SCO summit, the first multilateral engagement post his re-election. The SCO is a China-led 8-member economic and security bloc with India and Pakistan being admitted to the grouping in 2017. "Deepening friendship with China. PM @narendramodi's first meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit is with President Xi Jinping. Both leaders are discussing ways to further strengthen bilateral relations," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Mr. Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations. Later, Mr. Modi also met Russian President Vladimir Putin and

the two leaders reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations to further strengthen the bilateral strategic relationship. “A special partner, a privileged relationship! PM @narendramodi met with @KremlinRussia_E Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of #SCOSummit in #Bishkek. Reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations to further strengthen the strategic relationship,” External Affairs Ministry (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek on June 13, 2019. Photo courtesy: Twitter/@MEAIndia Earlier in October, President Putin travelled to India for the 19th India-Russia annual summit during which he held comprehensive discussions with Modi on wide-ranging bilateral, regional and international issues. Russia has been one of India’s key suppliers of arms and ammunition. Prime Minister Modi, President Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a trilateral meeting, the second among the three countries after a gap of 12 years, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires in December during which they underscored the benefits of a multilateral trading system and an open world economy for global growth and prosperity. India-China ties Ahead of the meeting, China hinted that President Xi would highlight the need to forge a united front against U.S. President Donald Trump’s policies of trade protectionism and unilateralism using tariffs as a weapon. China and the U.S. have been in an escalating conflict over trade for the past year. The scope of the battle has expanded in recent months as Washington has tightened trade restrictions on Chinese telecom giant Huawei. Chinese officials hope that India, which is also facing trade frictions with the U.S. specially over termination of its designation as a ‘beneficiary developing country’ under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), would join the fight against Mr. Trump’s protectionist policies. The economic and commercial engagement between India and China constitutes a major component of the bilateral relations with bilateral trade which crossed \$95 billion last year and is set to cross \$100 billion this year. The two leaders have met more than 10 times in the last five years, including thrice after their informal summit in the Chinese city of Wuhan in April, 2018 — first at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in June last in China’s Qingdao, the second time at the BRICS summit in South Africa’s Johannesburg in July and third time in December last on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina. The Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi was largely credited to have turned around the bilateral relations soured by the 73-day Doklam standoff, triggered by Chinese troops attempts to build a road close to Indian border in an area also claimed by Bhutan in 2017. After the Wuhan summit, both the countries stepped up efforts to improve relations on different spheres including the military-to-military ties. Last month, the 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the powerful U.N. Security Council designated Pakistan-based terror

group Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist after veto-wielding permanent member China lifted its technical hold on the proposal by the U.S., the U.K. and France to blacklist him. It was a huge diplomatic victory for India after a decade of relentless efforts to ban the mastermind of several terror attacks against India, including the deadly Pulwama attack against Indian security forces.

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Google CEO Sundar Pichai says India, U.S. can lead on standardising privacy frameworks

The Hindu, Sriram Lakshman :India and the U.S. share enough values in common to lead on standardising privacy frameworks, according to Google Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai. If standardisation was done across the world, it could significantly enhance digital trade, he said. “The free flow of information is essential for digital trade and we have all seen the benefits of it...we need better safeguards around user privacy. I think , [and] rightfully so, users are increasingly concerned about it.” Mr. Pichai said. “It is an important moment to create standardised frameworks both for users to have choice and total transparency and for companies to be accountable as well.” India and the U.S. have “reasonably aligned” notions around a free and open internet, have both safeguarded principles of free expression, and, therefore, have enough shared values to lead in privacy frameworks. Mr. Pichai’s remarks were made during an India Ideas Summit of the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) in Washington DC. He was there to receive a Global Leadership Award from the USIBC. Nasdaq president and CEO Adena Friedman was also an award recipient. On how he sees Google in India, Mr. Pichai said, “We took a very long term view of our investments there,” and Google was “very excited” and “proud” to be part of India’s growth story. Cheaper phones “Android literally powers all phones in India and we deeply care about making phones cheaper every year, so that more people can afford it [sic] and access it ” Mr. Pichai said, pointing to the growth of local cellphone manufacturers. “Our products played a foundational role,” Mr. Pichai said. “ But increasingly it’s also happening in reverse. The scale of the Indian market allows us to develop Indian products there and actually take it out globally as well. Mr. Pichai spoke of digital payments as an example. “India was moving towards digital payments, so we thought it was the best market to push the future of digital payments, “ Mr. Pichai said. Google had launched Tez in 2017 in India, which was later renamed Google Pay as it was expanded globally.

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Hope PM Modi uses ‘big mandate’ to improve relations with Pak: Imran Khan

Hindustan Times, Bureau :Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said he hopes his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will use the big mandate he won in the recent elections to improve relations between the two countries and usher in peace in the

region. The two countries should focus on peace and resolving their differences through dialogue, and even issues such as Kashmir can be resolved if the two governments decide to tackle it, Khan said in an interview with Russia's state-run Sputnik news agency. Tensions flared between India and Pakistan in February after suicide attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed at Pulwama in Kashmir killed 40 CRPF troops. Khan and Modi exchanged tweets after the elections and the Pakistani leader sent a message congratulating the Indian premier. However, there are no signs of a resumption of contacts between the two sides. "And so our emphasis should be peace, resolving our differences through dialogue. And our main difference with India is Kashmir. And if the heads of two countries resolve, if two governments decide, this issue can be resolved," Khan said. "But, unfortunately, we have not had much success from India so far. But we hope now that the current prime minister has one big mandate, we hope that he will use this mandate to develop better relationship and bring peace in the subcontinent." Khan said Pakistan had tried to improve relations even before India's polls in April-May but had not made headway during the electoral campaign. "We actually tried before the elections, but unfortunately we felt that before the elections, Prime Minister Modi's party was building up this hysteria, unfortunately, anti-Pakistan feeling among its people, appealing to its right-wing Hindu nationalists, and so there was no chance of peace before the elections," he said. With the elections over, Pakistan is hoping the Indian leadership will "avail this opportunity that Pakistan is offering — that let's resolve all our differences through dialogue", he added. Khan said the two nuclear-armed countries cannot think of resolving differences through military means. "It is madness. So we hope that now we can progress, use dialogue to resolve our differences," he said. Asked if Russia could mediate between India and Pakistan, Khan replied: "Pakistan is looking for any kind of mediation because Pakistan believes that progress comes with peace. And when you have tensions with your neighbours, it detracts from resources that could be spent on human beings. They end up getting spent on unproductive things like arms. And so we believe in peace with all the neighbours, especially with India." Khan described the Kartarpur corridor linking India to a gudwara where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, spent his last years as "a great initiative from Pakistan" and said he hoped "India will respond positively to these initiatives to further people-to-people contact". "But, unfortunately, people-to-people contact only works when the governments also try to get closer. You can't have a situation where the governments have animosity towards each other, and expect people to get closer. It does not happen," he said. First Published: Jun 13, 2019 18:02 IST

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Modi to visit Russia in early September

Business Standard, IANS :Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia in early September to be chief guest at the Eastern Economic Forum meeting and will also hold discussions with President Vladimir Putin as part of the India-Russia annual bilateral summit. Modi had a bilateral meeting with Putin here on Thursday on the sidelines of SCO summit and the two leaders noted that the old relationship based on trust needs to be strengthened further. Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said both leaders recognised the special significance of the partnership. "Both sides recognised that it is an old relationship based on trust between the leadership and the people and this relationship needs to be sustained, developed and given further encouragement," he said. He said President Putin has invited Prime Minister formally to be the main guest for the Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok in early September. "The Prime Minister has warmly accepted the invitation. This will be a bilateral visit that Prime Minister will make to Vladivostok in early September as the chief guest for the Eastern Economic Forum and thereafter for the India-Russia annual bilateral summit," Gokhale said. He said the Prime Minister felt that this is a new area of cooperation which must be actively explored by both sides. Modi informed Putin that India will do serious preparations for the forum meeting to ensure that its participation is meaningful. Business delegations as well as representatives of key Indian states will visit Vladivostok and Russian Far East prior to Modi's visit to identify to work on potential areas of business collaboration. Gokhale said the Russian Far East is extremely resourceful and besides oil and gas, it has a number of other minerals and timber. "This is an area in which we would like to work with Russia because Russia is also an important country in the Pacific region and this is part of our Act East policy," he said. This was the first meeting between the two leaders since Modi winning a second term in office.

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PM Modi raises issue of Pakistan-sponsored terror in meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping

The Times of India, Bureau :Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday raised the issue of Pakistan-sponsored terror during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit and made it clear that Islamabad must take concrete action against terrorism affecting India. Giving details of the meeting, foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale said "PM Modi told Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create atmosphere free of terror and at this stage we do not see this happening." PM Modi reminded the Chinese president that India has made efforts for peace and these efforts have been derailed. "We expect Pakistan to take concrete action," PM Modi told Xi. The Prime Minister stated that India's position has been consistent that it wants peaceful relations with Pakistan, the foreign secretary said. PM Modi's comments came ahead of President Xi's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister

Imran Khan, who is also here in the Kyrgyz capital to attend the SCO summit. Imran Khan has twice written to Prime Minister Modi, seeking resumption of dialogue on all issues, including Kashmir. Responding to Khan's overtures, Prime Minister Modi told his Pakistani counterpart that creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism was essential for fostering peace and prosperity in the region. India has not been engaging with Pakistan since an attack on the Air Force base at Pathankot in January of 2016 by a Pakistan-based terror group, maintaining that talks and terror cannot go together. PM Modi also invited Xi Jinping to India for the second informal summit, an invitation which the Chinese president accepted. PM Modi described his meeting with Xi Jinping "extremely fruitful". "Had an extremely fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping. Our talks included the full spectrum of India-China relations. We shall continue working together to improve economic and cultural ties between our nations," Modi tweeted after the delegation-level talks with President Xi. Had an extremely fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping. Our talks included the full spectrum of India-China re... <https://t.co/h0tAgsHY0F> — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) 1560428743000 The meeting began with President Xi congratulating Prime Minister Modi over his election victory. "After the election results in India, I got your message, and today again you have wished me on the victory, I am very grateful to you for this," Modi replied. Xi had extended "heartfelt congratulations" to Prime Minister Modi for winning the Lok Sabha elections last month, in a rare gesture of greeting a foreign leader well before the official announcement of the results. "On behalf of all Indians, I wish you a very happy birthday," Modi told Xi, greeting the Chinese leader who will turn 66 on June 15. "As you said, in the days to come, we both can progress on several subjects. We both have a contemporary tenure to work more," he said. "After our meeting in Wuhan, we have seen a new momentum and stability in our relations. There has been a rapid progress in the strategic communication between the two sides, leading to be more sensitive towards each other's concerns and interests. And there have been new areas for further cooperation since then," Modi told Xi in his opening remarks. The 2018 Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi was largely credited to have turned around the bilateral relations soured by the 73-day Doklam standoff, triggered by Chinese troops attempts to build a road close to Indian border in an area also claimed by Bhutan in 2017. After the Wuhan summit, both the countries stepped up efforts to improve relations on different spheres including the military-to-military ties. The two leaders have met more than 10 times in the last five years, including thrice after their informal summit in Wuhan -- first at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in June last in China's Qingdao, the second time at the BRICS summit in South Africa's Johannesburg in July and third time in December last on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina. External affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the two

leaders had a warm meeting. "Leaders discussed all aspects of enriching our bilateral relations and recognised the positive role of strategic communication in deepening our partnership," Kumar said.

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Thank you PM Modi, tweets Netanyahu on India's rare vote for Israel at UN

Hindustan Times, PTI :Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for voting in favour of a decision introduced by the Jewish state that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian group at the UN's Economic and Social Council. In a rare move, India on Tuesday voted in favour of Israel in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to deny the Palestinian non-governmental organisation 'Shahed' the observer status, after Israel said the organisation did not disclose its ties with Hamas. "Thank you @NarendraModi, thank you India, for your support and for standing with Israel at the UN," Netanyahu said in a tweet on Wednesday, almost a week after the June 6 vote. It is the first time that India has voted on a resolution at the UN that is being perceived as pro-Israel. India's position on the Middle East Peace Process has been consistent and clear. India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and relevant UNSC Resolutions. India has also always played a proactive role in garnering support for the Palestinian cause in multilateral fora. New Delhi had abstained during a voting at the UNHRC in 2015 on a resolution related to violence in Gaza which was seen as a "significant move" in Israel and attributed by many to the "emerging strong chemistry between Modi and Netanyahu". India had then explained to the Palestinian Authority the reasons for its stand and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had "accepted and understood" why New Delhi abstained then. The ECOSOC vote, which took place at the UN, saw countries such as the US, France, Germany, India, Japan, the UK, South Korea and Canada polling in favour of Israel, while China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others voted against it. The proposal made by the Palestinian NGO 'Shahed' to obtain observer status in the UN was rejected by a 28-14 vote. Maya Kadosh, deputy chief of mission at the Israel embassy in India, on Tuesday in a Tweet thanked New Delhi "for standing with @IsraelinUN and rejecting the request of terrorist organization "Shahed" to obtain the status of an observer in #UN. Together we will continue to act against terrorist organizations that intend to harm." Kadosh mentioned that the organisation has links with Hizbullah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad that was designated as terrorist organisation in 1997. "This is a good sign... India was the first country to support us amongst the Asia group, so we are very happy," she added. A statement by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs later said that 'Shahed' claims to be dealing with human rights and humanitarian issues,

but in practice it is a “terrorist organisation” and operates as “an arm of the Hamas terror organisation” based in Lebanon. The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has been described as a terrorist organisation by many European countries. First Published: Jun 13, 2019 15:36 IST

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Vladimir Putin invites Indian companies to mineral-rich arctic Russia

The Economic Times, Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury :Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accepted Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invite to be the chief guest for the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok early September as the two leaders decided to further widen scope of their economic partnership in the Arctic region and in sectors like energy, transfer of technology, joint projects under the Make in India initiative. The two leaders agreed for India’s wider presence in resource-rich Far-East Russia in the backdrop of India’s Act East Policy and Russia’s focus towards the Pacific. India and Russia would also hold their annual summit coinciding with Modi’s Vladivostok visit. “PM @narendramodi and President Putin had a wonderful meeting in Bishkek. Various subjects pertaining to India-Russia relations were discussed during the meeting,” PMO tweeted. PM @narendramodi and President Putin had a wonderful meeting in Bishkek. Various subjects pertaining to India-Rus... <https://t.co/2fvHFWTPRy> — PMO India (@PMOIndia) 1560434421000 This was the first meeting between the leaders — who share strong personal chemistry — after Modi’s reelection. Exceptional warmth was on display as the two met ahead of the SCO Summit in Bishkek. Modi and Putin meeting amid tumultuous geo-politics agreed on a roadmap for consolidating strategic and economic partnership. Russian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Far-East Yury Trutnev will visit Mumbai and Delhi next week to prepare for Modi’s September visit and explore areas for enhancing India’s presence in the Russian Far East. This will be followed by Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue here in July. Moscow is keen to attract Indian manpower in Russian Far-East which is sparsely populated. The two foreign ministers are also planning to meet before September and it has been learnt that both sides are looking to conclude number of agreements for the annual summit. The two leaders at their Bishkek meet also focused considerably on their energy partnership including in the sector of fossil fuel in Russian oil fields as well as in the Arctic region amid rising tensions in Gulf that might impact oil prices. However, the two leaders did not focus on prevailing global tensions. “There was no discussion on any international or regional issue as the focus was entirely on how to make Prime Minister’s visit for the next annual summit successful,” foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale told reporters at the end of the meet.

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Wiser after Balakot, India orders missiles worth \$700 million from Russia

The Print, Snehesh Alex Philip :After the Balakot strike and the dogfight with the Pakistani air force in February, India is looking to increase its stockpile of missiles with the Modi government ordering weaponry worth about \$700 million for the Indian Air Force from Russia. These include air-to-air missiles with an extended range as well air-to-surface missiles, ThePrint has learnt. Highly placed sources said close to 300 short-range air-to-air missiles, the R-73, and 400 medium-range air-to-air guided missiles, the RVV-AE, also known as the R-77, have been ordered. The R-77 is the Russian counterpart to the US medium-range AIM-120 AMRAAM missile. The American make was unsuccessfully used by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to target Indian Su-30 MKIs on 27 February, a day after the IAF strikes on Balakot. These missiles are designed to arm the Russian-made MiG and Sukhoi aircraft. The order, meant to boost the IAF's capability, also includes a radar-busting missile, the X-31, said the sources. Russia, India eye longer range missiles Sources said Russia has also offered to help India for future orders with missiles with ranges longer than the ones it currently possesses. According to Russian Tactical Missiles Corporation, the developer and producer of most of the Russian air-to-air missiles, the R-73's range is 30 km. The range of its latest version, the RVV-MD, is 40 km. It's the same case with the R-77, which can hit targets at a distance of up to 80 km, while its latest version, the RVV-SD, can go up to 110 km. Russia is currently offering its partners globally the short-range air-to-air RVV-MD missiles, medium-range air-to-air RVV-SD missiles, long-range air-to-air RVV-BD missiles, and medium-range air-to-air RVV-AE (R-77) missiles. Integrating other missiles — for instance, the Israeli Derby air-to-air missiles — with the Su-30 will require permission from Russia, said the sources. "Russia and India can jointly implement the programme of modernisation of the IAF's air-to-air missiles. All the requirements of the Air Force can be discussed and met. The work could start as soon as possible once the formal request is made," added the sources.

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India to take up Pakistan's failure to comply with 90% of "action points"

The Economic Times, Rahul Tripathi :India will take up Pakistan's failure to comply with more than 90% of "action points" set by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its upcoming plenary and urge the inter-governmental body formed to help combat terror funding and money laundering to put Pakistan in its blacklist. New Delhi is likely to provide fresh evidence compiled by its National Investigation Agency on the role of Hafiz Saeed's Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) and its deputy Shahid Mahmood in a conspiracy to create sleeper terror cells in the garb of religious work in India, at the FATF meeting to be held in the US starting Sunday, government officials said. The Indian delegation for the meeting will be headed by Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) chief PK Mishra with representatives from the ministries of home affairs, external affairs and finance, NIA, Enforcement

Directorate, and Intelligence Bureau, among others. India will lobby to put Pakistan in the blacklist and bring more curbs on the activities of Pakistan-based militant groups, sources said. Citing investigations into FIF, New Delhi is likely to argue that the Pakistan-based militant groups continue to create unrest outside Jammu and Kashmir too. According to NIA's chargesheet into the FIF terror funding case, "Hafiz Saeed and deputy chief of FIF Shahid Mahmood had financed terror modules in Delhi and Haryana in garb of construction of mosque, madrasa education, and financial assistance for marriage of poor Muslim girls". Mahmood, according to NIA, was sending funds from Pakistan to India via Dubai and through hawala channels. The agency had arrested two Indian nationals late last year for allegedly using the funds provided by Mahmood for the construction of a mosque in Palwal, Haryana.

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India cannot stay immune to global impact of the trade war: HSBC's Quinn

Mint, Shayan Ghosh :As the US-China trade war heats up, the impact on India and other developing nations is being closely watched. With India's economy showing signs of a slowdown, this trade war could be beneficial for the country if investments that would have otherwise gone to China come to India. Noel Quinn, chief executive, global commercial banking at HSBC, said in an interview that while it is an opportunity for India, the country cannot stay immune to the global impact of the trade war. Edited excerpts. How do you see the US-China trade war and how will it impact India? We clearly prefer an environment where there are no trade tensions. With respect to this, there are two potential impacts. First, I believe that there is the potential for a negative impact for us all globally—world trade, world consumption and the growth of global GDP could be negatively impacted by trade tensions between two large powers like the US and China. I do not think any economy in the world will be immune from the impact. There is then the potential for positive impact for India. By this, I mean that investments that otherwise would have gone into production capacities in China could be attracted to other markets like India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Do you think India is ready to receive these potential investments in terms of say timely approvals? I think the goods and services tax (GST) is a good example of removing bureaucracy and red tape and barriers to trade and more needs to happen. The one thing I would say if I look at the historic and current strengths of the Chinese manufacturing is not that they just have good factories. It is that they have good logistics around the manufacturing capabilities, the ability to move goods from the manufacturing plant to the port and from the port to the overseas destination. Many of the markets looking to benefit from investments going into them will not only need to build manufacturing, but need the infrastructure necessary for movement of goods into and out of the country. That is where India still has some development to do. Since you mentioned GST,

could you explain how it has benefited trade? The creation of GST has allowed a trade to take place within India much more easily than it used to be. Everybody thinks of trade as an international phenomenon, but actually trade within India is equally an opportunity for many small businesses. I would look at the positive aspects of GST and the uniformity of a tax system that allows free movement of goods within India. This makes the tax system easier to understand. It is going to have medium to long term benefits that are yet to fully materialize, and the physical ability to move goods and build national distribution capabilities and national sales capabilities within India will be the long-term positive effects of GST. I believe this can encourage overseas investments into India. What innovations in global trade are you witnessing at the moment? The biggest innovation impacting global trade is the digitization of documentation and all of the paperwork that is associated with trade today. The primary benefit of that is being able to authenticate documentation and therefore eliminate the risk of fraud because you have a digital certificate that has an identity and authenticity attached to it. The second benefit is the removal of paper and the processing of paper, which should lower the overall cost of transactions. The real reduction in the cost of doing trade will come from the third benefit though, which is the decrease in time between starting and finishing a transaction in a digital format. It will shorten the working capital cycle. So, if today a trade transaction takes 10 days, in the digital world, a trade transaction could take just one or two days.

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India likely to be among top 20 global FDI sources by 2021: UN body

Business Standard, Subhayan Chakraborty :The growing number of Indian companies eyeing international acquisitions is expected to make the country one of the top 20 global sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) soon, shows a report by a UN body. "India and the UAE — not traditionally in the top 20 outward investor countries — were also listed among the top 10 sources of FDI, for the 2019-2021 period, shows the report on international FDI flows by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Drawing inference from a survey of investment promotion agencies globally, the report points out that India's equity outflows stood at \$11.03 billion in 2018. Firms on shopping spree The current year has seen a string of announcements by Indian majors, according to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a trust established by the commerce department. Infosys has announced the acquisition of 75 per cent stake in a subsidiary of Dutch bank ABN AMRO. In March, Sun Pharmaceuticals also raised its stake in Russia's PJSC Biosintez to 97 per cent. Closer to home, Ashok Leyland has set up a new facility in Dhaka, in a joint venture with IFAD Autos. The sales, service, and spare parts facility is spread over 138,000 square feet, and will cater to the entire range of Ashok Leyland vehicles. In addition, auto components major JBM Group has purchased a majority

stake in Linde-Wiemann, a German structural components producer. OYO is planning to invest \$1.2 billion in expansion across key markets, including China. Falling inbound FDI However, inbound FDI remains a different story. While the report said that FDI inflows rose 6 per cent in 2018 to \$42 billion, the government's own data for the entire FY19 period has shown that inbound equity investments declined for the first time in six years in FY19. Latest figures released last month by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) revealed that equity inflows reduced to \$44.36 billion, down 1 per cent from \$44.85 billion last year. "Apart from a wait-and-watch policy adopted by global investors before the elections, volatility in the stock market as well as the overall weak health of the corporate sector may have scared off new inflows," said Devendra Pant, chief economist at India Ratings. India's economy officially grew 6.8 per cent in FY19 — lowest in the Modi government's first tenure. Private investments remained subdued and demand — particularly in the rural sector — was muted. However, investors may now rally around the massive mandate given to the incumbent government and investments may rise accordingly, Pant added. In the subcontinent, FDI inflows to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka rose to a record \$3.6 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively. However, Pakistan witnessed a 27 per cent decline in investment to \$2.4 billion. In FY19, Singapore turned out to be the largest source of offshore funds, with FDI rising nearly 25 per cent to \$16.22 billion. This was followed by Mauritius at \$6.8 billion and Japan at \$2.98 billion. India revised its tax treaty with Mauritius and Singapore, which has fully come into effect from the current financial year.

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India asks Canada to take a relook at work visa rules that affect mobility

The Hindu Business Line, Amiti Sen :Canada is among the top five markets for Indian IT companies India has asked Canada to respond to its long-standing demand of removing visa restrictions for short-term workers imposed as part of the temporary foreign workers programme and also make changes in the new labour market impact assessment requirements that was affecting mobility of skilled Indian workers to the country. "Addressing issues relating to mobility of skilled professionals from India to Canada, including the procedural delays in visa processing, and removing other restrictions in the temporary foreign workers programme will be of mutual benefit," according to a statement made by India as part of Canada's Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organization. The Indian delegation pointed out that domestic companies were finding it difficult to send employees to their Canadian units on short-term visas due to the temporary foreign workers programme imposed in 2014, and it had hit services trade in a big way. "The existing temporary foreign workers programme or global skills strategy of Canada is unable to cater to the requirements of IT professionals and other services providers from the country," the submission stated. The programme makes it more

complicated for temporary foreign workers to work in Canada because of elaborate procedures and increase in costs of bringing in foreign workers. The new Labour Market Impact Assessment imposes onerous burdens on employers, thereby affecting skilled labour mobility from India to Canada, it added. As per the rules, Canadian employers wishing to hire a foreign worker must first receive government approval before the hiring can take place in the form of a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). In order to receive a positive LMIA, it must be determined that the hiring of a foreign worker will have a positive or neutral effect on the Canadian labour market. Canada is among the top five markets for Indian IT companies. The others include the US, the UK, Germany and Switzerland. On trade in goods, the delegation pointed out that India has regularly highlighted issues related to export of Indian agricultural products including fruits and vegetables which face challenges due to burdensome requirements of testing, inspection and SPS measures.

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Hurriyat Conference asks PMs of India and Pakistan to resume talks

The Times of India, PTI :Moderate Hurriyat Conference on Thursday asked the prime ministers of India and Pakistan to use the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek to break the ice and resume engagement between the two countries. "We reiterate that political engagement is the most effective way to move forward and end the painful bloodshed in Kashmir. We urge India-Pakistan leadership to break the ice at SCO and engage with each other," Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said after a meeting of the amalgam here. He said the Hurriyat Conference is concerned and anguished over the continued bloodshed and killings across the Kashmir Valley. "People of Kashmir are suffering the consequences of the conflict for decades now," he added.

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India planning to have own space station: Isro chief

The Times of India, PTI :NEW DELHI: India is planning to launch its own space station, Isro chief K Sivan said Thursday. The ambitious project will be an extension of the Gaganyaan mission . Gaganyaan mission aims to send Indians to space by December 2021: Isro "We have to sustain the Gaganyaan programme after the launch of (the) human space mission. In this context, India is planning to have its own space station," Sivan told reporters here.

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India set to join exclusive club of heavyweight torpedo makers

The Times of India, Bureau :India's underwater weaponry is set to get more fire power with the Navy deciding to induct indigenously developed heavyweight torpedo 'Varunastra' into its arsenal. With this, India will join a group of only eight countries to have the capability to manufacture heavyweight torpedoes. The torpedo has been indigenously developed by the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory

(NTSL) in Visakhapatnam. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in Hyderabad, has signed a contract worth Rs 1,187 crore to manufacture the torpedoes. BDL informed on Thursday that the manufacturing would take place at its Visakhapatnam unit in collaboration with the DRDO. A contract for manufacture was signed by N P Diwakar, director (technical), BDL and Nidhi Chhibber, joint secretary and acquisition manager (maritime and systems), Ministry of Defence, in New Delhi on Tuesday. "The Varunastra is a ship-launched, electrically-propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems," BDL informed through an official note . Varunastra is considered to be 95 per cent indigenous. BDL, which was involved in the production had earlier delivered it to the Indian Navy in 2016 which evaluated it. Subsequently, a decision was taken to order for the production. The torpedo has the capability to hit stealth submarines underwater. It is seven to eight metres long and weighs 1,500 kg and has a diameter of 533 mm. When fired, it can travel at 40 knots or 74 km per hour. The operational range is 40 km and it can carry a warhead weighing 250 kg. India also intends to sell the heavyweight torpedo to friendly nations.

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After Anantnag terror attack, CRPF may change J&K deployment drill

Hindustan Times, Sudhi Ranjan Sen :Motorcycle-borne militants gunned down five CRPF troopers on one of the busiest roads in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Wednesday in the first major terrorist strike since the killing of 40 soldiers by a suicide bomber in Pulwama on February 14. The terror attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) contingent that killed five security personnel in Anantnag on June 12 appeared to have been carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, people aware of the investigations said on Thursday, adding that the deployment process of the force could undergo a major change to bolster the security apparatus in Jammu & Kashmir. Motorcycle-borne militants gunned down five CRPF troopers on one of the busiest roads in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Wednesday in the first major terrorist strike since the killing of 40 soldiers by a suicide bomber in Pulwama on February 14. Shortly after the attack on Wednesday, an obscure group named Al-Umar Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack. "The group is largely defunct without any following," a senior home ministry official said on condition of anonymity. "Al-Umer Mujahideen claiming responsibility for the attack as against the JeM gives Pakistan deniability," he added. Another official of the home ministry said the CRPF soldiers killed in the daylight attack were an "easy target" for a terrorist strike. "CRPF soldiers were positioned in the open... this may change," the official said, asking not to be named. "They can be placed inside a police station or a fortified area and called in when required," he added, indicating a new approach to how the force will be used. In Jammu & Kashmir, the CRPF is involved in counterterror operations and assists in road-opening operations. The force also

assists the local administration in maintaining law and order in the militancy-hit region. Keeping CRPF troopers away from the public eye, especially when deployed to assist the local police, will likely decrease their vulnerability to such attacks. "At the same time, since they are positioned nearby, they can respond when required," the second home ministry official said. The director general of CRPF, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, briefed Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba about the first major strike on security forces since the Pulwama suicide attack, which occurred on a highway roughly 35km from the spot where Wednesday's firing took place. The two officials also discussed the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. This is not the first time the government has considered changing the standard operating procedure in the recent past after a terror strike. Following the Pulwama attack, which led to an escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan and pushed the two countries to the brink of war, the Centre had allowed airlifting of soldiers, changing the manner in which soldiers were transported to the Valley. Jammu & Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik said on Thursday that the Anantnag incident was "fidayeen attack" that was carried out at the behest of Pakistan. "Pakistan ordered the fidayeen attack [suicide attack]. Whenever there is peace in the Valley, Pakistan tries to disrupt it by resorting to such attacks," he said. Five CRPF troopers, including two assistant sub-inspectors and a militant, were killed in the suicide attack on KP Road in Anantnag. A civilian and three security men, including a station house officer, were injured in the attack. While the police said on Wednesday that two motorcycle-borne militants drove down KP Road and opened fire at CRPF personnel at 4.50pm, eyewitnesses told investigators on Thursday that only one terrorist carried out the attack. "The body of the terrorist has not been claimed, indicating the terrorist is a foreign terrorist," a senior J&K government official said, asking not to be named. One of the five soldiers killed in the attack shot dead the terrorist before losing his life, preliminary evidence collected by investigators has suggested. In the first six months of this year, security forces killed 111 militants, including some top commanders of terror outfits in different parts of Kashmir. Many of the militants were killed in south Kashmir.

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Look at e-comm, new models of trade, says forum looking to revive BCIM

Hindustan Times, Sutirtho Patranobis :The Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar economic corridor (BCIM-EC) should focus on developing e-commerce instead of waiting for physical infrastructure to come up, a leading study group looking into reviving the seemingly stillborn trade route has suggested. Meeting after a gap of four years, the joint statement released on Tuesday by the 13th BCIM Regional Cooperation Forum, comprising scholars and officials from the four countries, didn't make any mention of the corridor as part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Forum met in Yuxi in the southwestern Yunnan province on

Tuesday. The corridor envisages a trade route between Kunming in Yunnan and Kolkata in India that passes through Mandalay in Myanmar and Chittagong in Bangladesh. Tuesday's forum focused on the theme: "New Era New Opportunities for A New Decade of BCIM Cooperation" – the theme itself an indication that the corridor needs a fresh look. China had dropped the BCIM-EC from the list of 35 corridors under the BRI, released at the end of the 2nd BRI Forum held in Beijing in April. It had led to speculation that the multilateral impetus to promote and build the BCIM had fizzled and that it was the end of the road for the initiative. Foreign ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang tried to allay the doubts on Monday. At the regular press briefing on Monday, he said "...BCIM has not been abandoned. It is very much on board... In fact, the 13th meeting of the BCIM forum to discuss the progress is being held on the sidelines of the China, South Asia Business Forum currently being held in Yunnan province," he had said. The joint statement said that 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the BCIM cooperation mechanism – sort of admitting that nothing much has moved on the ground to build the corridor for two decades. The meeting focussed on four topics: Improving cooperation mechanism of the BCIM Forum, stronger cooperation on BCIM comprehensive connectivity, trade and investment facilitation for stronger competitiveness of the regional economy, and enriching BCIM cooperation in social and cultural sectors. "It is necessary to further deepen cooperation and promote substantial progress in the building of the BCIM EC while considering the specific circumstances of the Parties (the four countries). Efforts should be made to optimise the policy environment for the connectivity and to facilitate the efficient, systematic and orderly cross-border flow of goods and services," the joint statement said. The statement added: "The Parties noted that the infrastructure development faces the challenge of inadequate capital investment. In view of this, the Parties are willing to work together to innovate the application of public-private partnerships in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Parties to efficiently utilise financial resources". The joint statement suggested stronger e-commerce ties between the four countries. "The Parties called for upholding multilateralism and free-trade and further strengthening regional economic and trade exchanges, promoting investment cooperation and cross-border logistics. The Parties agreed to support enterprises, especially SMEs, of the four countries to utilise e-commerce and other new models for developing cross-border trade," it added. It remains to be seen how the BCIM-EC progresses. Luo Zhaohui, who is now vice foreign minister, wrote as the Chinese envoy to India in May in the Hindustan Times: "China and India have conducted cooperation under the framework of BCIM. During the Wuhan Summit, PM Narendra Modi pointed out that the BCIM construction should be speeded up. We expect that the fourth meeting of the Joint Study Group (an official group) would be held later this year to complete the joint study report".

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The BJP in Power and Ashley J. Tellis on India's Foreign Policy Future

Hindustan Times, Bureau :This week on Grand Tamasha, Milan Vaishnav (Director of the South Asia programme at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace) sits down with Kumar Uttam (Associate Editor, Hindustan Times) to discuss the state of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the heels of its second consecutive election victory. Uttam and Milan discuss the role that Amit Shah, the longtime confidant of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and newly inaugurated Union Home Minister, will play in the Modi 2.0 government. Uttam also shares his insights into the future of the BJP party organization, the makeup of the Cabinet, and the government's early priorities. Then, Milan talks with Ashley J. Tellis, who holds the Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Milan asks Ashley about the foreign policy challenges facing the new government, as laid out in Tellis' new Carnegie essay, "Troubles Aplenty: Foreign Policy Challenges for the Next Indian Government." Tellis also assesses Modi's first-term foreign policy record and the current turmoil in US-India relations. Milan ends the conversation by asking Tellis to reflect on Modi's choice of Dr S Jaishankar as the new External Affairs Minister. First Published: Jun 13, 2019 21:06 IST

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US wants Pakistan to prosecute terrorists, not just detain them

Hindustan Times, Yashwant Raj :The United States said on Thursday that while recent counter-terrorism measures taken by Pakistan are "important", they are "still reversible" and it needs to both "sustain" and "expand" them by "prosecuting terrorist leaders". "The reality is that terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (another spelling for Lashkar-e-Toiba, LeT) and Jaish-e-Muhammad (Jaish-e-Mohammad, JeM) will continue to pose a grave risk to international peace as long as they are able to operate freely in Pakistan," Alice Wells, head of the state department's South and Central Asia bureau, said in her prepared remarks for a congressional hearing. "Sustained progress on these two issues – reconciliation (in the context of Afghanistan) and counter-terrorism (in both Afghanistan and India) – will lie at the heart of a renewed bilateral relationship," she added. Following international outrage triggered by the Pulwama terrorist attack by Pakistan-based JeM last February, the Imran Khan government has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism measures such as detaining terrorists and seizing assets, as they have done countless times before. But the United States has been pressing Pakistan to prosecute terrorists leaders such as LeT founder Hafiz Saeed (an UN and US designated terrorist who carries a reward of \$10 million for his arrest and prosecution) and JeM's Masood Azhar, and it has responded with mounting frustration and irritation to half-measures Islamabad has taken against these operatives historically, allowing them to operate freely, to raise funds and train

cadres. President Donald Trump ordered suspension of all security related aid to Pakistan to force it to take more sustainable and irreversible action, but US officials have continued to express frustration at the lack of progress. And they have pointed to both Saeed and Azhar to make their case. Wells spoke of Azhar's designation by the UN's 1267 sanctions committee earlier, which was engineered by the United States working with the United Kingdom and France, in the face of stiff resistance, once again, by China working on behalf of its close ally Pakistan. Calling it an "achievement 10 years in the making", Wells said the listing sent "an important message that the international community would not tolerate terrorism". Outlining the Trump administration's approach to Pakistan, Wells said the strategy was to obtain Pakistan's support for the Afghanistan peace process and to follow through on pledges "to take sustained and irreversible action against all militant groups operating from within its territory".

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After PM Modi's invitation, Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit India this year

The Indian Express, Bureau : Along the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping engaged in delegation-level bilateral talks Thursday, during the course of which Jinping confirmed his readiness to visit India this year. In a statement to the media, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said that while PM Modi welcomed the Chinese leader to visit New Delhi, Jinping assured the Prime Minister about his plans to visit India this year. "PM specifically conveyed to President Jinping & he agreed that both sides need to raise our expectations from the relationship. PM welcomed him to India for next informal summit, President Xi Jinping confirmed his readiness to visit India this year," Gokhale was quoted as saying by ANI. Had an extremely fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping. Our talks included the full spectrum of India-China relations. We shall continue working together to improve economic and cultural ties between our nations. pic.twitter.com/JIPNS502I3 — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) June 13, 2019 In his interaction with the Chinese President, PM Modi also had a brief discussion about Pakistan. He asserted that India made peace efforts with its neighbour but the efforts were derailed. "PM recalled that he has made efforts and these efforts have been derailed, that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terror and at this stage we do not see this happening. We expect it to take concrete action," ANI quoted Gokhale as stating. The SCO summit is PM Modi's maiden multilateral interaction with the world leaders after winning a second term in the recently concluded 17th Lok Sabha elections. As per Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, PM Modi had a discussion about the listing of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar in the meeting. Azhar was listed as a global terrorist after China

lifted the technical hold on him. PM accepts Russia's Putin invitation to Eastern Economic Forum Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted Russian Prime Minister's invitation to be the main guest at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in early September, news agency ANI reported quoting Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale. "President Putin has invited the PM to be the main guest at Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia in early September, and PM Modi has accepted the invitation," Gokhale said. Gokhale also added that a trilateral meeting between Russia, India, and China (RIC) has been planned on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Japan's Osaka. The G-20 summit is scheduled for June 28 and June 29.

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Black or grey: What next for Pakistan at FATF?

The Indian Express, Sushant Singh :The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will hold its Plenary and Working Group meeting in Orlando, Florida, from Sunday onward. The FATF, an inter-governmental body that is now in its 30th year, works to "set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system". The June 16-21 Plenary could take up a proposal to downgrade Pakistan to the blacklist on terrorist financing from its current "greylisted" status. What Pakistan has committed to has been under the FATF's scanner since last June, when it was put on the greylist for terror financing and money laundering risks, after an assessment of its financial system and law enforcement mechanisms. FATF and its partners such as the Asia Pacific Group (APG) review Pakistan's processes, systems, and weaknesses on the basis of a standard matrix for anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) regime. In June 2018, Pakistan gave a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to strengthen its AML/CFT regime, and to address its strategic counter-terrorism financing-related deficiencies. Based on this commitment, Pakistan and the FATF agreed on the monitoring of 27 indicators under a 10-point action plan, with deadlines. Successful implementation of the action plan and its physical verification by the APG will lead the FATF to move Pakistan out of the greylist; failure by Pakistan will result in its blacklisting by September 2019. In a statement, the FATF said in February: "Given the limited progress on action plan items due in January 2019, the FATF urges Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan, particularly those with timelines of May 2019." Last month, at a meeting in Guangzhou, China, Pakistan presented its progress on the 27 indicators in a meeting with the Joint Group of the APG. India is co-chair of the Joint Group. Last week, the Joint Group informed Islamabad that its compliance on 18 of the 27 indicators was unsatisfactory, and asked it to do more to demonstrate strict action against eight terrorist groups, and in combating money laundering. If

Pakistan is blacklisted. The formal announcement will be made at the FATF Plenary scheduled in Paris from October 13-18, but the decision will be made in the forthcoming FATF Plenary in Orlando, where such a proposal could be moved. It is theoretically possible that Pakistan is moved out of the greylist. But that would require the votes of at least 15 of the FATF's 36 voting members. At least three votes would be needed to block a move to blacklist Pakistan. The 36 countries include mostly developed Western nations, but also China, Hong Kong (China), Malaysia, and Turkey. Pakistan will make a diplomatic push to thwart blacklisting. It claims it has done enough on the action plan, banning Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Masood Azhar's Jaish-e-Mohammed, and taking over their properties. The FATF has agreed that there have been improvements in the AML/CFT regime and the integrated database for currency declaration arrangements. But it has also said that Pakistan must demonstrate that terror financing prosecutions result in effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, enhancing the capacity and support for prosecutors and the judiciary. It must show effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions (supported by a comprehensive legal obligation) against all terrorists designated under UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373, and those acting for or on their behalf, including preventing the raising and moving of funds, identifying and freezing movable and immovable assets, and prohibiting access to funds and financial services. The FATF highlighted contradictory situations and poor coordination among stakeholders; the APG identified lack of cooperation among law enforcement agencies at various tiers of Pakistan's government, and expressed serious reservations over insufficient physical action against proscribed organisations to block the flow of funds. Where India comes in India is a voting member of the FATF and APG, and co-chair of the Joint Group where it is represented by the Director General of India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Pakistan had asked for India's removal from the group, citing bias and motivated action, but that demand has been rejected. India was not part of the group that moved the resolution to greylist Pakistan last year in Paris. The movers were the US, UK, France, and Germany; China did not oppose. Why FATF action matters Pakistan faces an estimated annual loss of \$10 billion if it stays in the greylist; if blacklisted, its already fragile economy will be dealt a powerful blow. Pakistan's \$6 billion loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could be threatened. The IMF has asked Pakistan to show commitment against money laundering and terror financing.

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Can't fathom Modi mania despite 'bad state' of the economy: Siddaramaiah

The Indian Express, PTI : Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah Thursday said he was unable to understand the Modi mania, despite the "bad state" of the economy under the previous BJP regime led by him. The former Chief Minister alleged that

the BJP won the Lok Sabha election raising emotive issues, rather than delivering on development. People of the country, including the media, have favoured Narendra Modi's five-year government, despite low GDP growth, increase in unemployment and dwindling value of the Rupee, Siddaramaiah said. "...they have destroyed the country's economy...despite all this Modi, Modi, Modi- I don't know why?" Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said, "As the Prime Minister for five years, what did he do for economic development? Demonetization- what was its result? You (media) should ask BJP people." Stating that the economy can be brought back on track, the CLP leader said the BJP would not be able to do it. The Congress, which is part of the ruling coalition in Karnataka, was routed in the recent Lok Sabha polls, winning only one out of the 21 seats it had contested. It was the party's worst ever performance in the state, once its bastion. Congress' alliance partner JD(S) too won one out of the seven seats it contested. The BJP, in its best ever performance, had won 25 out of the 27 seats it contested. An independent candidate supported by the BJP had won in Mandya. Siddaramaiah also raised questions on the Indian Air Force air strikes at Balakot in response to the Pulwama terror attack. "How many terrorists were killed we still don't know. Neither the Defence Department nor the Prime Minister's Office or External Affairs Ministry has come out on this. They have misled the people with emotional issues." He also hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said everyone was aware what had happened when he was the Home Minister of Gujarat, but did not elaborate. Siddaramaiah also asserted that Rahul Gandhi would and should continue as the Congress president. "In today's situation there is no one else who can take up the job, there is no alternate leadership," he said. The Congress Legislature party in Karnataka had recently passed a resolution, urging Gandhi to continue in the post. Gandhi had offered to quit as party chief at the May 25 Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, convened to analyse the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls, in which it won just 52 seats. The CWC had unanimously rejected his offer to quit, but Gandhi was apparently firm on his stand. Following Gandhi's insistence on quitting, there is speculation on the need to put in place an interim arrangement in the Congress for decision making, especially in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

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Benjamin Netanyahu thanks Narendra Modi for vote against Palestinian group

The Hindu, PTI :Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for voting in favour of a decision introduced by the Jewish state that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian group at the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In a rare move, India voted in favour of Israel in ECOSOC to deny the Palestinian non-governmental organisation 'Shahed' the observer status, after Israel said the organisation did not disclose its ties

with Hamas. “Thank you @NarendraModi, thank you India, for your support and for standing with Israel at the UN,” Mr. Netanyahu tweeted from his official handle on Wednesday, almost a week after the June 6 vote. It is the first time that India has voted on a resolution at the UN that is being perceived as pro-Israel. India’s position on the Middle East Peace Process has been consistent. India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and relevant UNSC Resolutions. The ECOSOC vote, which took place at the UN, saw countries such as the U.S., France, Germany, India, Japan, the U.K., South Korea and Canada polling in favour of Israel, while China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others voted against it. The proposal made by the Palestinian NGO ‘Shahed’ to obtain observer status in the UN was rejected by a 28-14 vote. Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has been described as a terrorist organisation by many European countries.

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How the world is dealing with China’s military modernisation drive

The Hindu, Suyash Desai :China’s Defence minister Wei Fenghe made a speech on June 2 at the Shangri-La Dialogue forum in Singapore. Shangri-La Dialogue is one of the biggest track-one diplomacy security fora of Asia. Mr. Fenghe’s speech was monitored closely for three reasons. One, the Defence minister has not attended this forum since 2011. Two, his speech was a response to the statement made by Patrick Shanahan, the acting secretary of defence for the United States. Mr. Shanahan revealed details of the ‘new phase’ in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy. Third and most importantly, the speech came a month after the Chinese military report published by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The DOD report cautioned the U.S. Congress about the rapid modernisation of the Chinese armed forces. The report claims that the Chinese leadership aims to achieve informatisation of the People’s Liberation Army by 2020 and modernisation by 2035, with the broader goal of developing the PLA into a world-class force by 2050. The report gives considerable attention to the advancement of the PLA Navy (PLAN). There has been an evolution in the approach of the PLAN from ‘off-shore water defence’ to ‘open sea protection’ due to its increased military capabilities. The report says that China’s second aircraft carrier, Type 001 A, would likely be commissioned by the end of this year. This would be followed by the induction of another carrier, Type 002, in a short span of time. The Type 002 carrier is expected to be equipped with advanced launch capabilities in the form of an electromagnetic catapult. Currently, this technology is available only with the single aircraft carrier of the U.S. Navy, the USS Gerald R. Ford. The report also states that the PLAN currently operates four nuclear-powered ballistic missile-carrying submarines (SSBNs) and six nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs), predicting that this number would increase in the near future.

The DOD report further cautions the U.S. Congress to expect the establishment of more overseas PLA bases, like the one in Djibouti, in the Indo-Pacific region in the near future. What does this mean for regional stakeholders? Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has been the unquestioned military superpower around the globe. It currently operates over 11 aircraft carriers. But the supremacy of the U.S. Navy is slowly being challenged by the PLA in the Indo-Pacific region. The Taiwan Strait crisis of 1996 was a turning point for the PLA Navy. The presence of a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Kitty Hawk, in the region during the Taiwanese election underscored for the Chinese leadership the need to undertake rapid naval modernisation. Over the years, the PLA Navy has invested in and developed Anti Access / Area Denial (A2/AD) capabilities, significantly enhancing its ability to challenge the U.S. Navy along the three seas (Yellow Sea, South China Sea and East China Sea). Assessing the impact of the PLA's modernisation on the regional balance of power, a bipartisan commission set up by the U.S. Congress in 2018 delineated that in case of a war with China over Taiwan, "Americans could face a decisive military defeat". For India, the PLA Navy's modernisation has implications in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). India considers the IOR as part of its sphere of influence. But increased Chinese investments in commercial ports in the region have led to concern about increased PLAN activity and possibly new bases. In 2017, the PLA established its first overseas military outpost in Djibouti. The new DOD report cautions that "China will seek to establish additional military bases in countries with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests". In this context, Pakistan appears to be the front-runner. Hambantota in Sri Lanka could also possibly be another candidate, although Chinese influence there thus far remains merely commercial. Also, it would not be wrong to believe that one of the three aircraft carriers of China, in the near future, would be operational out of the IOR. Such developments in the IOR are a point of concern for India. For the Japanese, Vietnamese and the ASEAN navies, the stakes are much higher as they are directly involved in territorial island disputes with the PRC in the East and South China Seas. There are three ways in which the increasing footprint of China is being challenged by the regional stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region — by strengthening the existing military partnerships and agreements, enhancing capabilities, and acquisition of naval bases. The choice is subjective, and depends on the country's ambitions, interests and capacities. For the United States, the approach towards China in the Indo-Pacific region has changed from accommodation and competition to strategic competition. The U.S. strategy for the Indo-Pacific region, according to its 2017 National Security Strategy is to maintain 'forward military presence', which is capable of 'detering and, if necessary, defeating any adversary'. The U.S. has many more naval bases than China in this region. It already has military alliances with Japan, South Korea and the Philippines and informal

partnerships with India, Singapore and Australia. The 2017 NSS also refers to strengthening of informal Quadrilateral security dialogue, i.e. the Quad, between the U.S., India, Australia and Japan. But there has been no substantive developments in the Quad, and it has been confined to media talks for now. In the case of India, its primary theatre of operation and interest is the IOR. India aims is to beef up its naval capacity and might. India is one of the major regional major allies for the U.S. in its approach to rebalancing the Indo-Pacific region. However, India's approach to the IOR comes with a mix of balancing and accommodating China, with greater emphasis on the former. India has informal partnerships with the U.S. and French navies in the IOR. The scope of the partnership is restricted to non-traditional security initiatives like intelligence and information-sharing, joint naval exercises and drills, joint naval operations against the non-state actors in the high seas, logistics-sharing and deepening tri-lateral and multilateral cooperation with like-minded countries. It is not unimaginable to see such partnerships with Japanese, Vietnamese, Australian and select ASEAN navies in the foreseeable future. However, India has refrained from being a party to any formal security/military arrangement or dialogue which would be overtly targeted towards China. Its apprehensions towards the Quad comes from this thought process. India is blessed with a wide coastline and has a geographic advantage in the IOR. This negates the need of foreign military bases in the IOR. However, despite this, India and Seychelles have agreed to work jointly in Assumption Island for raising a possible naval military infrastructure. The other regional stakeholders such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore are walking a tightrope between balancing and bandwagoning against China and the U.S. These navies have tried to balance against China by having a close linkages with the U.S. Navy and at the same time, have started to conduct smaller maritime drills, engagements and associations with the PLAN. For instance, ASEAN navies held their first joint multilateral naval exercise with China in 2018. The Thai navy recently conducted a joint maritime exercise with the Chinese navy in the South China Sea. Since stakes for these countries in this region is high, due to ongoing territorial disputes, they prefer a more cautious approach in dealing with PLAN in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Trump says would take foreign info on 2020 presidential opponent

The Hindu, PTI :President Donald Trump said that he would be willing to accept information from a foreign country on his opponent in the 2020 election race, after years of denying Moscow helped him win office. Trump team contacts with Russians during the 2016 presidential race led to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into possible collusion and obstruction of justice, as well as several similar and ongoing efforts in Congress. The Russia issue has consumed the Trump presidency for the past two years, and his new remarks suggested he still sees

nothing wrong with a U.S. political candidate accepting help from a foreign power. "I think you might want to listen... there's nothing wrong with listening," Mr. Trump said when asked by ABC News what he would do if a country such as Russia or China offered him such information. He denied the suggestion that that would amount to foreign meddling in a US election. "It's not an interference, they have information -- I think I'd take it," Mr. Trump said. "If I thought there was something wrong, I'd go maybe to the FBI - if I thought there was something wrong," Mr. Trump said. Mueller's report on his investigation stated that while there was insufficient evidence to charge Trump with criminal conspiracy, he was happy enough to benefit from Russian dirty tricks. Democratic presidential frontrunner Joe Biden said that Mr. Trump was "welcoming" foreign interference in US voting. "This isn't about politics. It is a threat to our national security. An American President should not seek their aid and abet those who seek to undermine democracy," Mr. Biden said on Twitter. Another Democratic presidential hopeful, Elizabeth Warren, seized on Mr. Trump's comments to repeat her strident calls for him to be impeached. "The #MuellerReport made it clear: A foreign government attacked our 2016 elections to support Trump, Trump welcomed that help, and Trump obstructed the investigation," Ms. Warren tweeted. "Now, he said he'd do it all over again. It's time to impeach Donald Trump." Democrats in Congress continue to seek testimony and information as they press the president with multiple investigations -- mostly related to Russia meddling, obstruction and the 2016 election -- and are debating among themselves whether there is enough evidence and political space to pursue impeachment. The president's remarks came on the same day that his son Donald Jr was grilled by US senators about his contacts with Russians. The younger Mr. Trump likely faced questioning about his role in arranging meeting at Trump Tower in June 2016 that included his father's son-in-law Jared Kushner, then-campaign manager Paul Manafort, and a Russian lawyer offering dirt on Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. "If it's what you say, I love it," Mr. Trump Jr had written in response to a 2016 email offering the information. Some Democrats suspect Mr. Trump Jr may have lied in previous testimony in 2017 about what he and his father knew about the now-infamous meeting, as well as other connections between the Trump campaign and Russia. The Trump team had initially tried to cover up the meeting, providing conflicting stories about its purpose and what happened. Mueller's report detailed how the president's former lawyer Michael Cohen recalled that Trump Jr may have told his father about the meeting. The president has denied knowing about it ahead of time.

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[TCA Raghavan on India's Pakistan policy, and Harsh Mander on what he 'dreads' Modi govt will do](#)

The Print, Aastha Singh, Remya Nair Updated :TCA Raghavan | Retired diplomat, director general, Indian Council of World Affairs Hindustan Times Raghavan says that while the new Modi government armed with a "massive mandate" encourages India to be "ambitious" in its foreign policy, there are two issues of paramount importance with respect to the India-Pakistan relations. First, the success and implementation of much of India's policy on Pakistan has come to depend on what internal changes Pakistan has been going through be it the turbulence in its economy or the "unpredictability" surrounding the civil-military equations. The writer goes on to say that the origins of the latter can "often" be held responsible for the "origins" of the downfall of India-Pakistan relations, adding that India does not have a policy "instrument" to deal with this. The second point is the "nature" of India's Pakistan policy itself which has often seen "dialogue", "normalisation", "stabilisation", "peace process" and "conflict resolution" get "coalesced". He suggests that it could be "desirable" if these actions could be internally separated and sequenced. Harsh Mander | Human rights worker, writer and teacher The Hindu Mander writes about "a mounting disquiet" that the re-election of the Modi government has brought to fore. "The signals are of a much more openly ideologically-driven government than even the first tenure of Mr. Modi..." He lists out things which he hopes, "this government will not do, but intensely dread(s) that it will." He fears a rise in hate speeches and lynchings. The National Register of Citizens "will manufacture statelessness at a scale no country has known" he writes. He also fears that cases of Hindutva terror will be whitewashed and cow vigilantism will lead to loss of livelihoods for many Dalits and Muslims. Kashmir will "burn with an even more muscular militarist approach" while the government will pave way for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Dissent will be curbed in universities and textbooks will be altered to plant "RSS's version of history". Above all, Mander fears that "the country we give our children will no longer be a place of freedom and justice, or even ordinary kindness". Ajay Srivastava | Indian Trade Service officer The Times of India Srivastava speaks about electric vehicles (EV) and how lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) its most critical part, has limitations that have prevented widespread adoption of these vehicles. He elaborates on reasons why India need not hurry in adopting EVs for the next 10 years. He discusses how LIBs are expensive and do not enable long distance travel. The two most-used raw materials for LIBs, lithium and cobalt are in "short supply" as there are few countries who have reserves of these metals. He also says that work on "inexpensive next-gen" batteries is only at its "beginning stage" and hence India must gear up to face the "coming disruption in the automobile industry" because of competition from EVs and take the next 10 years to invest in "next-gen battery technology" and reduce dependency on other countries. Arun Prakash | Retired chief of naval staff The Indian Express Prakash dwells on what the scope of national security for India should be and reflects on the urgency to

bring about defence reforms. He underlines how national security has been "stretched" to include many issues and advises viewing it through a "narrow prism". India can then come up with a less "ambitious doctrine" which focuses on defence and security only. He also calls for "clarity" of "roles and responsibilities" for the chairman as well as the chiefs of staff committee. He feels that out of all the "expert recommendations" made by the UPA and NDA regimes for defence reforms, the "most significant" is the appointment of the chief of defence staff. He also writes that it would be "myopic" for India if it delayed its defence reforms in the face of China's "radical military transformation". Shankar Acharya | Honorary professor at ICRIER and former chief economic advisor Business Standard Acharya writes about challenges before the NDA government with every key macro economic indicator except inflation "flashing amber or red" signals. He writes on the steps that can be taken to revive growth, investment and employment, and speaks about ways to strengthen financial stability. He highlights the limited space on the fiscal front that need steps to increase GST revenues and the expanding of the direct tax base. He talks about the need to address the NPA problem and stress in the NBFC sector to ensure effective transmission of rate cuts. He also pushes for land, labour and agriculture reforms. M Veerappa Moily | Congress leader and former corporate affairs minister The Economic Times Moily writes how non-performing assets in the banking sector has reached unmanageable levels and the "investment climate" has become "tardy". He writes on the impact of the IL&FS crisis on the overall financial sector and says that the government has not taken it seriously. The government seems more interested in "winding up the company". He also says that the new government should "give up its practice of not paying outstanding dues to public sector and other infrastructure companies". He adds that if there is "no attitudinal change in the government", India could be headed towards a bigger investment crisis with cascading effects on the economy at large. Soumya Kanti Ghosh | Group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India and Prithwis K De | London based artificial intelligence researcher Mint Ghosh and De write that artificial intelligence is least likely to destroy humans as contended by SpaceX founder Elon Musk. They point out how AI has been playing a huge role in detection and creating antidotes for maladies that are affecting 95 per cent of the world's population. Better disease detection and timely treatments can bring down mortality rates and increase life expectancy over a period of time, they write, adding how accuracy of disease detection will improve if AI and humans join hands. They also write that this doesn't mean machines will stop needing highly-skilled humans to create machines and low-skilled people to run them. With inputs from Rachel John Read Global Pulse for a sampler of the big international stories, and why they matter

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Pakistan extends airspace ban along its eastern border with India till June 28

Mint, Bureau :Pakistan on Thursday extended its airspace ban along its eastern border with India for the third time till June 28, according to a notice issued by the country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Pakistan fully closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot. Since then, it has only opened two routes, both of them pass through southern Pakistan, of the total 11. Pakistan's civil aviation authority is expected to review the situation on June 15. The IAF announced on May 31 that all temporary restrictions imposed on Indian airspace post the Balakot airstrike have been removed. The CAA notice issued to airmen (NOTAM) on Thursday says: "Pakistani airspace will be closed until June 28 along its eastern border with India. The Panjgoor airspace will remain open for overflying transit flights from the western side as Air India had already been using that airspace." A Pakistan government official told PTI that since there has been no official communication between the two countries regarding opening of their airspace for each other the "status quo" will prevail. "See if some development takes place at the government's level in this respect before June 28," he said. On Wednesday Pakistan gave a special permission to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's VVIP flight to use its airspace for his official trip to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. However Modi's flight avoided flying over Pakistan. Earlier, Pakistan had allowed India's (former) External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to fly directly through Pakistani airspace to participate in the meeting of SCO foreign ministers in Bishkek on May 21. Pakistan earlier had indicated that it may lift the airspace ban along its eastern border with India imposed on February 27 to reciprocate India's decision to remove all restrictions on all air routes in the Indian airspace. As a result of the ban, foreign carriers using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly detours because they cannot fly over Pakistan. The closure mainly affects flights from Europe to Southeast Asia. The flights from Europe and the US flying in and out of New Delhi have been the worst hit. Since Pakistan's airspace closure, the airfare on many routes have gone up significantly, including Delhi-Kabul, Delhi-Moscow, Delhi-Tehran and Delhi-Astana.

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Views/ Editorials

Opinion | Manipur calls for serious action on security front, beyond the optics

Mint, Sudeep Chakravarti :Manipur's chief minister Nongthombam Biren announced to a visiting Myanmar delegation on 11 June that the north-eastern state remains "safe and productive" for business and investment. It was in the capital Imphal at a conference titled Connecting India's Northeast with North West Region of Myanmar: Road map for all-round Prosperity. It was co-organized by the

government of Manipur, the ministry of external affairs, and the New Delhi-based hard-right policy think-tank, India Foundation. Biren's upbeat pitch projected one of the weakest economies in the region, with appalling infrastructure, great corruption, and an immense concentration of army and paramilitary forces to offset Naga, Meitei, Kuki and Zomi rebels. Indeed a state to which the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, is applied, except for some areas of Imphal—but which is "sanitized" with Kashmir-like checks before the visit of "VVIPs". In some ways, it was reminiscent of the time India's Congress-era tourism minister, H.K.L. Bhagat, ensconced by anti-terrorist commandos wielding state-of-the-art assault weapons, assured a group of overseas tour operators in New Delhi, that India was safe. It was the mid-eighties. Or the time Jammu & Kashmir's chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, similarly ensconced, invited businesspersons and analysts over Christmas in 2003 to assure us all was well. I counted a dozen army checkpoints on the drive up to Gulmarg from Srinagar, besides numerous heavily armed patrols and army outposts. Biren of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has similar security accoutrements. In Manipur, which I visit frequently, checkpoints are legion and rough handling of citizens routine. Even so, from the perspective of agenda, the conference was an indicator worth highlighting. Manipur is in several ways a live project for the eastward push for both national politics and national business, with a pitch of shared prosperity offered to the state's multi-ethnic, multi-religious people who harbour a very strong sense of ethnic identity and sense of nation—their individual nations. In the same way Assam was electorally won by pressing the case for security of the majority population allied to development, the underpinning of logic in Manipur has, since 2017, been a hammering away at potential benefits of the so-called Act East Policy, with Manipur as the overland bridgehead to Myanmar and beyond. Better infrastructure has remained the wishful blueprint, and the subject of numerous promises made by several senior BJP officials during election stump speeches for local and national elections. Perhaps as importantly, both public and private sector organizations have eyed Manipur for its potential hydrocarbon reserves, and other minerals. A few companies also conducted prospecting exercises, as this column has earlier noted, but abandoned them in the face of extortion by rebel groups, mostly Naga in this case. A "productive" Manipur, therefore, is predicated on a "safe" Manipur. While the first is wishful thinking and, to be fair, such thinking is the conceptual basis of any manner of progress, to transform it to self-fulfilling prophecy of a "safe" Manipur is trickier. It will be entirely absent, like infrastructure promised for several decades, unless Naga peace talks conclude successfully (Manipur has vast Naga homelands) and the peace process begins with half a dozen Meitei rebel groups, which seek to represent Manipur's largest and most influential ethnic group—one to which Biren belongs. Manipur is in several ways a project of the India Foundation, an institution

associated with India's current national security apparatus. Indeed, within days of Biren's assuming his post as the chief minister, an India Foundation fellow, Rajat Sethi, was appointed Biren's adviser. Sethi's Twitter account records the adviser's admiration of BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, who oversees northeast India for the party. Although it reflects an organization that doesn't shirk from marrying public policy with politics, a track-two effort of this sort through an organization in which senior BJP officials, including Madhav, and legislators hold key positions, brings policy heft. Especially, as in the case of Manipur, the government is for the time BJP-led. But the ask in Manipur, as in the rest of north-east India, is way beyond optics.

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Opinion | Pompeo Modified?

Mint, Bureau :What is more important is whether India is able to restore balance in the relationship. It needs to take the ties beyond the optics Just a few days ago, US President Donald Trump expressed dissatisfaction with India's high import tax on Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Now, his secretary of state Mike Pompeo has struck a comforting note, using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election slogan "Modi hai to mumkin hai" ahead of his India visit. Their tones suggest they are playing good cop, bad cop. The US has a long list of demands, including India allowing greater market access, and for New Delhi to stop buying oil from Iran and military equipment from Russia and, instead, buy both from America. It also wants India to cut import tariffs. They seem to be preparing the ground to soften Indian negotiations. For India, it is important not to get carried away by the bonhomie. New Delhi has lost more than it gained in the recent trade spat. It no more gets US preferential trade benefits, has been cut off from cheaper Iran oil and faces greater US visa restrictions. Modi and Trump's bear hugs became talking points of the two leaders' friendship. That 'hugplomacy' is fine. What is more important is whether the balance in the relationship is restored. It needs to take the ties beyond the optics.

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Opinion | AAP's big push for women in Delhi

Mint, Dipankar De Sarkar :The Indian capital city is home to what is arguably the country's most advanced network of metro rail, including underground rail. As with any public resource in a crowded country with a large number of poor there are competing demands for ownership of this particular service too. In March, a bunch of protesters belonging to the youth wing of the Congress party jumped on the railway tracks and stopped a metro train demanding concessionary fares for students. The Congress habitually takes credit for the rapid transit system—after all, construction began under a Congress-run Delhi government, as did the launch of the first Metro line. Now, the Congress, with no representation in the 70-member state assembly, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with only three legislators, have

been left watching from the sidelines as the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has put out what could be a winner before assembly elections, due early next year. Earlier this month, AAP chief and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced his government's decision to make Metro and bus travel free for all women—a step that could encourage and keep women in work. “Public transport is considered the safest for women and keeping that in mind, the government had decided that... all buses and the Metro will be made free for women,” Kejriwal said. Atishi Marlena, a senior AAP leader credited with crafting Delhi's education reforms, said only 33% of Metro commuters are women, and that a hike in fares, enforced in 2017 by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation overriding strong AAP protests, has driven women into taking unsafe options such as private buses, ride sharing “or even walking”. ‘Unsafe’ in Delhi, often called the rape capital of India, has dangerous implications for women. An average of five women were raped in the city last year, according to Delhi police. This figure may need to be unpacked because there was a massive rise in the involvement of friends and family in rapes, acts that may not necessarily involve public spaces. Perhaps more relevant are ‘molestation’ figures—there were 3,175 registered cases last year (a large number go unreported because women come under massive pressure not to report sex crimes), which adds up to nearly nine every day. “This move will help them return to the Metro's safety,” said Marlena. “More women in any public spaces automatically makes those spaces safer for women. This move will help women reclaim public spaces.” In overwhelmingly patriarchal societies such as India and other countries in South Asia, women's mobility—along with a raft of other entitlements—is curtailed, in turn restricting their job opportunities and, indeed, their right to work. This denial, obviously, hits the poor the hardest. At the same time, Delhi is a magnet for migrants from other states, and this bustling city's domestic service is now almost entirely run by women from states such as West Bengal. They include some of the poorest women in India, such as tribals from the hill regions of West Bengal. Women who would make a pittance on the tea gardens are now often the main earner in their family, working in households in Delhi. Yet, their mobility is restricted—if not by their husbands or child-rearing needs then by the lack of public transport options. When Marlena talks about women “even walking”, it is a clear reference to a desperate safe mobility option. In plush south Delhi, it is common to see working class women in saris walking home to home, neighbourhood to neighbourhood, in a rapid gait in killing temperatures (up to 48 degrees Celsius this week). These women, many of whom are forced to leave their children in their native village, are the unsung and unrecognized bedrock of the roaring economic engine that is India's cities. Mostly, they are allowed no more than two days off a month, and get no increment or other allowances. When they go home to their children and family, they have to arrange for a substitute worker. “Please remember, I want this job back when I return,” is

always the half-pleading condition they leave with—an indicator of the fragility of their life in the big city. But it is not only the economically marginalized who will benefit from the AAP government move. A young female journalist, who takes the Metro every day to work, said young women do not get groped in the Metro, possibly because coaches are well-lit. In addition, every train has a separate coach for women—a safeguard against molestation that buses or shared travel do not offer. Nevertheless, the AAP government decision, which is likely to cost around `1,600 crore this year, has already come under criticism from the opposition BJP in Delhi. “There are two types of syndrome. One is Broken Window economics and the other is Broken Window fraud. Before announcement of free-ride for women there should first be buses for this,” Union urban development minister Hardeep Puri was quoted as saying by PTI news agency. “Kejriwal has a problem of a different kind. He gives a full-page advertisement, announcing that the scheme will start in next two-three months, but they don’t have any proposal for it.” Puri’s broken window economics is a reference to a parable from the stable of the French libertarian economist Frederic Bastiat, meant to illustrate the point that destruction doesn’t work in economics (if you break a window pane in your father’s house, it doesn’t necessarily mean jobs for the glazier and the wider economy—it reduces your father’s disposable income and opportunity costs). Rhetoric aside, the Union government cannot afford to ignore the underlying potential benefits of this move: as a recent Mint report shows, female labour force participation rate (LFPR, defined as women above 15 years of age either in work or looking for work) is the 10th lowest in the world. India’s female LFPR fell to an abysmal 23.3% in 2017-18. And the nine countries with a worse record are Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Iran, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Among urban women who do work in India, domestic cleaning work is the second most common profession after textiles-related jobs, government data shows. The Kejriwal government says it doesn’t need the centre’s permission to introduce the decision. But in politically charged Delhi, where the state government has a difficult and tense relationship with the BJP-led central government, nothing is clear-cut. Politics trumps all in India’s capital city, and development initiatives can be buried under mountains of unsigned permissions. That, at the end of the day, is the real danger to the army of unorganized struggling women domestic workers of Delhi—not the fanciful theories of 19th century European economists. Dipankar’s Twitter handle is @Ddesarkar1

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Pakistan has to create atmosphere free of terror: Modi tells Xi Jinping on sidelines of SCO Summit

The Financial Express, Shubhajit Roy :Less than a month-and-half after Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a global terrorist after Beijing lifted its technical hold, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday told Chinese President

Xi Jinping that he has made efforts to initiate peace with Pakistan, but his efforts have been “derailed”. Modi, who met Xi for a bilateral meeting at the State residence Al-Archa in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s summit in the Kyrgyz Republic capital, said Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere “free of terrorism”, but at this stage, Delhi has not seen that from Islamabad’s side. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said, “There was a very brief discussion on Pakistan. PM said that we have a consistent position with respect to Pakistan. We discuss all issues through a bilateral mechanism and we look for peaceful settlement through negotiation. We are committed to this process.” “The Prime Minister recalled that he has made efforts in this regard, and his efforts have been derailed. He informed President Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terrorism. And at this stage, we did not this as happening. And therefore, we expect Pakistan to take concrete action on the issues that India has proposed, on the issues that India has flagged,” Gokhale said. Modi told Xi that Azhar’s listing is evidence that the strategic communication between the two countries at different levels has “improved”. These comments hold significance since Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is also in Bishkek for the SCO summit, and there is a possibility of Modi and Khan meeting each other in the presence of Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other SCO leaders. The Prime Minister, who began the meeting by wishing Xi on his birthday on June 15, said they can “move forward”, as “both of us have got similar term” — this was a reference to the almost overlapping terms of Modi’s second term and Xi’s second term as President. He said there was a “historic opportunity” to take the Sino-Indian relationship to a new level. The two leaders had a “brief discussion” on the boundary issue as well. Gokhale said the Special Representatives have been asked to expedite discussions to achieve a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question”, but underlined that the “approach should be constructive” and it “must be driven by the larger context in which we see India-China relations, in which the two leaders see the relations in the coming years”. Describing the meeting as marked by “warm and cordial discussion”, he said Xi congratulated Modi on his election victory, and “it reflected aspirations and trust people have”. They agreed that there is a new momentum since the April 2018 Wuhan summit, Gokhale said. In this context, Modi specifically noted that what has improved is the strategic communication at all levels. And he counted resolution of some of the long pending issues — like opening of the Bank of China in India, and China lifting its hold on Masood Azhar’s listing — as evidence of that. They said they should move to new areas and raise their expectations from the relationship. They asked both sides to prepare thoroughly for the next informal summit later this year. There was some discussion on trade, and Modi noted that regulatory procedures have been simplified by Chinese side on non-basmati rice, sugar and agriculture products. “There should

be significant uptick”, Gokhale said, talking about trade in these commodities. They also expected that though initial steps have been taken, in the next few months, they hope to see some “significant breakthrough” on addressing trade issues.

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‘Modi 2.0 should be about delivering ... companies are willing to invest if government promises consistent policy and continuity’

The Times of India, Bureau :Dinesh Paliwal, CEO of US-headquartered audio and connected devices company Harman, also serves as a director on the boards of US-India Business Council, Nestle, Raytheon and Bristol-Myers Squibb. It puts him at a vantage position to gauge what India needs to do to attract foreign investment. He speaks to Pankaj Doval about it: Even as US-China trade war escalates, trade ties between Indian and the US have worsened. Should we be concerned? I don’t think there’s a problem between the US and India. First of all, (unlike China) the trade is so little, and thus the trade surplus is not a problem. So, you can call it being caught in a crossfire. It’s actually in US’s personal interest also that Indian economy grows, because the US will gain a lot with India’s emergence. So, will the growing rift between the US and China offer an opportunity for India to attract investment? There are two things which are happening. One, with China’s emergence all corporations want to do risk mitigation. They have too many eggs in one basket. So, corporations always want to balance it. They were always looking. Where would you put your money? In Vietnam, in Romania? No, these are not the large markets as they can be a manufacturing hub for a short period. So, where do you look? You look for an economy where there is a potential market. India has been in the eye for a long time. But India was not ready to proceed that way. So, India will get that now. With this situation between the US and China, India will benefit. You mean global companies will now look at India as a credible alternate manufacturing base compared to China because of a large domestic consuming market? Something was needed to trigger that and this (US-China trade war) has triggered it. But don’t forget, all corporations and big money are also looking at India just as India. Even if there were no trade tensions, corporations had been looking at India because there is a market here. So, that money will come here anyway. My point is that we need to start reforming our rules, policies and start investing in infrastructure. Don’t expect an Intel or Samsung to set up a \$10 billion wafer plant tomorrow because, for that to happen, the government needs to do a lot of things. Infrastructure has to be built. What do you think can be different in Modi 2.0? I see two things. In the first term, PM Narendra Modi had tried to root out corruption, while improving the ease of doing business, he did demonetisation and got the bankruptcy law. He made it clear that his government is serious about driving in transparency and going after graft. Most importantly, he put India on the world map, and boosted India’s image overseas. We were badly lacking here. Now, if I say Modi 2.0, it should be all about

delivering on promise. Corporations are ready, but they need an assurance of long-term sustainable policy reform. Business friendly environment means reform, reforms never stop. We still have missing pieces. We have very high duty structure for certain things. I would like to see PM Modi as a chief sales officer of the country and challenge global corporations, for example, about setting up a semiconductor plant which requires tens of billions of dollars of investment. These companies are willing to do so if the government promises consistent policy and continuity. Continuity is very important. That's where China has given an assurance to the corporate world that their business policies don't revert. Are there any other areas where the new government can focus? I would definitely like to see Modi 2.0's focus on building infrastructure. We are not yet ready on this front, and are nowhere close to China. Also, we need to give preferential treatment for foreign capital that comes in. Initially you need to give us a break from import duty; we need tax holidays. All the value added components are currently made outside – in China, Mexico, Hungary, or Japan. You want them here. That's where you create millions of jobs, and that's where you create the value chain which creates profit at every single spot. You can offer reduced duties first, but on the condition that the companies will manufacture them in India. You do not give the low import duty forever. Initially you are giving them encouragement to come, start selling the component at lower duty, and thereafter begin manufacturing. China did that, so why not India?

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CRPF attacked again: Anantnag strike shows Pakistan-based terror continues to be a challenge

The Times of India, Bureau :In a fresh terror attack, five CRPF personnel who were deployed on picket duty were killed in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, marking the first attack on the force since the February 14 suicide bombing in Pulwama. A Pakistani terrorist was also killed in the latest incident as the security personnel retaliated. Additionally, five persons, including the SHO of Anantnag Sadar police station, were injured in the attack. And although a lesser-known terror outfit called Al Umar Mujahedeen has claimed responsibility, there is a possibility it was a Jaish-e-Muhammed operation. It's well known that Pakistan-based terror groups adopt new aliases in order to evade international sanctions. For example, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation are all the same organisation headed by proscribed terrorist Hafiz Saeed. But every time a new alias is created, much bureaucratic effort is expended on establishing its link to the original terror group. This not only provides the terror outfit room to continue its operations under the new name, but also gives the Pakistani establishment reason to legally withhold action against the group. Not that they needed much justification in the first place, given the military-ISI complex's use of terror as an instrument of state policy. The

Anantnag attack shows that despite the surgical strike carried out by the Indian Air Force to avenge Pulwama, eliminating terrorism emanating from Pakistan will be a long-drawn battle. There are multiple terror channels through which Pakistan can strike, and India has to continuously remain on guard. After all, terror has become transnational today with multiple forces at play. The NIA arrest of a suspected Islamic State operative in Tamil Nadu with links to the Sri Lankan Easter Sunday bombing mastermind exemplifies this point. And Pakistan serves as a catalyst for terror networks in South Asia. Thus, there should be no let-up in intelligence-based counterterror operations to tackle the menace.

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Moonbound: Scientists getting free rein in space should get to run things on the ground too

The Times of India, Bureau :Eleven years after India launched its comprehensive lunar exploratory mission, becoming the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to join this elite club, its second mission to the Moon is coming up, on July 15. Chandrayaan 1 made global headlines by helping confirm the presence of water on Moon. The Indian Space Research Organisation also grabbed its slice of glory with Mangalyaan, for making it to the red planet on its first shot and at a bargain basement price. Now Chandrayaan 2 will soft-land a rover to gather intel on the Moon, unravelling its mysteries while also boosting ties with Nasa. It has a far more complex mission than Chandrayaan 1 which only included an orbiter and an impactor. Most importantly, this is all building up to the ambitious Gaganyaan project, where India is targeting a manned mission to space by 2022. In a country where gender inequality continues to drag down social and economic progress, what is quite remarkable about Chandrayaan 2 is that this interplanetary mission has a woman project director and a woman mission director. In fact women comprise around 30% of the team in charge of the mission. Even during earlier Isro missions like Mangalyaan, the launch images grabbed attention for the number of women in the control room. Not only does this break worldwide stereotypes of rocket science being the domain of men, it offers an encouraging glimpse of Indian organisations that do right by women and are much the better for it. Once upon a time space missions could be considered national vanity projects. Today they are an existential necessity. Because satellites today control a countless number of critical Earth functions such as communications and weather mapping. Given the reality that space is no longer a distinct entity outside human lives, it is welcome that India and Isro are upping their space game. This is a national security imperative now. But the kind of unconditional support for science that Isro has been getting needs extending across the country. This week saw farmers in Maharashtra protesting against the Centre's ban on GM crops. This is a telling case. Activists on the left and the right have joined forces to block science in agriculture. But politics shouldn't override

scientific judgment. Until India continues to suffer this malaise, it will keep falling behind on patents and technological innovation. The Modi government should let science bloom everywhere. This piece appeared as an editorial opinion in the print edition of The Times of India.

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No one can discount military power

Hindustan Times, DS Hooda :After weeks of heated political activity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the Bharatiya Janata Party to an unprecedented victory. The cabinet has been sworn in, and it is now the time for robust governance. After a period of rapidly changing defence ministers in South Block, it is hoped that Rajnath Singh, a wise and mature leader, will provide stability and vision required to tackle the numerous security challenges facing our country. The increasing rivalry between major powers dominates the international landscape. The bitter trade war between the United States (US) and China has both an economic as well as strategic dimension. The US ban on import of oil from Iran and weapons from Russia could leave India having to make some very tough choices. And even as US President Donald Trump tweets, “Great things are in store for the US-India partnership with the return of PM Modi at the helm”, there is a veiled threat from a State Department official that if India went ahead with the S-400 deal, “it will have serious implications on the defence ties” between the two countries. Our neighbourhood remains troubled. A hostile Pakistan continues to patronise anti-India terror groups, and Afghanistan is mired in violence, with 2018 recording the maximum civilian deaths since 2009. The threat of transnational terror to the subcontinent was brutally brought home with the bloody Easter bombings in Sri Lanka. This was followed by the Islamic State announcing the establishment of a new province in India called “Wilayah of Hind”. There is only a minimal footprint of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in India, but it requires just one extremist lone wolf to create mayhem and panic. Strategic competition with China is our most significant security challenge. Two rising neighbours, with an unsettled border, makes for an unstable combination, particularly when one State is significantly more powerful than the other. As John Mearsheimer points out in his book, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, “when you have power asymmetries, the strong are hard to deter when they are bent on aggression”. I am not suggesting that we are staring down the barrel at an India-China conflict, but if the capability gap between the two countries continues to expand, resisting Chinese coercion would become difficult. Jammu and Kashmir continues to be our biggest internal security challenge. Events in this state have the potential to spark off a limited conflagration between India and Pakistan, as was almost witnessed during the Balakot airstrikes. Today, counterterrorism operations are restricted to only a few districts in the Kashmir Valley, but the fallout of these operations resonates in every corner of India. Similarly, the branding of all

Kashmiris as anti-national adds to the alienation of the local population and provides fodder to the elements who are systematically engaged in radicalising the youth. In 1990, Joseph Nye put forth the idea of soft power as an important force in international relations. There is no doubt that in this information age, soft power has its uses, but military power still remains the most essential component of a State's ability to defend its national interests. The military capability of a country is judged in terms of its defence budget, weapon systems inventory, force structure, human resource management, training standards, doctrines, defence industrial base, research and development efforts, and the nature of civil-military relations. India's shortfall in many of these areas is well known and documented. These are some of the crucial challenges that Singh faces, but these are neither new nor unknown. The real key to success will lie in formulating coherent and comprehensive strategies, and this is where Singh can draw some valuable lessons from the performance of the National Democratic Alliance 1.0. The previous government has had some significant achievements in foreign policy and has displayed a firm resolve in dealing with terrorism emanating from Pakistan. This was a major plank on which it had a resounding electoral victory. However, its record in taking reformist, long-term steps is somewhat patchy. That is the reason that there have been no higher defence reforms, Make in India has had limited success, Kashmir is on the boil, and relations with Pakistan are at an absolute low. There is also a criticism that many actions of the government were undertaken more for an immediate, visible impact rather than being part of a comprehensive strategic framework. There is some truth in this, but to be fair, this is the reality of our digital age, where popular sentiment spills out on social media and demands instant gratification. Politicians cannot ignore this. In this backdrop, the real test for Singh will be in looking at our national security challenges as issues that could outlast his government, and crafting strategies with a long-term vision.

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Modi in Bishkek: Pak has to create atmosphere free of terror, don't see it happening, PM tells Xi

The Indian Express, Shubhajit Roy :Less than a month-and-half after Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a global terrorist once Beijing lifted its technical hold, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday told Chinese President Xi Jinping that he has made efforts to initiate peace with Pakistan, but his efforts have been "derailed". Modi, who met Xi for a bilateral meeting at the State residence Al-Archa in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in the Kyrgyz Republic capital, said Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere "free of terrorism", but at this stage, Delhi has not seen that from Islamabad's side. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said, "There was a very brief discussion on Pakistan. PM said that we have a consistent position

with respect to Pakistan. We discuss all issues through a bilateral mechanism and we look for peaceful settlement through negotiation. We are committed to this process.” “The Prime Minister recalled that he has made efforts in this regard, and his efforts have been derailed. He informed President Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terrorism. And at this stage, we did not see this as happening. And therefore, we expect Pakistan to take concrete action on the issues that India has proposed, on the issues that India has flagged,” Gokhale said. Modi told Xi that Azhar’s listing is evidence that the strategic communication between the two countries at different levels has “improved”. These comments hold significance since Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is also in Bishkek for the SCO summit, and both were seated in the dining table in the presence of Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other SCO leaders. But, there was no official confirmation of a meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan at the banquet. “Apnapan lagta hai mujhe aapse milkar (I feel at home when I meet you),” Modi is learnt to have told Xi, as the meeting began. He said there was a “historic opportunity” to take the Sino-Indian relationship to a new level. Xi said that Beijing is ready to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides, Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency reported Thursday night. “Xi urged the two sides to stick to the fundamental judgement that China and India offer to each other chances for development, and do not pose each other threats, and called on the two countries to keep deepening mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, and properly handling their disputes so as to turn the bilateral relationship into a positive element for their respective development,” Xinhua reported. The two leaders had a “brief discussion” on the boundary issue as well. Gokhale said the Special Representatives have been asked to expedite discussions to achieve a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question”, but underlined that the “approach should be constructive” and it “must be driven by the larger context in which we see India-China relations, in which the two leaders see the relations in the coming years”. “He (Xi) also called on the two sides to make good use of such mechanisms as meetings between the two countries’ special representatives on the boundary issue, and enhance trust-building measures so as to preserve stability in border areas,” Xinhua reported. Describing the meeting as marked by “warm and cordial discussion”, Gokhale said Xi congratulated Modi on his election victory, and “it reflected aspirations and trust people have”. They agreed that there is a new momentum since the April 2018 Wuhan summit, Gokhale said. In this context, Modi specifically noted that what has improved is the strategic communication at all levels. And he counted resolution of some of the long pending issues — like opening of the Bank of China in India, and China lifting its hold on Masood Azhar’s listing — as evidence of that. They said they should move to new areas and raise their expectations from the relationship. They asked both sides to prepare thoroughly

for the next informal summit later this year. There was some discussion on trade, and Modi noted that regulatory procedures have been simplified by Chinese side on non-basmati rice, sugar and agriculture products. “There should be significant uptick”, Gokhale said, talking about trade in these commodities. They also expected that though initial steps have been taken, in the next few months, they hope to see some “significant breakthrough” on addressing trade issues. “As important representatives of developing nations and emerging market economies, China and India, said Xi, need to come together to safeguard free trade and multilateralism, and protect the legitimate development rights of developing countries,” Xinhua reported, in a reference to the US-China trade war. According to Xinhua, the Chinese President said the two nations need to constantly broaden the channels for cooperation, conduct cooperation in such areas as investment, industrial capacity and tourism, make a bigger cake of common interests, jointly promote regional inter-connectivity, including the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, in a bid to better boost common development. They decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations next year — 70 events will be organised, 35 by each side — to commemorate the event. They have tasked their Foreign Ministers to plan and prepare for the events next year. “Deepening friendship with China. PM @narendramodi’s first meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit is with President Xi Jinping. Both leaders are discussing ways to further strengthen bilateral relations,” the Prime Minister’s Office tweeted.

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Modi in Bishkek: PM, Imran sit across dinner table, don’t talk to each other

The Indian Express, Shubhajit Roy :Before landing in Bishkek, Khan told Russian news agency Sputnik that Pakistan’s relationship with India is probably at its “lowest point”, and hoped Modi will use his “big mandate” to resolve all differences, including the Kashmir issue. Here for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan sat across the table at a dinner at the Frunze restaurant, but there was no exchange of pleasantries. “Koi dua-salaam nahin hua (there was no exchange of pleasantries),” a source told The Indian Express, after the dinner. At the gala concert after the dinner at the Kyrgyz National Philharmonic, the two leaders sat in the front row, but were separated by at least seven leaders in between. This was different from what had happened two years ago with then Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif. In June 2017, more than 17 months after Modi met Sharif in Lahore, the two had met in the leaders’ lounge at the opera house in Astana where they had gone for the SCO summit to watch a cultural performance — just like today. There, they had exchanged greetings and since it was the first occasion when the two leaders came across each other after Sharif’s surgery, Modi had enquired about his health, his mother and family. Before landing in Bishkek, Khan told Russian news agency

Sputnik that Pakistan's relationship with India is probably at its "lowest point", and hoped Modi will use his "big mandate" to resolve all differences, including the Kashmir issue. Underlining that the SCO countries provide these fresh outlets and developing relationship with other countries, he said, "And that means, of course, India as well because at the moment our bilateral relationship with India is, probably, at its lowest point. And, yes, it will be an opportunity to speak to the Indian leadership during this SCO conference." There is no bilateral meeting scheduled Friday as well. Referring to Modi's re-election, Khan told Sputnik, "But we hope now that the current Prime Minister has one big mandate, we hope that he will use this mandate to develop better relationship and bring peace in the subcontinent." On whether he is ready to sit down with Modi at the table, Khan said, "Well, we have already indicated to India that after the elections. We actually tried before the elections, but unfortunately we felt that before the elections Prime Minister Modi's party was building up this hysteria, unfortunately, anti-Pakistan feeling among its people, appealing to its right-wing Hindu nationalists, and so there was no chance of peace before the elections." "Now that the elections are over, we hope that the Indian leadership will now grasp this opportunity, avail this opportunity that Pakistan is offering — that let's resolve all our differences through dialogue. In fact, that is the only way of resolving our differences. There is no way two nuclear-armed countries should think of resolving the differences through military means. It is madness. So we hope that now we can progress, use dialogue to resolve our differences." He said Pakistan is looking for "any kind of mediation, because Pakistan believes that progress comes with peace". On the Kartarpur corridor, he said that it has been a "great initiative" from Pakistan. "And we hope that, as I've said, now that the elections are over, India will respond positively to these initiatives, to further people-to-people contact. But, unfortunately, people-to-people contact only works when the governments also try to get closer. You can't have a situation where the governments have animosity towards each other, and expect people to get closer. It does not happen. So the governments have to, the Indian government has to take this initiative. Now, I think, it is time for them to take the initiative, and so we can get back on the dialogue table," he said.

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Pompeo for greater ties, trade talks: Modi hai to mumkin hai

The Indian Express, Shubhajit Roy :Amid differences between Washington and Delhi over trade issues, Pompeo said that the US is open to dialogue to resolve trade differences with India by allowing Americans companies more access to Indian markets. Borrowing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election slogan, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo Thursday pushed for a deeper relationship with India ahead of his visit to Delhi on June 25-26, his first trip to the country after the new Modi government took charge. "As Prime Minister Modi said in his latest campaign,

‘Modi hai to mumkin hai,’ or ‘Modi makes it possible’, I am looking forward to exploring what’s possible between our people,” Pompeo said in a major India policy speech at the India Ideas Summit of the US-India Business Council. Amid differences between Washington and Delhi over trade issues, Pompeo said that the US is open to dialogue to resolve trade differences with India by allowing American companies more access to Indian markets. “Now, I am sure we will broach some tough topics too. But as we democracies have come to know, that we work out our disagreements. We bring them to the table honestly and fairly. And we will probably discuss the recent decision on the GSP programme.” “We remain open to dialogue, and we hope that our friends in India will drop their trade barriers and trust in the competitiveness.” “We will also push for the free flow of data across borders — not just to help American companies — but to protect data and ensure consumer privacy,” he said. India and the US, he said, must embrace the strategic framework that works for both nations. “We respect India as a sovereign power, with its unique politics and strategic challenges. We realise it’s different to deal with the likes of China or Pakistan from across an ocean than across the border,” he said. And under President Trump, he said, “We have taken our defence cooperation to new heights, solidified our common vision for the Indo-Pacific, and taken a far tougher stand on Pakistan’s unacceptable support for terrorism in the region.” Stressing that the two countries have to deliver and execute, Pompeo said that the Trump administration has already enabled American companies to export more high-tech items to India. “This includes cutting-edge defence platforms like armed UAVs and ballistic missile defence systems. We have already launched the Asia-EDGE programme to help India raise private capital to meet its energy and security needs for years to come. These are solid achievements, but we want to do so much more.” He then outlined key “overlapping interests”: defence, energy, space. On defence, he said that the first batch of Apache helicopters are coming off Boeing’s production line in Arizona. “Lockheed Martin’s F-21 and Boeing’s F/A-18 are state-of-the-art fighters that could give India the capabilities it needs to become a full-fledged security provider throughout the Indo-Pacific.” On the energy front, he indicated developing India’s nuclear sector which will reduce dependence on Iran for energy needs. “On energy, we want to complete the Westinghouse civil nuclear project, and deliver more LNG and crude. These steps will give Indians reliable, affordable, diversified energy independence so they will no longer have to rely on difficult regimes like those in Venezuela and in Iran,” Pompeo said. On space, he said, “NASA is already working with the Indian Space Research Organization on the world’s most advanced earth-observation satellite and India’s second lunar mission. I mean, how cool is that?” He said it’s only natural that the world’s most populous democracy should partner with the world’s oldest democracy to maintain the shared vision throughout the Indo-Pacific. “We also have to make sure that we

have economic openness. We have to have a central theme being the idea that we have liberty and sovereignty in each of our two nations, and build on those ideas. These need to be places in which economic growth reinforces our democratic values, and not dictatorship. It needs to be a place where our partnership is one of true equals, not of domination. Based on my conversations in New Delhi last year, and in subsequent phone calls and meetings, I believe this is a deeply shared vision," he said.

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'India will not sign off on BRI at Bishkek'

The Indian Express, Shubhajt Roy : India will not sign off on Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious project, the Belt and Road Initiative, though the rest of the leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit will "reaffirm their support" for the project in the Bishkek declaration, The Indian Express has learnt. The declaration will be issued on Friday evening. Sources told The Indian Express that Delhi has once again decided to stay away from endorsing the One Belt One Road project. "All other SCO members have supported the BRI. They recently attended the second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing in April. But we will not sign off on BRI at the summit," a top source said. India had refused to sign off on the BRI last year at the SCO summit in Qingdao, China, but New Delhi had not issued any statement opposing BRI this year when the second Belt and Road Forum met in April. In 2017, when the first Belt and Road Forum took place in May, India had issued a very strong and critical statement. This time, as the issue of listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar was being negotiated and Beijing was being persuaded by Delhi, Washington and other countries, Delhi had chosen to remain silent and not articulate its opposition to the Belt and Road Forum. However, India had made it clear even then that they were not changing their position on BRI. The same approach continues, although the Chinese side tried to persuade India to change its attitude before the summit. India's statement in May 2017 was very clear in its opposition to BRI, and the Ministry of External Affairs had said connectivity projects must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. Regarding the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor', which is being projected as the flagship project of the BRI/OBOR, the MEA had said, "No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity." Sources said the SCO's Bishkek declaration will be on the lines of the last summit, when it had said, "Reaffirming their support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Member States express appreciation for the joint efforts taken towards its implementation, including efforts to coordinate the development of the Eurasian Economic Union

and the BRI and call for using the potential of the regional countries, international organisations and multilateral associations to create a broad, open, mutually beneficial and equal partnership in the SCO space.” India’s name was missing in the Qingdao declaration, and that is expected to continue.

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Let him go

The Indian Express, Neerja Chowdhury : “Marte ko aur bhi maarna” — that neither feels good nor right. And yet, given the state of the Indian National Congress, hard questions need to be asked. They need to be asked because every Indian — whether she acknowledges it or not — has a stake in the revival of the Congress party, if we are to continue as a parliamentary democracy. Despite the slump in its fortunes, the Congress is the only centre-piece, even today, around which opposition at the national level can coalesce. Regional parties will play a role but only up to a point. For a start, the Congress should honour Rahul Gandhi’s resignation to step down as party chief, taking responsibility for the party’s rout. It would be a real charade, that the Congress has been so good at mounting in the past, if it persuades him to take it back. This time it will not only deepen the cynicism about a party already facing an existentialist crisis, it might finish Rahul Gandhi’s political career. On the other hand, if he holds firm — he also said that his sister Priyanka Vadra Gandhi should not be made Congress President in his place — he may win the respect of some, and live to fight another day. Even if his decision turns out to be a mistake, it is always better to have erred, following an inner steer, than the cacophony of voices outside. If nothing else, Rahul Gandhi would be ensuring accountability. Equally important, he would be respecting the sentiment against “dynasty”, which was implicit in the 2019 mandate, particularly among the young and first-time voters, as Narendra Modi’s “naamdar vs kaamdar” slogan found a resonance amongst many. And India is a young and an aspirational country; its average age is going to be 29 in 2020. This then could be Rahul Gandhi’s “Sonia moment”. In 2004, his mother Sonia Gandhi, gave up her claim to be prime minister, though she had been elected as the leader of the parliamentary party of the UPA. From that day, the country accepted her. Despite her foreign origins, the Congress still looks at her as its most respected leader. Many apprehend that Rahul’s exit may cause more problems than solve. For, in the way the Congress is structured, it is the Nehru-Gandhi family which has kept the party united, and won it votes, though the latter is now diluted. The party, however, need not split, if the new president is chosen by consensus, and has the backing of the Nehru-Gandhi family. With a wipeout in 18 states, Congress leaders have to pull themselves up and hang together — or be forced to walk into the sunset. There are enough people in the Congress who can head the party, and this time it can be somebody from the South, since the southern states have stood by the Congress more than the North and the West. The delay in deciding, either way, has

only deepened the insecurities in the party. As it is, the exit of leaders has started, what with 12 out of 18 of its legislators gravitating to the TRS in Telengana, the party's Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra moving across to the BJP, and more are likely to follow. Defeat has unsheathed knives inside the organisation, be it in Rajasthan, or in Haryana, and this is a given when a party weakens. Talk to ordinary folks, in town and village, and they are clear about the two reasons for the Congress's woes: Congressmen and women have forgotten how to work hard. And the Congress has lost touch with the reality called India. The Congress was always a party of patronage but it has over the years become no more than a conglomerate of comfortable men and women pursuing their individual agendas, interested in amassing wealth, given half a chance, and promoting their progeny. (There are exceptions of course). After all, it is the guilty men and women of UPA who brought Modi to power in 2014. Even today, the party's leading lights are not willing to go beyond "money", "media", and "marketing" as the only reasons for the Modi magic. They discount the fire in the Modi-Shah belly not just for another stint in power, but to wield absolute power and leave a historical legacy, recasting India in accordance with their ideological worldview. There is no counter to it from the Congress side. The implication of Outcome 2019 has been more far reaching for the Congress than for the BJP. As a beginning, the party has to democratise its decision-making processes. Why should not Rahul Gandhi work as an ordinary general secretary, as a "kaamdaar"? Priyanka Vadra Gandhi, as G. Sec in charge of East UP, has already been tasked with winning UP for the Congress in 2022. Maybe Rahul Gandhi can undertake a padayatra going around the country, with folded hands, only to understand what young and old India has to say about the Congress's mistakes and what it should do. After all, Jagan Reddy undertook a 3,000 km padyatra to great effect in Andhra Pradesh, as did his late father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy. Perhaps the new narrative that the Congress seeks will emerge from such a process — of looking to the ground for solutions, and encouraging the emergence of leaders from there. For entitlement is also about elitism, just as it is about a name opening doors. And about a culture which leaves everything to the High Command. Should there be a place for "High Command" in a modern, democratic organisation? Should decisions be left only to the Congress President? Or to Sonia Gandhi, who soon after she was elected chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, was "authorised" to decide who should be the leader in both Houses of Parliament? Should not this decision be taken by a "Presidium" of leaders, which is under consideration. Given its success, the BJP can afford to go in for a centralised model of decision making with Modi-Shah team calling the shots. A moribund Congress on the other hand has to ensure power-sharing — and a federal structure — to have any chance at rebuilding. In other words, to allow its regional leaders who have some kind of a mass following, an autonomy of functioning to decide and deliver. They too will have to move away

from the High Command culture at the state level to a collegium style decision making. In 1998, when Sonia Gandhi took over as Congress President, she used to hold daily meetings with 20-30 leaders to decide the party's line when Parliament was in session. The sooner the Congress takes a decision on who should head the party, and knuckles down to preparations for the elections that lie three months down the line, in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, the better for it. The party has fared better in recent state elections (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and in local elections in Karnataka) than in national polls, and that may be the way to go. It is, after all, winning elections which provides the adrenaline to any party, and can arrest the outflow of leaders. Advertising And who knows, Rahul Gandhi's resignation may unleash processes which starts to dismantle — at least dilute — dynastic structures in other political outfits which have become family fiefs. For along with a Hindu consolidation, it is the rise of the subaltern that Modi represents in 2019, which the Congress and others will have to take note of. The writer is a senior journalist

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Too good to be true

The Indian Express, Satish Deshpande : What does the new National Education Policy (NEP) have to say about the future of Indian higher education? Before trying to answer this question, it is necessary to spend a moment or two on the roughly 500-page draft of the NEP (henceforth DNEP) that the new government unveiled on the day it took office. Ever since Kapil Sibal took over as the human resources development (HRD) minister a decade ago, relations between the academic world and successive Union governments have inhabited a triangle defined by morbidity, chaos, and toxicity. For most of this period, there seemed to be no overall policy, only an incoherent plethora of schemes that could be contradictory, overlapping or isolated from each other. Grand Tughlaqian projects predominated, and they tended to assume a clean slate, ignoring the entrenched mess of modalities and institutions already in existence. Abortive attempts to produce a coherent national vision document had only made matters worse. Against this dismal background, DNEP 2019 appears to offer some hope. It is the first policy document of the past decade that at least looks the part. From the perspective of higher education, its main strength is that it has got its basics right — it appears to have a reasonable understanding of existing problems, and offers a plausible picture of possible solutions that may take us towards a better future. Indeed, the DNEP comes as a refreshing shock to academics long accustomed to policy documents that are rooted in a stubborn denial of basic ground realities. Beginning with the meaningful decision to drop the delusional techno-speak of “Human Resource Development” and return to “Education” as the name for its parent ministry, the DNEP makes many policy pronouncements that will be widely welcomed in the academic world.

The most overarching is the acknowledgement that all education is, and ought to be envisioned as, “liberal” and holistic. There is a strong re-affirmation of the state’s commitment to public education, much needed at a time when privatisation has seemed to be the overriding objective of governments. Also welcome is the explicit assurance that institutional autonomy is not just a polite term for financial abandonment. Finally, the recognition that rampant resort to ad hoc and contractual appointments has crippled higher education and must be stopped immediately will surely bring relief to teachers’ organisations agitating tirelessly on this very issue. Taken together, the 10 chapters on Higher Education in the DNEP seem to offer a reasonable road map on higher education, preparing the ground for vital discussion and debate on concrete mechanisms and their specifics. The core vision based on a tripartite division of higher education into teaching universities, research universities, and optimally-sized multi-disciplinary undergraduate colleges is sound. The diagnoses and prescriptions for the key areas of governance and regulation are workable as initial starting points, as is the plan to create a National Research Foundation separate from regulatory bodies. A surprisingly sensible document in comparison to its immediate predecessors, the DNEP nevertheless provokes two kinds of concerns. The first kind are triggered by what it does not say, or say clearly or strongly enough. It is striking that the crucial topics of equity and inclusion do not rate a separate chapter in Higher Education (though they have one in School Education). The persistence of practices of discrimination and exclusion in the face of legislated access for hitherto excluded groups has been at the forefront of public debate on higher education in recent times. It is deeply disappointing that the DNEP has evaded this issue, with the question of Under-Represented Groups (URGs) making no appearance outside school education. Caste discrimination has long been an important issue in higher education, and has received intense public attention in recent times, from Rohith Vemula to Payal Tadavi. Moreover, national statistics unambiguously establish that Persons with Disability and Muslims are by far the leading URGs in higher education. It is beyond debate that a national policy is needed to deal with this vital issue, and, sadly, the DNEP’s effective silence must count as cowardice. The DNEP is also silent (or excessively soft-spoken) on another issue that its own blueprint foregrounds, namely the challenge of protecting public higher educational institutions from undue governmental interference. Even a casual reader will recognise that the proposed institutional framework for higher education — with the National Education Commission chaired by the prime minister at its apex — clearly implies even more governmental control with significantly higher levels of centralisation than what is already the case. The DNEP should have included — but does not — a forthright proposal for dealing with this unavoidable problem. This brings us to the second kind of concerns caused by what the DNEP cannot say. Because it belongs to a peculiar category of potentially powerful yet

easily ignorable vision documents, the DNEP cannot tell whether — and to what extent — it will matter. Like the pre-election manifesto promises of political parties, statements of intent in policy can be shrugged off with impunity. Indeed, the DNEP acquires an aura of incongruity precisely because it stands in stark contrast to what governments have done and failed to do in higher education. This is especially true of Modi Raj 1.0, which seemed to have declared war on higher educational institutions across the country. This incongruity and its uncertainties are magnified by the mixed messages sent to us by the government. The Kasturirangan Committee responsible for producing the DNEP submitted it to the then Minister for Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar, on 1 December 15, 2018. It was then kept under wraps for six months until it was revealed on May 30, 2019, the very day that the new government took office. Continuity did not seem to matter because it was not Javadekar but Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ who was entrusted with implementing the DNEP. Now the nation awaits the new born DNEP’s janmakundali to reveal its future. But we already know one of its possible epitaphs: It was just too good to be true.

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Faint glimmer: On revival in industrial activity

The Hindu, Bureau :Industrial activity in the new financial year appears to have started on a healthier note than the trend witnessed in the last quarter of the previous fiscal, the government’s latest quick estimates show. Industrial output rose 3.4% in April, buoyed by a generally broad-based revival that saw electricity, mining and even manufacturing post faster growth compared to the listless performance witnessed in the January-March period. In fact, manufacturing output growth, which had decelerated sharply from the pace of 8.2% in October to a revised level of less than 0.1% in March, rebounded to a four-month high of 2.8%. A look at the use-based classification reveals that all six segments were in positive territory, with only infrastructure and construction goods marking a slowdown from both the earlier year and March levels and providing cause for some concern. Hearteningly, capital goods, a sector that serves as a closely tracked proxy for business spending intentions, posted a 2.5% expansion, snapping three straight months of contraction. To be sure, the growth even in this key area trails the pace of 9.8% that was reported in April 2018 by a wide margin, and it would be premature to celebrate the single reading until a more abiding trend emerges in the coming months. It would be interesting to see what growth-supportive policy measures Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveils in the newly elected government’s and her own maiden budget. This week’s other data release from the government was, however, less reassuring, revealing as it did an acceleration in retail inflation to a seven-month high. Price gains measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) quickened to 3.05% in May, from April’s 2.99%, as prices of vegetables and pulses jumped by 23% and 10%

respectively in urban areas, contributing to a bump-up in food inflation. The Reserve Bank of India had last week flagged the risks to the inflation trajectory from factors including spikes in vegetable prices and international fuel prices and marginally raised its CPI inflation projection for the fiscal first half to a 3% to 3.1% range. While the inflation reading remains below the RBI's inflation threshold of 4%, policymakers would need to keep a close watch on price trends, especially as global energy prices continue to remain volatile amid heightened geopolitical tensions in West Asia and uncertainty on the demand outlook owing to the ongoing China-U.S. trade spat. And while the monsoon is forecast to be normal this year, the actual rainfall and its spatial distribution will have a significant bearing on agricultural output and food prices. A fiscally prudent budget, with incentives to support the nascent industrial recovery, would surely tick several boxes at one go.

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China, US & India: Just look at the 'transactional' opportunities

The Asian Age, Bhopinder Singh :he non-sentimentality of a net “gain-loss” calculation in the realpolitik framework defines the Chinese approach. China has an unemotional “transactional” approach that supports its own sense of hegemonic aspirations in the 21st century. Enumerated in 1954, its “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence” are a convenient alternative to the Western view of a world order based on concepts like democracy, human rights, liberality, environmentalism, etc, whereas the Chinese State insists on no such moral prerequisites. This freedom afforded in the Chinese manual of diplomacy endears it to roguish states like North Korea, Pakistan, etc. Thus, a supposedly Communist regime like China can have an “all-weather friendship” with an avowedly Islamic Republic of Pakistan! However, if the cost of supporting is greater than the gains, the “transactional” Chinese can take a U-turn without batting an eyelid. The non-sentimentality of a net “gain-loss” calculation in the realpolitik framework defines the Chinese approach. The Chinese “transactional” approach is matched by the United States, which recently withdrew the preferential treatment of India under the Generalised System of Preferences. This unilateral move by the US has created space for recalibration in the Sino-Indian dynamic. Recently, the Chinese had conceded two very unusual and strategic grounds to India, suggesting a rapprochement between the two. First, the chilling neutrality displayed by the Chinese in the Pulwama-Balakot episode that even fell short of any usual offer to “mediate” on behalf of its “iron brothers” in Pakistan — this when the nuclear armed countries attacked each other with military wherewithal. The second was the withdrawal of the “technical hold” in designating Masood Azhar a UN-listed terrorist — after earlier thwarting India's attempt by vetoing successively (veto is rarely used by China as it either “abstains” or “agrees”). Both these moves were embarrassing and unexpected for Pakistan, and in sharp contrast to the pro-Pakistan rhetoric from China, that usually accompanied the

India-Pakistan dissonances. The Doklam standoff in 2017 was perhaps the lowest point in the restive Sino-Indian realm, with deliberately provocative moves initiated by the Chinese to up the ante. For the Chinese, no occasion was too solemn to restrain its fangs, as was witnessed during the meeting of the Indian Prime Minister and the Chinese President in Ahmedabad, where the optics were marred by a parallel standoff at the Sino-Indian border, in the Chumar area. Today, a distinctly changed narrative is at play that seems to have opened space for unprecedented engagement between Delhi and Beijing. After the unusual Chinese moves of thawing the bilateral relationship, the national leaders of the two ancient civilisations are engaged in reciprocal symbolism that is symptomatic of the opportunities that be. After the Chinese President had hosted the Indian Prime Minister in Xiamen, where he was an office-bearer of the Communist Party of China 30 years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to invite Xi Jinping for an informal summit to his own parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, in a continuation of the charm-offensives. Befittingly, the situation along the long India-China border is also unusually calm, unlike the status on the India-Pakistan Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan is completely indebted and beholden to the Chinese due to the financial bailouts, economic infrastructure (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor investments of \$60 billion upwards), weapon systems, etc — and the Chinese now need to restore and enhance crucial relationships beyond its existing leverages, like Pakistan. Unlike the \$15 billion worth of trade at stake in the annual Sino-Pak domain, Sino-Indian trade is almost worth six times at \$90 billion and growing at a robust pace — besides the difference in the health of the economies of India and Pakistan, which would further tilt Chinese interest towards India. The dark clouds of the impending disruptions in the ensuing US-China trade wars are purely economic in the short-term, and therefore the economic considerations would triumph over all other considerations for the Chinese, at least till Donald Trump is at the helm of affairs. No further “investments” (financial or diplomatic), beyond those already committed for Islamabad, are required. Chinese calculations would show lower “returns” by investing any further in Pakistan as compared to India, supporting the new Chinese opportunity. In such a scenario, the Chinese firms with large export businesses to the US could hedge and invest in subsidiaries in India, as it possesses the requisite scale, skills and stability to set up bases, naturally and cost-competitively, compared to most other countries. Already the Chinese manufacturing footprint exists in India and the opportunity for the “new” government in New Delhi to receive additional foreign investments via the Chinese companies may get a receptive ear from the Indian leadership, that is under stress to accelerate economic growth and create new job opportunities. Beyond the economic angularity, Indian diplomacy must tap into China’s pragmatic self-interest and insecurities. The Chinese are morbidly concerned about a religious uprising in its Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region,

and have set up unprecedented concentration camps to “de-radicalise”, over a million Uighur Chinese Muslims. The threat of a Kabul ruled by the Pakistan-Taliban combine in the aftermath of a US troop withdrawal is real, and it shares a 76-km land border with China, along the Wakhan Corridor. The parallel US-Iranian muddle is yet another point of common convergence and concern for both China and India. The recent ebb and flow of global geopolitical churn offers new opportunities that must be partook, even if it emerges providentially. The truism of “there are no permanent friends and no permanent enemies, only permanent interests” ought to define the topical potential of Sino-Indian opportunities that now loom. India ought to know the Chinese better than most, with its civilisational connect and more importantly, its own wounded history of “Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai” frivolousness that holds invaluable lessons for managing expectations, relations and the destinies of the two nations. Both the Chinese and Indian leaderships are powerfully entrenched domestically and in a position to go beyond their traditional positions and narratives. Indians too should take a leaf out of the Chinese “transactional” approach, and maximise the circumstantial opportunity.

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‘Big Brother’ image hurts

Deccan Herald, Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh :Just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was wrapping up the much-needed restorative visit to the sensitive island nations of Maldives and Sri Lanka, a cringe-worthy advertisement that was a personification of the deeply perceived ‘big brother’ insensitivity of India in the neighbourhood went online. The cricket-themed advertisement bore no direct relevance to either Maldives or Sri Lanka, or had anything to do with the government, yet it was reflective of the ridiculing tenor, highhandedness and insensitivity that is attributed to India. The storyline of the commercial posits India as the veritable ‘father’ (baap) of both Pakistan and Bangladesh. In one stroke, it did untold psychological damage by inadvertently passing this off as the predominant instinct and sensibility of India. The initial campaign, which was only Indo-Pak in dimension, has now ensnared Bangladesh into its jeering construct. Given the heightened reach of cricket (with the ongoing World Cup tournament) and the borderless reach of social media, such campaigns do not go unnoticed, and will surely elicit unnecessary and equally inelegant responses. While the wounded, unsettled and complex history with China and Pakistan is a matter of fact and often beyond the control or creation of India, our relations with other neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives suffers on account of what is routinely described as Delhi’s “big brother attitude”. This is an ironic reputation, given India’s unquestionable status and stated position as a ‘moral’ and pacifist State with no expansionist agenda. All these countries were colonised by the British, with India emerging first from the clutches of imperialism. Nepalese and Sri Lankan freedom movements had healthy fraternal

relations with the leadership of the Indian freedom movement, whereas the independence of Bangladesh had a more direct link to India's intervention and support. Importantly even as the larger neighbour, India has never sought any territorial expansion into these countries even in their moments of vulnerabilities. Instead, it has sought a mutually beneficial interdependence. Yet relations with all these neighbours soured intermittently and it was not just restricted to the political classes, but the detachment had afflicted the masses. The chorus of "big brother attitude" increased and worsened from whispers to public protests, as the inconsistencies, attitude and brazenness of Delhi was felt in neighbouring capitals. Bangladesh is a case study in mismanaging a neighbouring nation that owes its genesis to the blood of Indian soldiers, and yet in less than four years after its independence, the ruling dispensation at Dhaka had a lesser-than-gratuitous relationship with India. While competitive politics and domestic intrigues are major factors in the sort of governmental and political evolutions, India cannot escape censure from its own missteps, ignorance and insensitivities with these 'smaller' states. Over time, Bangladesh more than made up with their initial tormentors, Pakistan, while Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives slipped dangerously into the waiting arms of the Chinese. Blamed for 'harnessing' regional sentiment in electoral calculations — for instance, over riparian issues in Bengal, or flip-flops on supporting the Tamil cause in Sri Lanka — the net perception of India across the other side of the border was that of an overbearing, unyielding and intrusive neighbour who was forsaking reasonableness for electoral harvest. At times, Delhi was openly seen to be preferring one political party over the other, as opposed to posturing a 'neutral' stand that allowed the plausible opportunity of keeping the doors of engagement open, irrespective of the dispensation. The worst impact and accusation was that of a neighbourhood 'bully' that resonated across Nepal, during the 2015 economic 'blockade', that has left unhealed scars and bitter memories. The official denial by Delhi notwithstanding, the public imagination in Nepal has internalised and recognised the same as 'Indian blockade', and this made Nepal raise the issue against India in the UN. Kathmandu soon had a patient, generous and accommodating benefactor in Beijing. However, Afghanistan has been an outstanding success of Indian diplomacy, as validated by the popular perceptions of India, as opposed to that of other global/regional stakeholders, in the fractured country. Modi, in his first overseas trip of this tenure, did well to deliberately steer clear of alluding to any position or preference in the domestic politics of either Maldives or Sri Lanka, even though the pro-India and anti-India delineation of parties exists. The dynamics of popular political preferences in other countries can never be second-guessed. It is prudent to take a 'neutral' posture, at least publicly. The previous government in Maldives had done away with the traditional 'India-first' approach and tilted clearly in favour of the Chinese. This had followed the

earlier taking over of the strategic Hambantota port in Sri Lanka by the Chinese, and the Indian government was faced with the real prospects of having Chinese ‘Pearl Ports’ encircling its Southern coastline. Today, a more nuanced, mature and ostensibly apolitical ‘neighbourhood-first’ approach has been postulated by Delhi, and this is needed to heal relations with the restive neighbours. In Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Delhi now has a seasoned, professional and experienced incumbent as the External Affairs Minister who, besides being a China-specialist, has served in Sri Lanka and overseen the Nepal ‘blockade’ of 2015 as Foreign Secretary. Conducting foreign policy with a dominant eye on the electoral calculus or populism has been the traditional bane of Indian diplomacy. Hopefully, the new team at the helm of affairs is wiser and more sensitive to the perception of India across the borders. Often it is not about the quantum of the investments deployed that swing popular perceptions but the ‘softer’ issues, like the tenor and phraseology of the ‘voice’ coming out of India, that matters. This is where the template of the recent commercial failed us, as it perpetuated the perception of a boorish ‘big brother’.

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Narendra Modi is ghosting Imran Khan. Letters, calls, messages go unanswered

The Print, Naila Inayat :What should Imran Khan do to get Modi’s attention? A letter written in blood could be a start, but don’t get your hopes up even with that. First, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan wrote letters to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi; then came his phone calls. But all the efforts of an overzealous ex fell short in getting a concrete response from Modi, for whom Khan had even tried to campaign for his re-election. Certainly, “How to win over your ex” is not a page to be taken out of Imran Khan’s rulebook. In his first letter to Modi after coming to power, Imran Khan in September 2018 called for resuming the peace dialogue between India and Pakistan. “Dear Modi Sahab... Pakistan remains ready to discuss terrorism,” Khan had written. Soon after, India cancelled the foreign minister-level meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Citing the killing of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir along with the release of postal stamps from Pakistan glorifying Burhan Wani, the meeting between foreign affairs minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and then external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj were cancelled. Miffed with India’s response, Imran Khan went full Donald Trump and tweeted out how hurt he was: “Disappointed at the arrogant & negative response by India to my call for resumption of the peace dialogue. However, all my life I have come across small men occupying big offices who do not have the vision to see the larger picture.” Ironically, when Khan mentioned small men not having the vision to see the larger picture, he gave us an insight into his own political vision or the lack of it. In the last seven years since his rise as military establishment’s blue-eyed boy, Imran Khan has vehemently targeted

political opponents for wanting to have a better relationship with India. Often taunting former prime minister Nawaz Sharif with slogans like ‘Modi Ka Jo Yaar Hai, Ghaddar Hai, Ghaddar Hai (friend of Modi is a traitor)’. He questioned Sharif’s friendship with Modi and accused both the leaders of creating tension at the borders to help Pakistan Muslim League (N) win the 2018 elections. “Beginning to wonder why whenever Nawaz Sharif is in trouble, there is increasing tension along Pakistan’s borders and a rise in terrorist acts? Is it a mere coincidence?” he tweeted. On another occasion, Khan said that Nawaz Sharif was “the modern-day Mir Jafar, who collaborated with the British to enslave his nation for personal gains. Nawaz speaking Modi’s language against Pak State simply to protect his ill-gotten Rs 300b stashed in his sons companies abroad.” It is the same Modi even now, so what has changed? Why is it legit to be a Modi ka yaar now? Nothing much. Other than Imran Khan becoming the prime minister and having these delusions of grandeur that he understands India more than any Pakistani simply because he has travelled and has friends in India. The outside world, including India, doesn’t see it like that. The current political setup lacks legitimacy and is seen as a proxy of the powerful establishment. Now, Khan wants peace, trade and dialogue among other things with India, forgetting that he once objected to all of that. But U-turn is a cornerstone of Khan’s politics. So, post-Balakot, when Imran Khan complained on the floor of the assembly that Modi wasn’t receiving his phone calls, many suggested that he borrowed Nawaz Sharif’s mobile phone to get Modi to talk to him. On Pakistan Day, Imran Khan jumped with joy over an unsigned customary letter greeting the people of Pakistan. He announced to the world, “Received msg from PM Modi: “I extend my greetings & best wishes to the people of Pakistan on the National Day of Pakistan. It is time that ppl of Sub-continent work together for a democratic, peaceful, progressive & prosperous region, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence”.” During India’s general elections, Khan couldn’t hold back his desire for Modi to become the PM again. He was so sure that “Ayega toh Modi hi” that he wrote a congratulatory letter to the Indian PM, according to some, weeks before Modi and his BJP had even won the election. That is the kind of confidence Imran Khan has in Modi. He eventually did send a congratulatory message (as did other world leaders) to Modi and the BJP for winning the election on 23 May. This was later followed up with a phone call with the same message: Pakistan wanted to work with Modi for peace and stability in the region and the restoration of dialogue between the two countries. But so far, all the efforts of Imran Khan to get Modi to talk to him have been futile. Modi has been ghosting him. With the announcement that there is no scheduled meeting between Modi and Imran Khan along the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek next week, hopes are grimmer. Letters, calls, messages, all unanswered. What should Imran

Khan do to get Modi's attention? From where I see, a letter written in blood could be a start. But don't get your hopes up even with that.

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Pakistan must extend olive branch to India, not the gun. Its defence budget allows only that

The Print, Lt Gen H S Panag :In keeping with Prime Minister Imran Khan's austerity drive, Pakistan's defence budget this year, announced Tuesday, is exactly the same as last year – Rs 1.15 trillion or US\$ 7.6 billion. But the alarming slide in the rupee to dollar rate and the current inflation rate of 9.41 per cent mean there will be less foreign exchange for imported equipment and less money for domestic expenditure. Will this net decrease impact the defence preparedness of Pakistan? Will the ongoing economic crisis push Pakistan to review its aggressive national security strategy? In my view, the larger financial problems will finally force Pakistan to seek accommodation with India. Financial catastrophe For a decade now, Pakistan has been facing economic crisis. According to Prime Minister Imran Khan, the national debt is now at \$205 billion. Its foreign exchange reserves are at a record low. Its tax revenue is only \$22.7 billion, half of which is used for debt servicing. The suspension of American aid of \$1.3 billion has further aggravated the problem. The \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is the biggest hope for Pakistan, but also its biggest problem as it rapidly adds to the external debt. Being a national security state beholden to its military, Pakistan's defence budget hovered at about 3 per cent of its GDP and accounted for 21 per cent of annual government expenditure last year. A façade? In the midst of this economic crisis and a week before the 2019-20 budget, there was a surprise development when the Pakistan Army committed itself to a voluntary defence budget cut. Last year, the defence budget had been increased by 20 per cent. There was extensive coverage of the proposed defence budget cut/freeze in the Indian media. Analysts were unanimous in their views that the Pakistan military is merely putting up a façade to meet the stringent conditions laid down by the World Bank and other donors. And that it will continue to meet its security needs by hiding the real defence expenditure and putting it under other categories. A national security state Assuming that 20-25 per cent of Pakistan's budget is for imports and 75-80 per cent for domestic expense, the net decrease in the defence budget is approximately 11.5-13.25 per cent. A decrease of 10-15 per cent can be covered by clandestinely making up the deficit by diverting from other categories. But given the state of Pakistan's economy, it is unlikely. In the short term, the military will tide over the problem by tightening the belt and deferring the payments of imported equipment, which is mostly from China. However, if economic problems persist, in the long run, the defence preparedness to pursue current security aims will be affected. Pakistan needs to maintain the current levels of defence spending because of its aggressive national security strategy. Else,

it can take care of its fundamental security needs with half the current budget. Its nuclear weapons ensure that there can be no existential threat to Pakistan from India. Problem child in South Asia India is a status quo power that has militarily refrained from any action to recover its territories occupied by China and Pakistan. It seems it is even willing to settle for the Line of Control and Line of Actual Control as International Boundary in return for lasting peace and economic development. Afghanistan and Iran are too weak to pose any threat to Pakistan. Pakistan's security problems are self-created. It seeks the role of a major power in the region and leadership of the Islamic Umma. Pakistan seeks parity with India and actively confronts it by waging a proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir. The war in Afghanistan is driven by Pakistan's regional ambition to have a government of choice in Kabul. A politicised military is the driver of Pakistan's national security strategy. India's choice now The future of Pakistan's economy hinges on the success of the CPEC. A lot is at stake for China too, both financially and prestige-wise. The CPEC cannot succeed with conflict raging north and south of it. There are no black and white solutions for disputes between sovereign states. To begin, we can diplomatically pursue the India-China bilateral model and replicate it with Pakistan. India should also reconsider its stand on China's Belt and Road Initiative. Regional economic cooperation between India, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan can go a long way in promoting peace in the region. Of course, all these hinge on Pakistan reviewing its aggressive strategy in Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan. Let me end with a cautionary note. With reforms and modernisation of our own armed forces at a standstill for the last 20 years due to inadequate defence budget, Pakistan, despite the economic crisis, has adequate military capacity to stalemate us. As a much bigger economy, with a defence budget five times that of Pakistan, we must create an overwhelming edge in key military technologies, which are beyond Pakistan's economic reach.

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The Times of India -- independent, centrist

The Hindu - independent, left-of-center

The Indian Express - independent, centrist

Hindustan Times - independent, centrist

The Economic Times - pro-reform business daily

Business Standard - pro-reform business daily

The Pioneer - pro-BJP, right of center

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To:	Juster, Kenneth I (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	For review: Early Edition articles
Date:	Fri, 14 Jun 2019 04:37:56 +0000

Good morning Sir,

Here are your Early Edition articles for today.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

US ambassador to India to highlight bilateral strategic ties at Houston event

The Economic Times, PTI :US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster is set to highlight the strategic relationship between the two countries and the bilateral trade at an event organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston on Saturday, IACCGH said. Juster was invited to the 20th gala celebrations of the chamber to deliver a keynote address by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and IACCGH president Swapan Dhairyawan and its founder & executive director Jagdip Ahluwalia in November last year. IACCGH Gala is the annual fundraiser for the chamber and attracts over 800 attendees. CEOs of Fortune 500 companies in the energy, healthcare, education and technology, space as well as Indian and US ambassadors, senators have been speakers at the high-caliber chamber events. Ahluwalia said the chamber has come a long way since its inception in 1999. "Now after two decades it is instrumental in building bridges between India and Houston, boosting trade and major investments and is cited among the upper echelons of the US Small Business Administration as a model chamber." Some of the things that IACCGH has been advocating and made investments possible between Houston & India are — BMC, HP – Compaq's investment in India, MD Anderson's partnership with Tata cancer, United's non-stop service to India, Mahindra Tractor's (Americas) presence in the US, Reliance, ONGC & GAIL's investment in the US. Dhairyawan said the chamber has graduated from conducting informational events to strategic outcome driven programs on all facets of business.

"US Least Protectionist, India High-Tariff Nation": Official

NDTV, PTI :US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross asked India to remove the overly restrictive market access barriers for American companies. Describing India as a "high-tariff market", US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Thursday urged the government to execute reforms that will open up the Indian economy and market. In unusually blunt remarks, Mr Ross asked India to remove the overly restrictive market access barriers for American companies. "As President Donald Trump has said, we look forward to working with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and his administration, to address mutual trading opportunities and investment potentials," Mr Ross said in his key note address to the India Ideas Summit of US Indian Business Council in Washington. Mr Ross said he is planning a trip to India to discuss and address some of the key issues challenging the India and US trade ties. The US Commerce Secretary was in India just before the Lok Sabha elections during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top Indian government officials. The Trump administration has been addressing a more balanced and reciprocal trade relationship, not only with India but also with its other trading partners across the world. Mr Ross said that US is the "least protectionist" major country, but India has "one of the highest levels of tariffs in the world, adding that protectionist practices also hurt the countries themselves. He expressed hope that since PM Modi has been voted back to power with a stronger mandate, he would be able to carry out necessary reforms and take India towards "a more open economy". "The mindset of moving towards a more open economy" is very important, he said, adding that both the US and India would benefit from this change. For the development of a viable commercial relationships, US companies need more predictability, more transparency or more consistency of regulations, Mr Ross said as he spoke of Trump administration's decision to withdraw the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for India.

Mike Pompeo says India 'perfect partner', great place to figure out how to grow economies

The Times of India, PTI :India is a perfect partner and great place for the US to figure out how to grow the economies of the two countries and get win-win solutions, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo has said as he pushed for the further liberalisation of the Indian economy. The Trump administration is trying to take down financial barriers and non-tariff barriers, and create open markets consistent with the central ideas that they hold here in the United States, he said. "But we remain open to dialogue and hope our Indian friends will drop their trade barriers and trust in the competitiveness of their exporters and private-sector companies," Pompeo said. The US will also push for the free flow of data across borders — not just to help American companies — but to protect data and ensure consumer privacy, he said. "I think that makes India a perfect partner and a great place for us to figure out how to grow our economies and get win-win solutions for both nations," Pompeo said in his keynote address to the India Ideas Summit of the US India Business Council (USIBC) on Wednesday. "That is, when you invest, your return on investment often extends beyond any particular Congress or any particular administration," the top American diplomat said. If the US government can lay the foundation, Pompeo said, the businesses will take risk, invest capital here and in India, and will grow both sides of the relationship."India, by purchasing oil and gas from the US, can have a fully diversified energy portfolio where it doesn't have to rely on nations that aren't as reliable as the United States and have good outcomes, outcomes that their business leaders can count on, and frankly that Americans thinking about investing in India can count on as well," he said. "Countries that have partnered with us and chosen to invest alongside us and opened their markets and prepared to allow American businesses to invest on the same terms in their country that their country has permitted to invest here, and that we get fair and reciprocal trade, they've seen America open up to them, and seen the real opportunity," he said. America's energy sector, Pompeo said, provides

a real opportunity for American businesses and for global growth as well. "We've been blessed with abundant affordable energy right here in the United States, and we're now out producing it at enormous levels, not just crude oil but natural gas as well. "On our side we've got to make sure that we build out the infrastructure that's necessary, so that we have the infrastructure so that we can deliver it and provide these opportunities," he said. "And then the state department's role is to make sure that we're out talking about that, sharing with other countries that we can be a reliable partner for their energy," Pompeo added.

An unpredictable US means India must get on right side of other big powers, like China

The Print, Bureau :PM Modi has chosen well to pick China as his first big power engagement in his second term. Despite the bonhomie with President Xi Jinping in the first term, ties rode a roller-coaster. With an increasingly unpredictable America, India must get on the right side of all other big powers. BJP lets go of one-man-one-post rule and home ministry gets a distracted minister That Home Minister Amit Shah will remain the BJP's president at least until state elections later this year shows the party is unwilling to let go of its election-winning magician. Not only is BJP diluting its one-man-one-post rule, but challenges of internal security and Kashmir don't deserve a distracted minister.

India, US work towards signing 2 more defence pacts

The Indian Express, Sushant Singh : INDIA AND the US are working towards signing two more defence pacts, the Industrial Security Annexure (ISA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) to further institutionalise defence cooperation between the two countries. Pentagon had already submitted a draft ISA to the Defence Ministry and sources said that a positive response is expected from India. The two sides could announce the signing of the ISA at the next 2+2 meeting between the two countries. The next 2+2 meeting between the defence and foreign ministers and their counterparts is scheduled to be held in the US, as the last 2+2 meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2018. No firm dates have been set for the meeting but it could be scheduled around September, sources said. An ISA, which is an Annexure to the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) between the two countries, will enable the US government and US defence companies to share classified information with Indian private defence manufacturers. India and the US had the GSOMIA 17 years ago, which allowed sharing of classified information from the US government and American defence manufacturers with Indian government and government-owned defence firms but not with Indian private companies. Signing the ISA is seen as a prerequisite for meaningful private sector participation in defence production in India, if it has to get modern technological inputs from US in a secure manner. With the Defence Ministry stressing Strategic Partnership model in defence manufacturing as part of Make in India, an ISA gains even greater importance. The US has also shared a draft of BECA, which will allow exchange of geospatial information between India and the US for both military and civilian use. Getting accurate locations will allow Indian weapons systems and military platforms to accurately hit their targets. India had responded with its observations leading to a fresh draft from the US, and further discussions on it

are expected before a draft is finalised. BECA is the last of the three foundational agreement and the only one remaining to be signed. The two countries had signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in August 2016, wherein both the militaries can provide logistics support to the other side from their bases. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), amended to meet Indian requirements, was signed last September at the 2+2 dialogue.

India, China do not pose 'threats' to each other: Chinese President Xi Jinping to PM Modi

The Economic Times, PTI :President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday that India and China "do not pose threats" to each other as he expressed Beijing's willingness to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides. President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek - their first interaction after Modi's re-election following the stunning victory of the BJP in the general elections last month. In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said that President Xi told Prime Minister Modi that India and China should deepen cooperation by properly handling differences and called for strengthening Confidence Building Measures to maintain stability at the border. "China is ready to work with India to continuously advance the closer development partnership between the two countries," Xi said. He urged the two sides to stick to the fundamental judgement that "China and India offer to each other chances for development, and do not pose each other threats," state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the statement. Xi called on the two countries to keep deepening mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, and properly handling their disputes so as to turn the bilateral relationship into a positive element for their respective development. He pointed out that China and India are the only two emerging markets with a population of one billion in the world, both of which are at an important stage of rapid development. Working together, China and India will not only boost each other's development, but also contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and the world at large, he said. Xi said both the countries should deepen mutual trust, focus on cooperation and properly handle differences, so as to make China-India relations a more positive asset and energy for the development of the two countries, the statement said. On the vexed boundary issue, Xi said, "we need to make good use of the meeting of the Special Representatives on the boundary issue and other mechanisms, strengthen Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) and maintain stability at the border areas". National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives of the boundary dispute. So far, the two countries have held 21 rounds of talks to resolve differences over the 3488-km long Line Actual Control (LAC). "We need to expand cooperation channels, carry out cooperation in investment, production capacity and tourism, expand common interests, and jointly promote regional connectivity, including the development of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) so as to achieve better cooperation and common development," he said. The

mention of BCIM, which is part of China's multibillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative is regarded significant as it has not yet taken off unlike the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other corridors of the initiative.

India, Russia and China to hold trilateral meeting on sidelines of G-20 Summit in Japan

Business Standard, ANI :India, Russia and China will hold a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Osaka in Japan later this month. This was disclosed after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting here. "It is planned that there will be a Russia, India and China trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan," Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told the media while briefing on the meeting between Modi and Putin. Ever since G20 was formed, India has been actively participating in the meetings. Although there are no binding commitments in G20, it sets the agenda for multilateral trade relations. The G20 members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 per cent of its economy. Gokhale also said that Modi will visit Russia in early September as the main guest at the Eastern Economic Forum to which he was formally invited by Putin. "President Putin has invited Prime Minister Modi formally to be the main guest at Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia in early September, and Prime Minister Modi has warmly accepted the invitation. So, this will be a bilateral visit that Prime Minister will make and thereafter for the India-Russia annual bilateral summit," Gokhale said. Russia has also activated the first batch of orders of AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles, he said. "Naturally, discussions took place on defence related issues. Prime Minister thanked President Putin for the rapidity with which Russia had responded to our request for Make in India to manufacture the AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles in Amethi. This is a project which was set up in record time and President Putin in fact confirmed that the first batch of orders was already activated. Both leaders were very pleased with it. In a sense, this marks the beginning of the process where we will move away from the buyer, seller relationship to one way that is technology transfer and Make in India, job creation and content creation in India," he said. It was during his official visit to India last October that Putin and Modi reached an agreement on producing Kalashnikov assault rifles' 200 series in India. On 3 March, Modi launched an AK-203 rifle manufacturing unit in Amethi as part of the Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd - a joint venture between India's Ordnance factory and a Russian firm. "One of the areas President Putin particularly mentioned was the modernisation of Indian Railways. In this regard, they are doing a study for the upgrading of the Nagpur-Secundrabad line and this was the area in which Russia is interested in. During his meeting with Putin, Modi said, "I am obliged with the highest respect order of St Andrew the Apostle, on behalf of people of India. I am very grateful for your support for the rifle manufacturing unit in Amethi. We will meet in (G-20 summit) coming days in Japan.

PM Modi meets Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of SCO summit in Bishkek

The Hindu, PTI :Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) Summit in Bishkek. Mr. Modi arrived in the Kyrgyz capital on June 13 for the SCO summit, the first multilateral engagement post his re-election. The SCO is a China-led 8-member economic and security bloc with India and Pakistan being admitted to the grouping in 2017. “Deepening friendship with China. PM @narendramodi’s first meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit is with President Xi Jinping. Both leaders are discussing ways to further strengthen bilateral relations,” the Prime Minister’s Office tweeted. Mr. Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations. Later, Mr. Modi also met Russian President Vladimir Putin and the two leaders reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations to further strengthen the bilateral strategic relationship. “A special partner, a privileged relationship! PM @narendramodi met with @KremlinRussia_E Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of #SCOSummit in #Bishkek. Reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations to further strengthen the strategic relationship,” External Affairs Ministry (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek on June 13, 2019. Photo courtesy: Twitter/@MEAIndia Earlier in October, President Putin travelled to India for the 19th India-Russia annual summit during which he held comprehensive discussions with Modi on wide-ranging bilateral, regional and international issues. Russia has been one of India’s key suppliers of arms and ammunition. Prime Minister Modi, President Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a trilateral meeting, the second among the three countries after a gap of 12 years, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires in December during which they underscored the benefits of a multilateral trading system and an open world economy for global growth and prosperity. India-China ties Ahead of the meeting, China hinted that President Xi would highlight the need to forge a united front against U.S. President Donald Trump’s policies of trade protectionism and unilateralism using tariffs as a weapon. China and the U.S. have been in an escalating conflict over trade for the past year. The scope of the battle has expanded in recent months as Washington has tightened trade restrictions on Chinese telecom giant Huawei. Chinese officials hope that India, which is also facing trade frictions with the U.S. specially over termination of its designation as a ‘beneficiary developing country’ under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), would join the fight against Mr. Trump’s protectionist policies. The economic and commercial engagement between India and China constitutes a major component of the bilateral relations with bilateral trade which crossed \$95 billion last year and is set to cross \$100 billion this year. The two leaders have met more than 10 times in the last five years, including thrice after their informal summit in the Chinese city of Wuhan in April, 2018 — first at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in June last in China’s Qingdao, the second time at the BRICS summit in South Africa’s Johannesburg in July and third time in December last on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina. The Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi was largely credited to have turned around the bilateral relations soured by the 73-day Doklam standoff, triggered by Chinese troops attempts to build a road close to Indian border in an area also claimed by Bhutan in 2017. After the Wuhan summit, both the countries stepped up efforts to improve relations on different spheres including

the military-to-military ties. Last month, the 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the powerful U.N. Security Council designated Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist after veto-wielding permanent member China lifted its technical hold on the proposal by the U.S., the U.K. and France to blacklist him. It was a huge diplomatic victory for India after a decade of relentless efforts to ban the mastermind of several terror attacks against India, including the deadly Pulwama attack against Indian security forces.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai says India, U.S. can lead on standardising privacy frameworks

The Hindu, Sriram Lakshman :India and the U.S. share enough values in common to lead on standardising privacy frameworks, according to Google Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai. If standardisation was done across the world, it could significantly enhance digital trade, he said. "The free flow of information is essential for digital trade and we have all seen the benefits of it...we need better safeguards around user privacy. I think , [and] rightfully so, users are increasingly concerned about it." Mr. Pichai said. "It is an important moment to create standardised frameworks both for users to have choice and total transparency and for companies to be accountable as well." India and the U.S. have "reasonably aligned" notions around a free and open internet, have both safeguarded principles of free expression, and, therefore, have enough shared values to lead in privacy frameworks. Mr. Pichai's remarks were made during an India Ideas Summit of the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) in Washington DC. He was there to receive a Global Leadership Award from the USIBC. Nasdaq president and CEO Adena Friedman was also an award recipient. On how he sees Google in India, Mr. Pichai said, "We took a very long term view of our investments there," and Google was "very excited" and "proud" to be part of India's growth story. Cheaper phones "Android literally powers all phones in India and we deeply care about making phones cheaper every year, so that more people can afford it [sic] and access it " Mr. Pichai said, pointing to the growth of local cellphone manufacturers. "Our products played a foundational role," Mr. Pichai said. " But increasingly it's also happening in reverse. The scale of the Indian market allows us to develop Indian products there and actually take it out globally as well. Mr. Pichai spoke of digital payments as an example. "India was moving towards digital payments, so we thought it was the best market to push the future of digital payments, " Mr. Pichai said. Google had launched Tez in 2017 in India, which was later renamed Google Pay as it was expanded globally.

Modi to visit Russia in early September

Business Standard, IANS :Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia in early September to be chief guest at the Eastern Economic Forum meeting and will also hold discussions with President Vladimir Putin as part of the India-Russia annual bilateral summit. Modi had a bilateral meeting with Putin here on Thursday on the sidelines of SCO summit and the two leaders noted that the old relationship based on trust needs to be strengthened further. Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said both leaders recognised the special significance of the partnership. "Both sides recognised that it is an old relationship based on trust between the leadership and the people and this relationship needs to be sustained, developed and given

further encouragement," he said. He said President Putin has invited Prime Minister formally to be the main guest for the Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok in early September. "The Prime Minister has warmly accepted the invitation. This will be a bilateral visit that Prime Minister will make to Vladivostok in early September as the chief guest for the Eastern Economic Forum and thereafter for the India-Russia annual bilateral summit," Gokhale said. He said the Prime Minister felt that this is a new area of cooperation which must be actively explored by both sides. Modi informed Putin that India will do serious preparations for the forum meeting to ensure that its participation is meaningful. Business delegations as well as representatives of key Indian states will visit Vladivostok and Russian Far East prior to Modi's visit to identify to work on potential areas of business collaboration. Gokhale said the Russian Far East is extremely resourceful and besides oil and gas, it has a number of other minerals and timber. "This is an area in which we would like to work with Russia because Russia is also an important country in the Pacific region and this is part of our Act East policy," he said. This was the first meeting between the two leaders since Modi winning a second term in office.

Thank you PM Modi, tweets Netanyahu on India's rare vote for Israel at UN

Hindustan Times, PTI :Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for voting in favour of a decision introduced by the Jewish state that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian group at the UN's Economic and Social Council. In a rare move, India on Tuesday voted in favour of Israel in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to deny the Palestinian non-governmental organisation 'Shahed' the observer status, after Israel said the organisation did not disclose its ties with Hamas. "Thank you @NarendraModi, thank you India, for your support and for standing with Israel at the UN," Netanyahu said in a tweet on Wednesday, almost a week after the June 6 vote. It is the first time that India has voted on a resolution at the UN that is being perceived as pro-Israel. India's position on the Middle East Peace Process has been consistent and clear. India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and relevant UNSC Resolutions. India has also always played a proactive role in garnering support for the Palestinian cause in multilateral fora. New Delhi had abstained during a voting at the UNHRC in 2015 on a resolution related to violence in Gaza which was seen as a "significant move" in Israel and attributed by many to the "emerging strong chemistry between Modi and Netanyahu". India had then explained to the Palestinian Authority the reasons for its stand and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had "accepted and understood" why New Delhi abstained then. The ECOSOC vote, which took place at the UN, saw countries such as the US, France, Germany, India, Japan, the UK, South Korea and Canada polling in favour of Israel, while China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others voted against it. The proposal made by the Palestinian NGO 'Shahed' to obtain observer status in the UN was rejected by a 28-14 vote. Maya Kadosh, deputy chief of mission at the Israel embassy in India, on Tuesday in a Tweet thanked New Delhi "for standing with @IsraelinUN and rejecting the request of terrorist organization "Shahed" to obtain the status of an observer in

#UN. Together we will continue to act against terrorist organizations that intend to harm.” Kadosh mentioned that the organisation has links with Hizbullah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad that was designated as terrorist organisation in 1997. “This is a good sign... India was the first country to support us amongst the Asia group, so we are very happy,” she added. A statement by Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs later said that ‘Shahed’ claims to be dealing with human rights and humanitarian issues, but in practice it is a “terrorist organisation” and operates as “an arm of the Hamas terror organisation” based in Lebanon. The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has been described as a terrorist organisation by many European countries. First Published: Jun 13, 2019 15:36 IST

Wiser after Balakot, India orders missiles worth \$700 million from Russia

The Print, Snehash Alex Philip :After the Balakot strike and the dogfight with the Pakistani air force in February, India is looking to increase its stockpile of missiles with the Modi government ordering weaponry worth about \$700 million for the Indian Air Force from Russia. These include air-to-air missiles with an extended range as well air-to-surface missiles, ThePrint has learnt. Highly placed sources said close to 300 short-range air-to-air missiles, the R-73, and 400 medium-range air-to-air guided missiles, the RVV-AE, also known as the R-77, have been ordered. The R-77 is the Russian counterpart to the US medium-range AIM-120 AMRAAM missile. The American make was unsuccessfully used by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to target Indian Su-30 MKIs on 27 February, a day after the IAF strikes on Balakot. These missiles are designed to arm the Russian-made MiG and Sukhoi aircraft. The order, meant to boost the IAF’s capability, also includes a radar-busting missile, the X-31, said the sources. Russia, India eye longer range missiles Sources said Russia has also offered to help India for future orders with missiles with ranges longer than the ones it currently possesses. According to Russian Tactical Missiles Corporation, the developer and producer of most of the Russian air-to-air missiles, the R-73’s range is 30 km. The range of its latest version, the RVV-MD, is 40 km. It’s the same case with the R-77, which can hit targets at a distance of up to 80 km, while its latest version, the RVV-SD, can go up to 110 km. Russia is currently offering its partners globally the short-range air-to-air RVV-MD missiles, medium-range air-to-air RVV-SD missiles, long-range air-to-air RVV-BD missiles, and medium-range air-to-air RVV-AE (R-77) missiles. Integrating other missiles — for instance, the Israeli Derby air-to-air missiles — with the Su-30 will require permission from Russia, said the sources. “Russia and India can jointly implement the programme of modernisation of the IAF’s air-to-air missiles. All the requirements of the Air Force can be discussed and met. The work could start as soon as possible once the formal request is made,” added the sources.

India cannot stay immune to global impact of the trade war: HSBC’s Quinn

Mint, Shayan Ghosh :As the US-China trade war heats up, the impact on India and other developing nations is being closely watched. With India’s economy showing signs of a slowdown, this trade war could be beneficial for the country if investments that would have otherwise gone to China come to India. Noel Quinn, chief executive, global commercial banking

at HSBC, said in an interview that while it is an opportunity for India, the country cannot stay immune to the global impact of the trade war. Edited excerpts. How do you see the US-China trade war and how will it impact India? We clearly prefer an environment where there are no trade tensions. With respect to this, there are two potential impacts. First, I believe that there is the potential for a negative impact for us all globally—world trade, world consumption and the growth of global GDP could be negatively impacted by trade tensions between two large powers like the US and China. I do not think any economy in the world will be immune from the impact. There is then the potential for positive impact for India. By this, I mean that investments that otherwise would have gone into production capacities in China could be attracted to other markets like India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Do you think India is ready to receive these potential investments in terms of say timely approvals? I think the goods and services tax (GST) is a good example of removing bureaucracy and red tape and barriers to trade and more needs to happen. The one thing I would say if I look at the historic and current strengths of the Chinese manufacturing is not that they just have good factories. It is that they have good logistics around the manufacturing capabilities, the ability to move goods from the manufacturing plant to the port and from the port to the overseas destination. Many of the markets looking to benefit from investments going into them will not only need to build manufacturing, but need the infrastructure necessary for movement of goods into and out of the country. That is where India still has some development to do. Since you mentioned GST, could you explain how it has benefited trade? The creation of GST has allowed a trade to take place within India much more easily than it used to be. Everybody thinks of trade as an international phenomenon, but actually trade within India is equally an opportunity for many small businesses. I would look at the positive aspects of GST and the uniformity of a tax system that allows free movement of goods within India. This makes the tax system easier to understand. It is going to have medium to long term benefits that are yet to fully materialize, and the physical ability to move goods and build national distribution capabilities and national sales capabilities within India will be the long-term positive effects of GST. I believe this can encourage overseas investments into India. What innovations in global trade are you witnessing at the moment? The biggest innovation impacting global trade is the digitization of documentation and all of the paperwork that is associated with trade today. The primary benefit of that is being able to authenticate documentation and therefore eliminate the risk of fraud because you have a digital certificate that has an identity and authenticity attached to it. The second benefit is the removal of paper and the processing of paper, which should lower the overall cost of transactions. The real reduction in the cost of doing trade will come from the third benefit though, which is the decrease in time between starting and finishing a transaction in a digital format. It will shorten the working capital cycle. So, if today a trade transaction takes 10 days, in the digital world, a trade transaction could take just one or two days.

India likely to be among top 20 global FDI sources by 2021: UN body

Business Standard, [Subhayan Chakraborty](#) :The growing number of Indian companies eyeing international acquisitions is expected to make the country one of the top 20 global sources of

foreign direct investment (FDI) soon, shows a report by a UN body. “India and the UAE — not traditionally in the top 20 outward investor countries — were also listed among the top 10 sources of FDI, for the 2019-2021 period, shows the report on international FDI flows by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Drawing inference from a survey of investment promotion agencies globally, the report points out that India’s equity outflows stood at \$11.03 billion in 2018. Firms on shopping spree The current year has seen a string of announcements by Indian majors, according to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a trust established by the commerce department. Infosys has announced the acquisition of 75 per cent stake in a subsidiary of Dutch bank ABN AMRO. In March, Sun Pharmaceuticals also raised its stake in Russia’s PJSC Biosintez to 97 per cent. Closer to home, Ashok Leyland has set up a new facility in Dhaka, in a joint venture with IFAD Autos. The sales, service, and spare parts facility is spread over 138,000 square feet, and will cater to the entire range of Ashok Leyland vehicles. In addition, auto components major JBM Group has purchased a majority stake in Linde-Wiemann, a German structural components producer. OYO is planning to invest \$1.2 billion in expansion across key markets, including China. Falling inbound FDI However, inbound FDI remains a different story. While the report said that FDI inflows rose 6 per cent in 2018 to \$42 billion, the government’s own data for the entire FY19 period has shown that inbound equity investments declined for the first time in six years in FY19. Latest figures released last month by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) revealed that equity inflows reduced to \$44.36 billion, down 1 per cent from \$44.85 billion last year. “Apart from a wait-and-watch policy adopted by global investors before the elections, volatility in the stock market as well as the overall weak health of the corporate sector may have scared off new inflows,” said Devendra Pant, chief economist at India Ratings. India’s economy officially grew 6.8 per cent in FY19 — lowest in the Modi government’s first tenure. Private investments remained subdued and demand — particularly in the rural sector — was muted. However, investors may now rally around the massive mandate given to the incumbent government and investments may rise accordingly, Pant added. In the subcontinent, FDI inflows to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka rose to a record \$3.6 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively. However, Pakistan witnessed a 27 per cent decline in investment to \$2.4 billion. In FY19, Singapore turned out to be the largest source of offshore funds, with FDI rising nearly 25 per cent to \$16.22 billion. This was followed by Mauritius at \$6.8 billion and Japan at \$2.98 billion. India revised its tax treaty with Mauritius and Singapore, which has fully come into effect from the current financial year.

Look at e-comm, new models of trade, says forum looking to revive BCIM

Hindustan Times, Sutirtho Patranobis :The Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar economic corridor (BCIM-EC) should focus on developing e-commerce instead of waiting for physical infrastructure to come up, a leading study group looking into reviving the seemingly stillborn trade route has suggested. Meeting after a gap of four years, the joint statement released on Tuesday by the 13th BCIM Regional Cooperation Forum, comprising scholars and officials from the four countries, didn’t make any mention of the corridor as part of China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Forum met in Yuxi in the southwestern Yunnan province on Tuesday.

The corridor envisages a trade route between Kunming in Yunnan and Kolkata in India that passes through Mandalay in Myanmar and Chittagong in Bangladesh. Tuesday's forum focused on the theme: "New Era New Opportunities for A New Decade of BCIM Cooperation" – the theme itself an indication that the corridor needs a fresh look. China had dropped the BCIM-EC from the list of 35 corridors under the BRI, released at the end of the 2nd BRI Forum held in Beijing in April. It had led to speculation that the multilateral impetus to promote and build the BCIM had fizzled and that it was the end of the road for the initiative. Foreign ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang tried to allay the doubts on Monday. At the regular press briefing on Monday, he said "...BCIM has not been abandoned. It is very much on board... In fact, the 13th meeting of the BCIM forum to discuss the progress is being held on the sidelines of the China, South Asia Business Forum currently being held in Yunnan province," he had said. The joint statement said that 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the BCIM cooperation mechanism – sort of admitting that nothing much has moved on the ground to build the corridor for two decades. The meeting focussed on four topics: Improving cooperation mechanism of the BCIM Forum, stronger cooperation on BCIM comprehensive connectivity, trade and investment facilitation for stronger competitiveness of the regional economy, and enriching BCIM cooperation in social and cultural sectors. "It is necessary to further deepen cooperation and promote substantial progress in the building of the BCIM EC while considering the specific circumstances of the Parties (the four countries). Efforts should be made to optimise the policy environment for the connectivity and to facilitate the efficient, systematic and orderly cross-border flow of goods and services," the joint statement said. The statement added: "The Parties noted that the infrastructure development faces the challenge of inadequate capital investment. In view of this, the Parties are willing to work together to innovate the application of public-private partnerships in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Parties to efficiently utilise financial resources". The joint statement suggested stronger e-commerce ties between the four countries. "The Parties called for upholding multilateralism and free-trade and further strengthening regional economic and trade exchanges, promoting investment cooperation and cross-border logistics. The Parties agreed to support enterprises, especially SMEs, of the four countries to utilise e-commerce and other new models for developing cross-border trade," it added. It remains to be seen how the BCIM-EC progresses. Luo Zhaohui, who is now vice foreign minister, wrote as the Chinese envoy to India in May in the Hindustan Times: "China and India have conducted cooperation under the framework of BCIM. During the Wuhan Summit, PM Narendra Modi pointed out that the BCIM construction should be speeded up. We expect that the fourth meeting of the Joint Study Group (an official group) would be held later this year to complete the joint study report".

US wants Pakistan to prosecute terrorists, not just detain them

Hindustan Times, Yashwant Raj :The United States said on Thursday that while recent counter-terrorism measures taken by Pakistan are "important", they are "still reversible" and it needs to both "sustain" and "expand" them by "prosecuting terrorist leaders". "The reality is that terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (another spelling for Lashkar-e-Toiba, LeT) and Jaish-

e- Muhammad (Jaish-e-Mohammad, JeM) will continue to pose a grave risk to international peace as long as they are able to operate freely in Pakistan,” Alice Wells, head of the state department’s South and Central Asia bureau, said in her prepared remarks for a congressional hearing. “Sustained progress on these two issues – reconciliation (in the context of Afghanistan) and counter-terrorism (in both Afghanistan and India) – will lie at the heart of a renewed bilateral relationship,” she added. Following international outrage triggered by the Pulwama terrorist attack by Pakistan-based JeM last February, the Imran Khan government has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism measures such as detaining terrorists and seizing assets, as they have done countless times before. But the United States has been pressing Pakistan to prosecute terrorists leaders such as LeT founder Hafiz Saeed (an UN and US designated terrorist who carries a reward of \$10 million for his arrest and prosecution) and JeM’s Masood Azhar, and it has responded with mounting frustration and irritation to half-measures Islamabad has taken against these operatives historically, allowing them to operate freely, to raise funds and train cadres. President Donald Trump ordered suspension of all security related aid to Pakistan to force it to take more sustainable and irreversible action, but US officials have continued to express frustration at the lack of progress. And they have pointed to both Saeed and Azhar to make their case. Wells spoke of Azhar’s designation by the UN’s 1267 sanctions committee earlier, which was engineered by the United States working with the United Kingdom and France, in the face of stiff resistance, once again, by China working on behalf of its close ally Pakistan. Calling it an “achievement 10 years in the making”, Wells said the listing sent “an important message that the international community would not tolerate terrorism”. Outlining the Trump administration’s approach to Pakistan, Wells said the strategy was to obtain Pakistan’s support for the Afghanistan peace process and to follow through on pledges “to take sustained and irreversible action against all militant groups operating from within its territory”.

How the world is dealing with China’s military modernisation drive

The Hindu, Suyash Desai :China’s Defence minister Wei Fenghe made a speech on June 2 at the Shangri-La Dialogue forum in Singapore. Shangri-La Dialogue is one of the biggest track-one diplomacy security fora of Asia. Mr. Fenghe’s speech was monitored closely for three reasons. One, the Defence minister has not attended this forum since 2011. Two, his speech was a response to the statement made by Patrick Shanahan, the acting secretary of defence for the United States. Mr. Shanahan revealed details of the ‘new phase’ in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy. Third and most importantly, the speech came a month after the Chinese military report published by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The DOD report cautioned the U.S. Congress about the rapid modernisation of the Chinese armed forces. The report claims that the Chinese leadership aims to achieve informatisation of the People’s Liberation Army by 2020 and modernisation by 2035, with the broader goal of developing the PLA into a world-class force by 2050. The report gives considerable attention to the advancement of the PLA Navy (PLAN). There has been an evolution in the approach of the PLAN from ‘off-shore water defence’ to ‘open sea protection’ due to its increased military capabilities. The report says that China’s second aircraft carrier, Type 001 A, would likely be commissioned by the end of this year. This

would be followed by the induction of another carrier, Type 002, in a short span of time. The Type 002 carrier is expected to be equipped with advanced launch capabilities in the form of an electromagnetic catapult. Currently, this technology is available only with the single aircraft carrier of the U.S. Navy, the USS Gerald R. Ford. The report also states that the PLAN currently operates four nuclear-powered ballistic missile-carrying submarines (SSBNs) and six nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs), predicting that this number would increase in the near future. The DOD report further cautions the U.S. Congress to expect the establishment of more overseas PLA bases, like the one in Djibouti, in the Indo-Pacific region in the near future. What does this mean for regional stakeholders? Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has been the unquestioned military superpower around the globe. It currently operates over 11 aircraft carriers. But the supremacy of the U.S. Navy is slowly being challenged by the PLA in the Indo-Pacific region. The Taiwan Strait crisis of 1996 was a turning point for the PLA Navy. The presence of a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Kitty Hawk, in the region during the Taiwanese election underscored for the Chinese leadership the need to undertake rapid naval modernisation. Over the years, the PLA Navy has invested in and developed Anti Access / Area Denial (A2/AD) capabilities, significantly enhancing its ability to challenge the U.S. Navy along the three seas (Yellow Sea, South China Sea and East China Sea). Assessing the impact of the PLA's modernisation on the regional balance of power, a bipartisan commission set up by the U.S. Congress in 2018 delineated that in case of a war with China over Taiwan, "Americans could face a decisive military defeat". For India, the PLA Navy's modernisation has implications in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). India considers the IOR as part of its sphere of influence. But increased Chinese investments in commercial ports in the region have led to concern about increased PLAN activity and possibly new bases. In 2017, the PLA established its first overseas military outpost in Djibouti. The new DOD report cautions that "China will seek to establish additional military bases in countries with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests". In this context, Pakistan appears to be the front-runner. Hambantota in Sri Lanka could also possibly be another candidate, although Chinese influence there thus far remains merely commercial. Also, it would not be wrong to believe that one of the three aircraft carriers of China, in the near future, would be operational out of the IOR. Such developments in the IOR are a point of concern for India. For the Japanese, Vietnamese and the ASEAN navies, the stakes are much higher as they are directly involved in territorial island disputes with the PRC in the East and South China Seas. There are three ways in which the increasing footprint of China is being challenged by the regional stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region — by strengthening the existing military partnerships and agreements, enhancing capabilities, and acquisition of naval bases. The choice is subjective, and depends on the country's ambitions, interests and capacities. For the United States, the approach towards China in the Indo-Pacific region has changed from accommodation and competition to strategic competition. The U.S. strategy for the Indo-Pacific region, according to its 2017 National Security Strategy is to maintain 'forward military presence', which is capable of 'deterring and, if necessary, defeating any adversary'. The U.S. has many more naval bases than China in this region. It already has

military alliances with Japan, South Korea and the Philippines and informal partnerships with India, Singapore and Australia. The 2017 NSS also refers to strengthening of informal Quadrilateral security dialogue, i.e. the Quad, between the U.S., India, Australia and Japan. But there has been no substantive developments in the Quad, and it has been confined to media talks for now. In the case of India, its primary theatre of operation and interest is the IOR. India aims to beef up its naval capacity and might. India is one of the major regional major allies for the U.S. in its approach to rebalancing the Indo-Pacific region. However, India's approach to the IOR comes with a mix of balancing and accommodating China, with greater emphasis on the former. India has informal partnerships with the U.S. and French navies in the IOR. The scope of the partnership is restricted to non-traditional security initiatives like intelligence and information-sharing, joint naval exercises and drills, joint naval operations against the non-state actors in the high seas, logistics-sharing and deepening tri-lateral and multilateral cooperation with like-minded countries. It is not unimaginable to see such partnerships with Japanese, Vietnamese, Australian and select ASEAN navies in the foreseeable future. However, India has refrained from being a party to any formal security/military arrangement or dialogue which would be overtly targeted towards China. Its apprehensions towards the Quad comes from this thought process. India is blessed with a wide coastline and has a geographic advantage in the IOR. This negates the need of foreign military bases in the IOR. However, despite this, India and Seychelles have agreed to work jointly in Assumption Island for raising a possible naval military infrastructure. The other regional stakeholders such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore are walking a tightrope between balancing and bandwagoning against China and the U.S. These navies have tried to balance against China by having a close linkages with the U.S. Navy and at the same time, have started to conduct smaller maritime drills, engagements and associations with the PLAN. For instance, ASEAN navies held their first joint multilateral naval exercise with China in 2018. The Thai navy recently conducted a joint maritime exercise with the Chinese navy in the South China Sea. Since stakes for these countries in this region is high, due to ongoing territorial disputes, they prefer a more cautious approach in dealing with PLAN in the Indo-Pacific region.

Trump says would take foreign info on 2020 presidential opponent

The Hindu, PTI :President Donald Trump said that he would be willing to accept information from a foreign country on his opponent in the 2020 election race, after years of denying Moscow helped him win office. Trump team contacts with Russians during the 2016 presidential race led to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into possible collusion and obstruction of justice, as well as several similar and ongoing efforts in Congress. The Russia issue has consumed the Trump presidency for the past two years, and his new remarks suggested he still sees nothing wrong with a U.S. political candidate accepting help from a foreign power. "I think you might want to listen... there's nothing wrong with listening," Mr. Trump said when asked by ABC News what he would do if a country such as Russia or China offered him such information. He denied the suggestion that that would amount to foreign meddling in a US election. "It's not an interference, they have information -- I think I'd take it," Mr. Trump said. "If I thought there was

something wrong, I'd go maybe to the FBI - if I thought there was something wrong," Mr. Trump said. Mueller's report on his investigation stated that while there was insufficient evidence to charge Trump with criminal conspiracy, he was happy enough to benefit from Russian dirty tricks. Democratic presidential frontrunner Joe Biden said that Mr. Trump was "welcoming" foreign interference in US voting. "This isn't about politics. It is a threat to our national security. An American President should not seek their aid and abet those who seek to undermine democracy," Mr. Biden said on Twitter. Another Democratic presidential hopeful, Elizabeth Warren, seized on Mr. Trump's comments to repeat her strident calls for him to be impeached. "The #MuellerReport made it clear: A foreign government attacked our 2016 elections to support Trump, Trump welcomed that help, and Trump obstructed the investigation," Ms. Warren tweeted. "Now, he said he'd do it all over again. It's time to impeach Donald Trump." Democrats in Congress continue to seek testimony and information as they press the president with multiple investigations -- mostly related to Russia meddling, obstruction and the 2016 election -- and are debating among themselves whether there is enough evidence and political space to pursue impeachment. The president's remarks came on the same day that his son Donald Jr was grilled by US senators about his contacts with Russians. The younger Mr. Trump likely faced questioning about his role in arranging meeting at Trump Tower in June 2016 that included his father's son-in-law Jared Kushner, then-campaign manager Paul Manafort, and a Russian lawyer offering dirt on Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. "If it's what you say, I love it," Mr. Trump Jr had written in response to a 2016 email offering the information. Some Democrats suspect Mr. Trump Jr may have lied in previous testimony in 2017 about what he and his father knew about the now-infamous meeting, as well as other connections between the Trump campaign and Russia. The Trump team had initially tried to cover up the meeting, providing conflicting stories about its purpose and what happened. Mueller's report detailed how the president's former lawyer Michael Cohen recalled that Trump Jr may have told his father about the meeting. The president has denied knowing about it ahead of time.

Pakistan extends airspace ban along its eastern border with India till June 28

Mint, Bureau :Pakistan on Thursday extended its airspace ban along its eastern border with India for the third time till June 28, according to a notice issued by the country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Pakistan fully closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot. Since then, it has only opened two routes, both of them pass through southern Pakistan, of the total 11. Pakistan's civil aviation authority is expected to review the situation on June 15. The IAF announced on May 31 that all temporary restrictions imposed on Indian airspace post the Balakot airstrike have been removed. The CAA notice issued to airmen (NOTAM) on Thursday says: "Pakistani airspace will be closed until June 28 along its eastern border with India. The Panjgoor airspace will remain open for overflying transit flights from the western side as Air India had already been using that airspace." A Pakistan government official told PTI that since there has been no official communication between the two countries regarding opening of their airspace for each other the "status quo" will prevail. "See if some development takes place at the government's level in this

respect before June 28," he said. On Wednesday Pakistan gave a special permission to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's VVIP flight to use its airspace for his official trip to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. However Modi's flight avoided flying over Pakistan. Earlier, Pakistan had allowed India's (former) External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to fly directly through Pakistani airspace to participate in the meeting of SCO foreign ministers in Bishkek on May 21. Pakistan earlier had indicated that it may lift the airspace ban along its eastern border with India imposed on February 27 to reciprocate India's decision to remove all restrictions on all air routes in the Indian airspace. As a result of the ban, foreign carriers using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly detours because they cannot fly over Pakistan. The closure mainly affects flights from Europe to Southeast Asia. The flights from Europe and the US flying in and out of New Delhi have been the worst hit. Since Pakistan's airspace closure, the airfare on many routes have gone up significantly, including Delhi-Kabul, Delhi-Moscow, Delhi-Tehran and Delhi-Astana.

Opinion | Pompeo Modified?

Mint, Bureau :What is more important is whether India is able to restore balance in the relationship. It needs to take the ties beyond the optics Just a few days ago, US President Donald Trump expressed dissatisfaction with India's high import tax on Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Now, his secretary of state Mike Pompeo has struck a comforting note, using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election slogan "Modi hai to mumkin hai" ahead of his India visit. Their tones suggest they are playing good cop, bad cop. The US has a long list of demands, including India allowing greater market access, and for New Delhi to stop buying oil from Iran and military equipment from Russia and, instead, buy both from America. It also wants India to cut import tariffs. They seem to be preparing the ground to soften Indian negotiations. For India, it is important not to get carried away by the bonhomie. New Delhi has lost more than it gained in the recent trade spat. It no more gets US preferential trade benefits, has been cut off from cheaper Iran oil and faces greater US visa restrictions. Modi and Trump's bear hugs became talking points of the two leaders' friendship. That 'hugplomacy' is fine. What is more important is whether the balance in the relationship is restored. It needs to take the ties beyond the optics.

Pakistan has to create atmosphere free of terror: Modi tells Xi Jinping on sidelines of SCO Summit

The Financial Express, **Shubhajit Roy** :Less than a month-and-half after Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a global terrorist after Beijing lifted its technical hold, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday told Chinese President Xi Jinping that he has made efforts to initiate peace with Pakistan, but his efforts have been "derailed". Modi, who met Xi for a bilateral meeting at the State residence Al-Archa in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in the Kyrgyz Republic capital, said Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere "free of terrorism", but at this stage, Delhi has not seen that from Islamabad's side. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said, "There was a very brief discussion on Pakistan. PM said that we have a consistent position with respect to Pakistan.

We discuss all issues through a bilateral mechanism and we look for peaceful settlement through negotiation. We are committed to this process.” “The Prime Minister recalled that he has made efforts in this regard, and his efforts have been derailed. He informed President Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terrorism. And at this stage, we did not see this as happening. And therefore, we expect Pakistan to take concrete action on the issues that India has proposed, on the issues that India has flagged,” Gokhale said. Modi told Xi that Azhar’s listing is evidence that the strategic communication between the two countries at different levels has “improved”. These comments hold significance since Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is also in Bishkek for the SCO summit, and there is a possibility of Modi and Khan meeting each other in the presence of Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other SCO leaders. The Prime Minister, who began the meeting by wishing Xi on his birthday on June 15, said they can “move forward”, as “both of us have got similar term” — this was a reference to the almost overlapping terms of Modi’s second term and Xi’s second term as President. He said there was a “historic opportunity” to take the Sino-Indian relationship to a new level. The two leaders had a “brief discussion” on the boundary issue as well. Gokhale said the Special Representatives have been asked to expedite discussions to achieve a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question”, but underlined that the “approach should be constructive” and it “must be driven by the larger context in which we see India-China relations, in which the two leaders see the relations in the coming years”. Describing the meeting as marked by “warm and cordial discussion”, he said Xi congratulated Modi on his election victory, and “it reflected aspirations and trust people have”. They agreed that there is a new momentum since the April 2018 Wuhan summit, Gokhale said. In this context, Modi specifically noted that what has improved is the strategic communication at all levels. And he counted resolution of some of the long pending issues — like opening of the Bank of China in India, and China lifting its hold on Masood Azhar’s listing — as evidence of that. They said they should move to new areas and raise their expectations from the relationship. They asked both sides to prepare thoroughly for the next informal summit later this year. There was some discussion on trade, and Modi noted that regulatory procedures have been simplified by Chinese side on non-basmati rice, sugar and agriculture products. “There should be significant uptick”, Gokhale said, talking about trade in these commodities. They also expected that though initial steps have been taken, in the next few months, they hope to see some “significant breakthrough” on addressing trade issues.

Modi in Bishkek: Pak has to create atmosphere free of terror, don’t see it happening, PM tells Xi

The Indian Express, **Shubhajit Roy** :Less than a month-and-half after Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a global terrorist once Beijing lifted its technical hold, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday told Chinese President Xi Jinping that he has made efforts to initiate peace with Pakistan, but his efforts have been “derailed”. Modi, who met Xi for a bilateral meeting at the State residence Al-Archa in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s summit in the Kyrgyz Republic capital, said Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere “free of terrorism”, but at this stage, Delhi has not seen that from Islamabad’s side.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said, “There was a very brief discussion on Pakistan. PM said that we have a consistent position with respect to Pakistan. We discuss all issues through a bilateral mechanism and we look for peaceful settlement through negotiation. We are committed to this process.” “The Prime Minister recalled that he has made efforts in this regard, and his efforts have been derailed. He informed President Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terrorism. And at this stage, we did not see this as happening. And therefore, we expect Pakistan to take concrete action on the issues that India has proposed, on the issues that India has flagged,” Gokhale said. Modi told Xi that Azhar’s listing is evidence that the strategic communication between the two countries at different levels has “improved”. These comments hold significance since Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is also in Bishkek for the SCO summit, and both were seated in the dining table in the presence of Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other SCO leaders. But, there was no official confirmation of a meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan at the banquet. “Apnapan lagta hai mujhe aapse milkar (I feel at home when I meet you),” Modi is learnt to have told Xi, as the meeting began. He said there was a “historic opportunity” to take the Sino-Indian relationship to a new level. Xi said that Beijing is ready to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides, Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency reported Thursday night. “Xi urged the two sides to stick to the fundamental judgement that China and India offer to each other chances for development, and do not pose each other threats, and called on the two countries to keep deepening mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, and properly handling their disputes so as to turn the bilateral relationship into a positive element for their respective development,” Xinhua reported. The two leaders had a “brief discussion” on the boundary issue as well. Gokhale said the Special Representatives have been asked to expedite discussions to achieve a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question”, but underlined that the “approach should be constructive” and it “must be driven by the larger context in which we see India-China relations, in which the two leaders see the relations in the coming years”. “He (Xi) also called on the two sides to make good use of such mechanisms as meetings between the two countries’ special representatives on the boundary issue, and enhance trust-building measures so as to preserve stability in border areas,” Xinhua reported. Describing the meeting as marked by “warm and cordial discussion”, Gokhale said Xi congratulated Modi on his election victory, and “it reflected aspirations and trust people have”. They agreed that there is a new momentum since the April 2018 Wuhan summit, Gokhale said. In this context, Modi specifically noted that what has improved is the strategic communication at all levels. And he counted resolution of some of the long pending issues — like opening of the Bank of China in India, and China lifting its hold on Masood Azhar’s listing — as evidence of that. They said they should move to new areas and raise their expectations from the relationship. They asked both sides to prepare thoroughly for the next informal summit later this year. There was some discussion on trade, and Modi noted that regulatory procedures have been simplified by Chinese side on non-basmati rice, sugar and agriculture products. “There should be significant uptick”, Gokhale said, talking about trade in these commodities. They also expected

that though initial steps have been taken, in the next few months, they hope to see some “significant breakthrough” on addressing trade issues. “As important representatives of developing nations and emerging market economies, China and India, said Xi, need to come together to safeguard free trade and multilateralism, and protect the legitimate development rights of developing countries,” Xinhua reported, in a reference to the US-China trade war. According to Xinhua, the Chinese President said the two nations need to constantly broaden the channels for cooperation, conduct cooperation in such areas as investment, industrial capacity and tourism, make a bigger cake of common interests, jointly promote regional inter-connectivity, including the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, in a bid to better boost common development. They decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations next year — 70 events will be organised, 35 by each side — to commemorate the event. They have tasked their Foreign Ministers to plan and prepare for the events next year. “Deepening friendship with China. PM @narendramodi’s first meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit is with President Xi Jinping. Both leaders are discussing ways to further strengthen bilateral relations,” the Prime Minister’s Office tweeted.

Modi in Bishkek: PM, Imran sit across dinner table, don’t talk to each other

The Indian Express, [Shubhajit Roy](#) :Before landing in Bishkek, Khan told Russian news agency Sputnik that Pakistan’s relationship with India is probably at its “lowest point”, and hoped Modi will use his “big mandate” to resolve all differences, including the Kashmir issue. Here for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan sat across the table at a dinner at the Frunze restaurant, but there was no exchange of pleasantries. “Koi dua-salaam nahin hua (there was no exchange of pleasantries),” a source told The Indian Express, after the dinner. At the gala concert after the dinner at the Kyrgyz National Philharmonic, the two leaders sat in the front row, but were separated by at least seven leaders in between. This was different from what had happened two years ago with then Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif. In June 2017, more than 17 months after Modi met Sharif in Lahore, the two had met in the leaders’ lounge at the opera house in Astana where they had gone for the SCO summit to watch a cultural performance — just like today. There, they had exchanged greetings and since it was the first occasion when the two leaders came across each other after Sharif’s surgery, Modi had enquired about his health, his mother and family. Before landing in Bishkek, Khan told Russian news agency Sputnik that Pakistan’s relationship with India is probably at its “lowest point”, and hoped Modi will use his “big mandate” to resolve all differences, including the Kashmir issue. Underlining that the SCO countries provide these fresh outlets and developing relationship with other countries, he said, “And that means, of course, India as well because at the moment our bilateral relationship with India is, probably, at its lowest point. And, yes, it will be an opportunity to speak to the Indian leadership during this SCO conference.” There is no bilateral meeting scheduled Friday as well. Referring to Modi’s re-election, Khan told Sputnik, “But we hope now that the current Prime Minister has one big mandate, we hope that he will use this mandate to develop better relationship and bring peace in the subcontinent.” On whether he is ready to sit down with Modi at the table, Khan said, “Well,

we have already indicated to India that after the elections. We actually tried before the elections, but unfortunately we felt that before the elections Prime Minister Modi's party was building up this hysteria, unfortunately, anti-Pakistan feeling among its people, appealing to its right-wing Hindu nationalists, and so there was no chance of peace before the elections." "Now that the elections are over, we hope that the Indian leadership will now grasp this opportunity, avail this opportunity that Pakistan is offering — that let's resolve all our differences through dialogue. In fact, that is the only way of resolving our differences. There is no way two nuclear-armed countries should think of resolving the differences through military means. It is madness. So we hope that now we can progress, use dialogue to resolve our differences." He said Pakistan is looking for "any kind of mediation, because Pakistan believes that progress comes with peace". On the Kartarpur corridor, he said that it has been a "great initiative" from Pakistan. "And we hope that, as I've said, now that the elections are over, India will respond positively to these initiatives, to further people-to-people contact. But, unfortunately, people-to-people contact only works when the governments also try to get closer. You can't have a situation where the governments have animosity towards each other, and expect people to get closer. It does not happen. So the governments have to, the Indian government has to take this initiative. Now, I think, it is time for them to take the initiative, and so we can get back on the dialogue table," he said.

Pompeo for greater ties, trade talks: Modi hai to mumkin hai

The Indian Express, [Shubhajit Roy](#) :Amid differences between Washington and Delhi over trade issues, Pompeo said that the US is open to dialogue to resolve trade differences with India by allowing American companies more access to Indian markets. Borrowing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election slogan, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo Thursday pushed for a deeper relationship with India ahead of his visit to Delhi on June 25-26, his first trip to the country after the new Modi government took charge. "As Prime Minister Modi said in his latest campaign, 'Modi hai to mumkin hai,' or 'Modi makes it possible', I am looking forward to exploring what's possible between our people," Pompeo said in a major India policy speech at the India Ideas Summit of the US-India Business Council. Amid differences between Washington and Delhi over trade issues, Pompeo said that the US is open to dialogue to resolve trade differences with India by allowing American companies more access to Indian markets. "Now, I am sure we will broach some tough topics too. But as we democracies have come to know, that we work out our disagreements. We bring them to the table honestly and fairly. And we will probably discuss the recent decision on the GSP programme." "We remain open to dialogue, and we hope that our friends in India will drop their trade barriers and trust in the competitiveness." "We will also push for the free flow of data across borders — not just to help American companies — but to protect data and ensure consumer privacy," he said. India and the US, he said, must embrace the strategic framework that works for both nations. "We respect India as a sovereign power, with its unique politics and strategic challenges. We realise it's different to deal with the likes of China or Pakistan from across an ocean than across the border," he said. And under President Trump, he said, "We have taken our defence cooperation to new

heights, solidified our common vision for the Indo-Pacific, and taken a far tougher stand on Pakistan's unacceptable support for terrorism in the region." Stressing that the two countries have to deliver and execute, Pompeo said that the Trump administration has already enabled American companies to export more high-tech items to India. "This includes cutting-edge defence platforms like armed UAVs and ballistic missile defence systems. We have already launched the Asia-EDGE programme to help India raise private capital to meet its energy and security needs for years to come. These are solid achievements, but we want to do so much more." He then outlined key "overlapping interests": defence, energy, space. On defence, he said that the first batch of Apache helicopters are coming off Boeing's production line in Arizona. "Lockheed Martin's F-21 and Boeing's F/A-18 are state-of-the-art fighters that could give India the capabilities it needs to become a full-fledged security provider throughout the Indo-Pacific." On the energy front, he indicated developing India's nuclear sector which will reduce dependence on Iran for energy needs. "On energy, we want to complete the Westinghouse civil nuclear project, and deliver more LNG and crude. These steps will give Indians reliable, affordable, diversified energy independence so they will no longer have to rely on difficult regimes like those in Venezuela and in Iran," Pompeo said. On space, he said, "NASA is already working with the Indian Space Research Organization on the world's most advanced earth-observation satellite and India's second lunar mission. I mean, how cool is that?" He said it's only natural that the world's most populous democracy should partner with the world's oldest democracy to maintain the shared vision throughout the Indo-Pacific. "We also have to make sure that we have economic openness. We have to have a central theme being the idea that we have liberty and sovereignty in each of our two nations, and build on those ideas. These need to be places in which economic growth reinforces our democratic values, and not dictatorship. It needs to be a place where our partnership is one of true equals, not of domination. Based on my conversations in New Delhi last year, and in subsequent phone calls and meetings, I believe this is a deeply shared vision," he said.

'India will not sign off on BRI at Bishkek'

The Indian Express, Shubhajit Roy : India will not sign off on Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious project, the Belt and Road Initiative, though the rest of the leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit will "reaffirm their support" for the project in the Bishkek declaration, The Indian Express has learnt. The declaration will be issued on Friday evening. Sources told The Indian Express that Delhi has once again decided to stay away from endorsing the One Belt One Road project. "All other SCO members have supported the BRI. They recently attended the second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing in April. But we will not sign off on BRI at the summit," a top source said. India had refused to sign off on the BRI last year at the SCO summit in Qingdao, China, but New Delhi had not issued any statement opposing BRI this year when the second Belt and Road Forum met in April. In 2017, when the first Belt and Road Forum took place in May, India had issued a very strong and critical statement. This time, as the issue of listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar was being negotiated and Beijing was being persuaded by Delhi, Washington and other countries, Delhi

had chosen to remain silent and not articulate its opposition to the Belt and Road Forum. However, India had made it clear even then that they were not changing their position on BRI. The same approach continues, although the Chinese side tried to persuade India to change its attitude before the summit. India's statement in May 2017 was very clear in its opposition to BRI, and the Ministry of External Affairs had said connectivity projects must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. Regarding the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor', which is being projected as the flagship project of the BRI/OBOR, the MEA had said, "No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity." Sources said the SCO's Bishkek declaration will be on the lines of the last summit, when it had said, "Reaffirming their support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Member States express appreciation for the joint efforts taken towards its implementation, including efforts to coordinate the development of the Eurasian Economic Union and the BRI and call for using the potential of the regional countries, international organisations and multilateral associations to create a broad, open, mutually beneficial and equal partnership in the SCO space." India's name was missing in the Qingdao declaration, and that is expected to continue.

China, US & India: Just look at the 'transactional' opportunities

The Asian Age, Bhopinder Singh :he non-sentimentality of a net "gain-loss" calculation in the realpolitik framework defines the Chinese approach. China has an unemotional "transactional" approach that supports its own sense of hegemonic aspirations in the 21st century. Enumerated in 1954, its "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" are a convenient alternative to the Western view of a world order based on concepts like democracy, human rights, liberality, environmentalism, etc, whereas the Chinese State insists on no such moral prerequisites. This freedom afforded in the Chinese manual of diplomacy endears it to roguish states like North Korea, Pakistan, etc. Thus, a supposedly Communist regime like China can have an "all-weather friendship" with an avowedly Islamic Republic of Pakistan! However, if the cost of supporting is greater than the gains, the "transactional" Chinese can take a U-turn without batting an eyelid. The non-sentimentality of a net "gain-loss" calculation in the realpolitik framework defines the Chinese approach. The Chinese "transactional" approach is matched by the United States, which recently withdrew the preferential treatment of India under the Generalised System of Preferences. This unilateral move by the US has created space for recalibration in the Sino-Indian dynamic. Recently, the Chinese had conceded two very unusual and strategic grounds to India, suggesting a rapprochement between the two. First, the chilling neutrality displayed by the Chinese in the Pulwama-Balakot episode that even fell short of any usual offer to "mediate" on behalf of its "iron brothers" in Pakistan — this when the nuclear armed countries attacked each other with military wherewithal. The second was the withdrawal of the "technical hold" in designating Masood Azhar a UN-listed terrorist — after earlier thwarting India's attempt by vetoing successively (veto is rarely used by China as it either "abstains" or "agrees"). Both these

moves were embarrassing and unexpected for Pakistan, and in sharp contrast to the pro-Pakistan rhetoric from China, that usually accompanied the India-Pakistan dissonances. The Doklam standoff in 2017 was perhaps the lowest point in the restive Sino-Indian realm, with deliberately provocative moves initiated by the Chinese to up the ante. For the Chinese, no occasion was too solemn to restrain its fangs, as was witnessed during the meeting of the Indian Prime Minister and the Chinese President in Ahmedabad, where the optics were marred by a parallel standoff at the Sino-Indian border, in the Chumar area. Today, a distinctly changed narrative is at play that seems to have opened space for unprecedented engagement between Delhi and Beijing. After the unusual Chinese moves of thawing the bilateral relationship, the national leaders of the two ancient civilisations are engaged in reciprocal symbolism that is symptomatic of the opportunities that be. After the Chinese President had hosted the Indian Prime Minister in Xiamen, where he was an office-bearer of the Communist Party of China 30 years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to invite Xi Jinping for an informal summit to his own parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, in a continuation of the charm-offensives. Befittingly, the situation along the long India-China border is also unusually calm, unlike the status on the India-Pakistan Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan is completely indebted and beholden to the Chinese due to the financial bailouts, economic infrastructure (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor investments of \$60 billion upwards), weapon systems, etc — and the Chinese now need to restore and enhance crucial relationships beyond its existing leverages, like Pakistan. Unlike the \$15 billion worth of trade at stake in the annual Sino-Pak domain, Sino-Indian trade is almost worth six times at \$90 billion and growing at a robust pace — besides the difference in the health of the economies of India and Pakistan, which would further tilt Chinese interest towards India. The dark clouds of the impending disruptions in the ensuing US-China trade wars are purely economic in the short-term, and therefore the economic considerations would triumph over all other considerations for the Chinese, at least till Donald Trump is at the helm of affairs. No further “investments” (financial or diplomatic), beyond those already committed for Islamabad, are required. Chinese calculations would show lower “returns” by investing any further in Pakistan as compared to India, supporting the new Chinese opportunity. In such a scenario, the Chinese firms with large export businesses to the US could hedge and invest in subsidiaries in India, as it possesses the requisite scale, skills and stability to set up bases, naturally and cost-competitively, compared to most other countries. Already the Chinese manufacturing footprint exists in India and the opportunity for the “new” government in New Delhi to receive additional foreign investments via the Chinese companies may get a receptive ear from the Indian leadership, that is under stress to accelerate economic growth and create new job opportunities. Beyond the economic angularity, Indian diplomacy must tap into China’s pragmatic self-interest and insecurities. The Chinese are morbidly concerned about a religious uprising in its Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, and have set up unprecedented concentration camps to “de-radicalise”, over a million Uighur Chinese Muslims. The threat of a Kabul ruled by the Pakistan-Taliban combine in the aftermath of a US troop withdrawal is real, and it shares a 76-km land border with China, along the Wakhan Corridor. The parallel US-Iranian muddle is yet another

point of common convergence and concern for both China and India. The recent ebb and flow of global geopolitical churn offers new opportunities that must be partook, even if it emerges providentially. The truism of “there are no permanent friends and no permanent enemies, only permanent interests” ought to define the topical potential of Sino-Indian opportunities that now loom. India ought to know the Chinese better than most, with its civilisational connect and more importantly, its own wounded history of “Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai” frivolousness that holds invaluable lessons for managing expectations, relations and the destinies of the two nations. Both the Chinese and Indian leaderships are powerfully entrenched domestically and in a position to go beyond their traditional positions and narratives. Indians too should take a leaf out of the Chinese “transactional” approach, and maximise the circumstantial opportunity.

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	New Delhi Staff Assistant <NDStaffAssistant@state.gov>
Recipient:	Juster, Kenneth I (b)(6) (b)(6)

From:	"El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)
To:	Friedman, David M (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Can you relay
Date:	Fri, 22 Sep 2017 01:11:22 +0000

Hi Ambassador Friedman,

For some reason, my reply to this never went through. I hope you did not have any issue, and apologize for any inconvenience. It was a pleasure meeting you in person, and I want to wish you and your family Shana Tova and a happy, healthy, and successful new year.

Sincerely,

Alex El-Fakir

-----Original Message-----

From: Friedman, David M [mailto:(b)(6)]
 Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:42 PM
 To: El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 Subject: Re: Can you relay

So I meet Jared and Ivanka at Trump Tower? Do you know what time?

From: El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 Date: September 18, 2017 at 9:40:49 PM EDT
 To: Friedman, David M (b)(6)
 Subject: Re: Can you relay

Happy to help. And if you need any assistance with your luggage in the morning, please do not hesitate to let me know how I can be of assistance.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 18, 2017, at 9:39 PM, Friedman, David M (b)(6) wrote:
 >
 > Perfect. Thanks
 >
 >
 >
 > From: El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 > Date: September 18, 2017 at 5:41:31 PM EDT
 > To: Friedman, David M (b)(6)
 > Subject: Fwd: Can you relay
 >

> You're good to go for transport tomorrow to UNGA speech. If it works for you, you are scheduled to ride in Jared and Ivanka's limo.

>

> Best,

>

> Alex

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: "El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)

(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)>

> Date: September 18, 2017 at 5:38:36 PM EDT

> To: "Weiser, Benjamin S. EOP/WHO (Associate)"

(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)>

> Subject: Re: Can you relay

>

> Thanks!

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Sep 18, 2017, at 5:38 PM, El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO (b)(6)

(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)> wrote:

>

> I'll let him know

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Sep 18, 2017, at 5:03 PM, Weiser, Benjamin S. EOP/WHO (Associate)

(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)> wrote:

>

> Never mind. He can ride in Ivanka and Jareds limo if that works.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Sep 18, 2017, at 4:50 PM, Weiser, Benjamin S. EOP/WHO (Associate)

(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)> wrote:

>

> To Amb. Friedman that there is no space in the potus motorcade tomorrow. We would recommend him riding with Sec. Tillerson or independently.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Sender: "El-Fakir, Alexander T. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)

Recipient: Friedman, David M (b)(6)

From:	"Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)
To:	David Friedman (b)(6) Berkowitz, Avrahm J. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Greenblatt, Jason D. EOP/WHO (b)(6) FriedmanD (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] Manhattan has 'Trump Tower, ' Israel to have town called 'Trump Heights' The Jerusalem post
Date:	Fri, 14 Jun 2019 12:31:21 +0000

What a birthday present!

-----Original Message-----

From: David Friedman (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 2:54 AM
 To: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Berkowitz, Avrahm J. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 Greenblatt, Jason D. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
 FriedmanDM (b)(6)
 Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manhattan has 'Trump Tower, ' Israel to have town called 'Trump Heights' | The Jerusalem post

><https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Manhattan-has-Trump-Tower-Israel-to-have-town-called-Trump-Heights-592479><

Sender:	"Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)
Recipient:	David Friedman (b)(6) Berkowitz, Avrahm J. EOP/WHO (b)(6) Greenblatt, Jason D. EOP/WHO (b)(6) FriedmanD (b)(6) (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 29, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated June 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	WEDNESDAY NIGHT / remain in Washington?
Date:	Tue, 24 Apr 2018 12:32:20 -0400

Ambassador,

Now that PAS has cancelled Thursday’s speech at Rideau Club, there is no scheduled reason to return to Ottawa Wednesday night for half-day in office Thursday (you need to be back in WashDC Thursday for 6pm event hosted by Secretary Ross).

Please let me know if you wish to remain in Washington so that I can inform **RCMP**, and also tell the **Trump Hotel** that you will NOT be checking out on Wednesday.

You currently have a separate reservation with Trump Hotel for Thursday-Saturday nights, checking out Sunday.

Thursday	4/26/2018
09:00	Depart EMR for Embassy
09:30	Time of first meeting
11:35	Depart Embassy for Rideau Club (PAS advises AMB to arrive early) (99 Bank Street)
12:00	Deliver remarks at Rideau Club Distinguished Speaker Series Luncheon (Rideau Club, Ottawa)
13:45	Depart for EMR
14:30	Depart EMR for FBO Sky Service
15:00	DEPART OTTAWA for Washington DC
	<i>Note: Ambassador & Mr Craft will return to Ottawa the evening of Monday, May 7</i>

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Kelly Craft (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Foreign Policy article -- In case you have not seen
Date:	Tue, 4 Jun 2019 21:41:46 +0000

Yes. Thank you (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Date: June 4, 2019 at 4:25:13 PM EDT
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Cc: Kelly Craft (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Foreign Policy article -- In case you have not seen

A Republican Rainmaker Comes to Turtle Bay - <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/06/04/a-republican-rainmaker-comes-to-turtle-bay//>

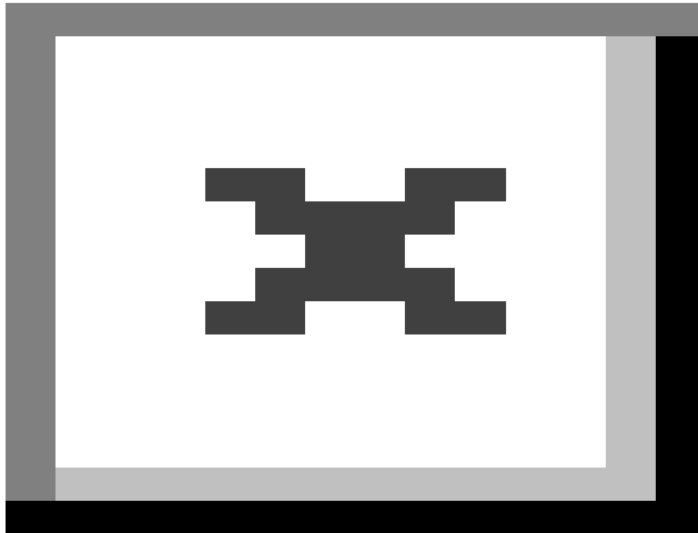
PROFILE

A Republican Rainmaker Comes to Turtle Bay

If confirmed, Kelly Knight Craft would be the first U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who got started in politics as a campaign fundraiser and donor.

BY COLUM LYNCH

| JUNE 4, 2019, 11:18 AM



U.S. Ambassador to Canada Kelly Knight Craft delivers a statement at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Oct. 23, 2017. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

For Kelly Knight Craft, the path to the top ranks of American diplomacy has been paved with political contributions. And if she's confirmed as President Donald Trump's pick to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Craft will be the first campaign donor to occupy such a senior role.

Craft and her husband, the Kentucky coal baron Joseph "Joe" W. Craft III, contributed \$2 million to Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and inauguration. They have doled out donations to the campaign coffers of many of the Republican senators who will likely confirm her nomination next month. When the Crafts call, Republican political leaders listen.

Kelly Knight Craft, 57—the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Canada—is a symbol of the shifting power dynamics in Washington in the age of Trump, a period in which America's donor and lobbying class have emerged from behind the scenes to lead some of the country's key political and diplomatic institutions. Her nomination also follows a pattern in the Trump White House of

appointing envoys to the U.N. with little to no experience in multilateral affairs. Trump's previous choice, former State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, withdrew her name from consideration amid reports that she hired a foreign babysitter without proper working papers.

Both Democratic and Republican administrations have handed out plum ambassadorships in the past to wealthy donors, but some jobs, like the U.S. ambassador post at Turtle Bay, have been reserved for political and diplomatic heavyweights—from past presidential candidates like Adlai Stevenson and future President George H.W. Bush, who no doubt had experience raising funds themselves, to distinguished and seasoned diplomats like Thomas Pickering and Richard Holbrooke.

That is no longer the case.

To her critics, Craft's 18-month-long tenure as ambassador to Canada has been undistinguished, to say the least—even though U.S.-Canada relations have been fraught with tensions during the Trump era. They have described her as an absentee diplomat who frequently traveled to Kentucky and made little effort to get to know ordinary Canadians.

"I would say Kelly Craft, we hardly knew ye," said Andrew Cohen, a Canadian columnist who has written several books on Canada's relations with the United States. "She is the least visible, least consequential ambassador in my memory, and I've known every U.S. ambassador over the past 20 years."

"She is the least visible, least consequential ambassador in my memory, and I've known every U.S. ambassador over the past 20 years," said Andrew Cohen, a Canadian columnist.

Ahead of her confirmation hearing, Senate Democrats are planning to press Craft on her views on climate change, raise concerns about potential conflicts with her husband's coal interests, and question her on women's access to sexual reproductive health services. The United State has been seeking to scale back international funding at the U.N. for such services, contending that they support abortions. Critics of the U.S. stance contend that the United States is undermining desperately needed health programs for women, particularly in poor countries. Democrats are scouring Craft's Twitter feeds and flight records to explore complaints that she spent too much time as ambassador to Canada flying on a private jet to Kentucky to attend Kentucky Wildcat games, the Kentucky Derby, and awards ceremonies for her husband. Craft primarily travels by private jet, which she pays for, according to an advisor.

"It appears she has spent an abnormal amount of time away from her post, which is unusual, to put it lightly," said a congressional aide.

Conventional wisdom would have it that Craft, who will lack the cabinet rank granted to her predecessor, Nikki Haley, will exert little influence with a national security team led by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who has close personal ties to the president, and National Security Advisor John Bolton, a proactive former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who views the multilateral institution with disdain.



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence applauds as U.S. Ambassador to Canada Kelly Knight Craft concludes her remarks during her swearing-in ceremony in Washington on Sept. 26, 2017. ALEX BRANDON/AP

But her foreign counterparts are banking on her ability to call in favors from some of Washington's biggest power players, from Vice President Mike Pence, a longtime friend and political ally who joined Craft in Canada last week, to Kentucky Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, whose own political rise has been fueled in part by Joe Craft's coal dollars. He personally recommended her for the role.

"The fundraising she has done will give her access to pretty much anyone who is important in the Republican Party," said Sarah Goldfeder, a former State Department official who served in the U.S. Embassy in Canada until 2015.

"Mike Pence will put down another phone call down to take her call."

Democrats concede that Craft would likely be confirmed, though not before facing tough questions on her controversial statements on climate change—she told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that she saw merit on "both sides of the science"—and the potential for conflict of interest for a nominee whose political rise has been fueled by millions of dollars in campaign contributions.

Joe Craft has long had deep ties with key Republican players, including Scott Pruitt, a fellow Kentucky native, who fought to deregulate the fossil fuel industry as Environmental Protection Agency chief before he was forced to resign under a cloud of ethics violations. The two men met seven times during Pruitt's first 14 months in office, according to the *New York Times*. Both Trump and McConnell opposed a decision earlier this year by the Tennessee Valley Authority to shutter the Paradise #3 and Bull Run coal-fueled power plants in Kentucky and Tennessee because they were no longer economically viable. Craft and another coal magnate, Bob Murray, also opposed the move. The first, and perhaps most difficult, hurdle Craft faces to clinching the job is a nomination hearing with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she'll face a panel of Democratic senators who are skeptical of her thin resume and haven't hesitated to block other key State Department appointments with concerns over the nominees' backgrounds or political tussles with the White House.

In an early shot across the bow, three Democratic senators, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, pressed Craft earlier this month to clarify her position on climate change, allay any concerns about any conflicts of interest between her government role and her family's energy holdings, and detail her family's relations with Pruitt.

“Given your family’s business relationship with Alliance Resource Partners, the third largest coal-producing company in the Eastern United States, where your husband serves as President and Chief Executive Officer, we need assurances that, in connection with U.N. activities related to climate change, you will put the nation’s interest ahead of your own personal financial interests,” the senators wrote in a May 3 letter to Craft.



U.S. President Donald Trump walks to Air Force One with U.S. Ambassador to Canada Kelly Knight Craft before departure from Canadian Forces Base Bagotville in Canada on June 9, 2018. SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Her nomination is being shepherded by powerful Republican lawmakers, State Department and White House experts, and a former White House spokesman serving as an unpaid advisor, Raj Shah, who are all seeking to bolster what the congressional aide described as a “thin” diplomatic resume. The State Department dispatched a senior advisor from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs on an extended visit to Ottawa to prepare Craft for her nomination, according to a State Department official.

Haley is also said to be providing informal advice to Craft. A top Haley advisor, Jon Lerner, recently wrote an op-ed recommending the White House reverse its decision to deny her cabinet ranking. Diplomatic experience, he wrote, is “vastly overrated” for the challenges facing the next U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

“Her deep pockets and serious connections with people like Mitch McConnell are putting her nomination on steroids.”

“Her deep pockets and serious connections with people like Mitch McConnell are putting her nomination on steroids,” said the congressional aide.

On the Republican side of the Foreign Relations Committee, she’ll face a warmer welcome, including from members of the committee whose election campaigns she helped bankroll. Craft and her husband together gave \$5,400 to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio’s 2016 Senate primary and general election campaigns, according to filings from the Federal Election Commission reviewed by *Foreign Policy*. They also gave \$2,700—the maximum amount of money individuals can donate under federal election regulations—each to the Senate general election campaigns of Indiana Sen. Todd Young and Ohio Sen. Ron Johnson that year. Craft and her now-husband, before they were married, also served as Kentucky finance chairs for Mitt Romney’s failed presidential bid in 2012. Romney, now a Utah senator, is one of the newest Republican members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, joining Rubio, Young, and Johnson.

Mastering U.N. diplomacy, which requires familiarity with a slew of complex international crises, can be a challenge for even the most experienced diplomats. Craft will face a steep learning curve just to learn the basics. Her skills as a negotiator and debater will be tested by some of the world’s most talented diplomats, including envoys from rival countries such as China and Russia that are dedicated to undercutting U.S. influence on the world stage.

“For many of our global partners and competitors, multilateral diplomacy has gotten the best and the brightest,” said Ian Lesser of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. “The crème de la crème go to the U.N. post.” Despite her thin resume, Craft wouldn’t be flying blind if she were confirmed. James Cunningham, a former career diplomat who served as deputy permanent representative to the United Nations from 1999 to 2004, said the success of U.N. ambassadors hinges a lot on their staff. “On paper, she doesn’t have the classical background for this. But it’s a place where she’ll have a lot of expert support and probably a good staff around her,” Cunningham said. He also said political prowess and relationship-building can be just as important for the job, if not more so, than a long history of diplomatic experience.

Political prowess and relationship-building can be just as important for the job, if not more so, than a long history of diplomatic experience, said James Cunningham, a former career diplomat.

Still, Thomas Pickering, a former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. who helped build an international coalition that expelled Saddam Hussein’s forces from Kuwait during the first Gulf War, suggested that Craft’s inexperience could damage U.S. credibility. Her “inability to remark sensibly on climate change,” he said, will be interpreted by U.N. colleagues in New York “as amateur hour.” France’s U.N. ambassador, François Delattre, said he hoped Craft will serve as “a bridge between Washington and the U.N. at a time when we more than ever need an America that is engaged with the U.N. in world affairs and committed to our shared values, beginning with human rights.”

In advance of her confirmation hearing, which is expected to begin on June 19, State Department and National Security Council officials have been preparing her for a tough grilling. That effort involves a review of potential business conflicts of interest to determine whether Craft will have to recuse herself from any government business.

U.S. officials intend to highlight her behind-the-scenes supporting role in advancing trade talks with Canada, which were led by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, and pushing Canada to increase contributions to NATO and strengthen sanctions against Russia. They also say that she had played a substantive role earlier this year in rallying international support through the [Lima Group](#)—which includes more than a dozen nations in the Americas—to promote the legitimacy of opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the leader of Venezuela.

Craft will face a range of potential crises including the U.S. approach to the U.N. summit on climate change in September; a potential fight in the Security Council over the Middle East peace process, where Palestinian allies may press

for a resolution endorsing a two-state solution; and North Korea, where the resumption of missile tests could set the stage for a council standoff in the summer. Meanwhile, relations between the United States and its key allies, the U.K. and France, have been strained over a broadening menu of differences, including climate change and the Iran nuclear deal. More recently, Washington has clashed with its European allies over Libya and Yemen. She will also inherit massive U.S. debt to the U.N., with U.S. arrears set to surpass \$1 billion by next year, its highest number since Holbrooke negotiated the debt down in 2000 with the help of tens of millions of dollars loaned from CNN founder Ted Turner.

“We foresee a very hot summer in terms of U.S.-U.N. relations,” said Richard Gowan, the U.N. director for the International Crisis Group. Gowan said “there is a reasonable likelihood” that the United States will find itself in a new round of political fights over the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, predicting that Arab governments will be under enormous pressure to push for the passage of a U.N. Security Council resolution “reaffirming the two-state solution, and forcing the U.S. to veto.” The White House’s top Middle East negotiator, Jared Kushner, had hoped to release his long-awaited peace plan sometime in June, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had won reelection. But Netanyahu’s failure to form a coalition government may delay the plan’s release, injecting a fresh element of uncertainty into U.N. deliberations.

Trump’s nominee began life as Kelly Guilfoil, growing up on a farm in Glasgow, Kentucky, the daughter of Bobby Guilfoil, a veterinarian who had once served as the chairman of the Barren County Democratic Party. Craft graduated from Glasgow High School and earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky, where she would later serve as a trustee. She has two daughters: Mia Moross, from her first marriage to David Moross, the CEO of a private equity firm, and Jane Brady Knight, from her second marriage to Judson Knight, whose name she retained after their divorce.

Early on, Craft made a name for herself as a Republican fundraiser. Before her marriage to Joe Craft, Kelly Knight had emerged as a powerful figure in establishment Republican circles in Kentucky, serving as the state’s co-chair for the Republican fundraising effort during George W. Bush’s successful 2004 presidential campaign and Kentucky state chairwoman of Romney’s unsuccessful 2012 presidential bid.

“She is a titan when it comes to Kentucky politics,” said Les Fugate, a Republican political consultant.

“If you’re a politico of some sort on the Republican side you want her behind you.”

“She is a titan when it comes to Kentucky politics,” said Les Fugate, a Republican political consultant who worked with Craft in support of Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin. He said that she has moved easily between rival factions of the Republican Party, from establishment Republicans like McConnell to candidates such as Bevin from the state’s Tea Party wing. “If you’re a politico of some sort on the Republican side you want her behind you,” Fugate said. But Craft’s national profile was boosted by her embrace of Trump during the 2016 campaign. Early supporters of Rubio’s presidential campaign, Craft and her husband jumped on the Trump train shortly before he won the Republican nomination—but not before exacting some concessions.

Following a meeting with Trump at Trump Tower, Craft said that she and her husband had made it clear that their financial support depended on his commitment to not try to oust Republican leaders McConnell and then-House Speaker Paul Ryan. “That is a big priority for Joe and I—and from talking directly to Donald Trump I know for a fact it is a big deal to him,” she said, according to *Bloomberg*. “He made that very clear.”

Craft’s only foreign-policy experience before Trump sent her to Canada as U.S. ambassador consisted of a short stint during the George W. Bush administration as the alternate representative to the U.N. General Assembly, a largely symbolic post awarded to political donors and loyalists. Her tenure as U.S. representative in Ottawa thus provides the clearest test of her skills and style as a diplomat.

After her confirmation, Craft posed a slickly produced video on Facebook that detailed her life story, from her early days on the farm, her first trip to Canadian side of Niagara Falls, and her love of sports, particularly the Kentucky Wildcats and the Toronto Raptors.



John Calipari, the University of Kentucky men's basketball coach, attends the Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing of Kelly Knight Craft on July 20, 2017. Craft has served as a member of the university's board of trustees.

"The first thing I'm going to do when I go to Ottawa is lace up my running shoes and go for a run," she said. "I just can't wait to experience the Canadian outdoors and meet as many people as I possibly can."

Craft has had a lower profile than her predecessors, who cultivated relationships with influential Canadian journalists and made an effort to be seen in public. Craft's defenders say her frequent travels to the Kentucky were the natural product of maintaining a long-distance marriage and that she stayed in contact with key Canadian and U.S. government players when she was away from Ottawa.

"She didn't stop being Joe's wife," said Maryscott "Scotty" Greenwood, a former U.S. diplomat who heads the Canadian American Business Council. "I think part of it is just that Joe wants her to come to some things."

The travels have also promoted Kentucky's trade interests in Canada. Craft has hosted visits by prominent Canadian officials, including Canadian Minister for Public Safety Ralph Goodale, who attended a meeting with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in 2018.

"We see many more Canadian officials in Kentucky since she took over the ambassador ship," said Fugate, noting that Craft's diplomatic work has fueled rumors that she might be positioning herself for political office in Kentucky. "I don't know how much the average voter knows that Kentucky even has the ambassador to Canada, but she has a huge profile inside [Republican] political networks," he said.

Greenwood and other observers say that Craft made the most out of a managing delicate U.S.-Canadian relations for a president who makes policy on the fly, without consulting his advisors, and who routinely insults foreign heads of state. During a particularly contentious stage of trade negotiations last year, Trump belittled Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as "very dishonest and weak" and voiced his disdain for the negotiating style of Canada's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, declaring "we don't like their representative very much."

Craft has faced the challenge of representing a U.S. president who is deeply unpopular in Canada and who is known to upend settled U.S. policy with a late-night tweet. "The risk of being contradicted by the president is pretty high," Greenwood said. "The better course of valor is to keep your mouth shut."

Staff writer Robbie Gramer contributed to this story.

Sender: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)

Recipient:	(b)(6)
	Kelly Craft (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	Hotel information for Global COM Conference
Date:	Sat, 1 Dec 2018 14:21:57 +0000

Yes, this is definitely a conference you will want to attend, taking place only once a year for all COMs around the world.

FYI, in addition to the sessions designed for global participation, each Bureau holds a separate day to discuss issues within that Bureau. From a previous WHA-monthly call that Michael Barkin joined as Chargé, I understand WHA's day is before the start of the global conference.

I'll make reservations at the Trump Intl Hotel.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, December 1, 2018 8:53 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Hotel information for Global COM Conference

Is this a meeting I should attend ?
If so, I would prefer the TRUMP HOTEL

From: Sullivan, Karin B (b)(6)
Date: November 30, 2018 at 5:08:21 PM EST
To: WHA-COM <WHACOM@state.gov>, WHA-COM-OMS <WHA-COM-OMS@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Deputy Chiefs of Mission <WHA-DeputyChiefsofMission@state.gov>, WHA-Management Officers <WHAAdmin@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Hotel information for Global COM Conference

Good afternoon – Flagging the COM conference guidance cable that came out today.

Have a good weekend,

Karin B. Sullivan
Acting Executive Director
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Department of State
Office: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Bid WHA! CLC360

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From: Sullivan, Karin B
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 1:56 PM
To: WHA-COM <WHACOM@state.gov>; WHA-COM-OMS <WHA-COM-OMS@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Deputy Chiefs of Mission <WHA-DeputyChiefsofMission@state.gov>; WHA-Travel <WHA-Travel@state.gov>; WHA-EX PMO <WHA-EX-PMO@state.gov> (b)(6)
(b)(6) WHA-Directors and Deputy Directors Only <WHA-DirDepDir@state.gov>; WHA-Management Officers <WHAAdmin@state.gov>
Subject: Hotel information for Global COM Conference

Good afternoon to all WHA Chiefs of Mission -

For your convenience, M has reserved blocks of rooms and negotiated within-per diem rates at the hotels below. Rates are authorized for the period of January 13-23, 2019. For COMs who have not yet made hotel reservations, or who wish to extend/change their existing reservations, please contact the hotel via telephone or email. COMs are not required to use these hotels and may make alternate arrangements. The negotiated rates expire as indicated below:

Park Hyatt, 1201 24th Street, Washington, DC 20037

Hotel link - <http://washingtondc.park.hyatt.com>

POC - (b)(6)@hyatt.com

Rate - \$181 per night

Wi-Fi Included

Breakfast not included

Reservation link (note: this link will take you to a generic page, but the group code will appear when you enter the dates).

10 rooms are blocked, unreserved rooms will be released on December 13, 2018. Should the group block fill, additional rooms may be available.

Washington Marriott Georgetown – 1221 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20037

Hotel link – www.Marriott.com/waswe

POC - (b)(6)@marriott.com

Rate - \$159 per night

Wi-Fi not included but complimentary to Marriott Rewards Members

Breakfast not included

Reservation link

65 rooms are blocked, unreserved rooms will be released December 16, 2018

State Plaza Hotel – 2117 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20037

Hotel link - <http://www.stateplaza.com>

POC - (b)(6)@stateplaza.com

Rate - \$119 per night

Wi-Fi included

Breakfast not included

Reservation link

If a guest prefers they can also call the Reservations Department to make a reservations. Call toll free 1 800 424 2859 and refer to Group Code 6717WM.

50 rooms are blocked, unreserved rooms will be released December 14, 2018

Ritz Carlton 1150 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Hotel Link – www.ritzcarlton.com

POC – (b)(6)@ritzcarlton.com

POC – (b)(6)@ritzcarlton.com

Rate - \$181 per night

Wi-Fi not included but complimentary to Marriott Rewards Members

Breakfast not included

[Reservation link](#)

Guests may also call 1-800-558-9994 and reference the group name.

45 rooms are blocked, unreserved rooms will be released December 16, 2018

The Westin Georgetown, Washington D.C. 2350 M St. NW, Washington D.C. 20037

Hotel Link – www.Marriott.com/wastw

Rate - \$159 per night

POC – (b)(6)@westin.com

Wi-Fi not included but complimentary to Marriott Rewards Members

Breakfast not included

[Reservation link](#)

65 rooms are blocked, unreserved rooms will be released on December 16, 2018

Questions about the hotel block should be directed to the hotel or Helena Lopez

(LopezHL3@state.gov)

If you have travel-related questions (policy, per diem rates, etc.), please work with your GSO at post or contact WHA-Travel@state.gov for assistance. Conference-specific questions can be directed to (b)(6)

(b)(6)

We look forward to seeing you in January!

Karin B. Sullivan

Acting Executive Director
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Department of State

Office: (b)(6)

Cell (b)(6)

(b)(6)

[Bid WHA! CLC360](#)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft
CC:	Boyse, Matthew G (b)(6)
Subject:	CONTACT DETAILS: Manager Trump Hotel, Washington DC
Date:	Mon, 8 Jan 2018 18:23:39 -0500

Ambassador,

Friendly reminder that you were going to provide me with the name/contact details for the manager of the Trump Hotel so that I could arrange a suite for you and single room for Matt Boyse for the night of Thursday, January 18.

Thank you!

Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft Boyse, Matthew G (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)
CC:	Deborah Lackey (b)(6) Ellen Williams (b)(6)
Subject:	AMB MacNaughton attending Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19
Date:	Tue, 18 Jun 2019 22:38:48 +0000

Ambassador,
 See below: AMB MacNaughton is attending lunch but not hearing.
 Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Pam.Saunders (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Kristin.vanderLeest (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec; ellenconawaywilliams (b)(6)
Subject: RE: CORRECTED VENUE: AMB MacNaughton invited / Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19

Hi (b)(6)

We can confirm that the Ambassador will indeed attend the lunch.

He will not attend the Confirmation Hearing.

Best,

Pam

From: van der Leest, Kristin -WSHDC -GR
Sent: June-18-19 1:37 PM
To: (b)(6) Saunders, Pam -WSHDC -GR
Cc: Ottawa - Exec; Ellen Williams
Subject: RE: CORRECTED VENUE: AMB MacNaughton invited / Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19

Hi (b)(6) Ellen,

Would you be able to give a sense of how many people will be at the luncheon?

Just for the Ambassador's awareness.

Many thanks,
 Kristin

From: (b)(6)
Sent: June-17-19 9:40 AM
To: Saunders, Pam -WSHDC -GR; van der Leest, Kristin -WSHDC -GR
Cc: Ottawa - Exec; Ellen Williams
Subject: CORRECTED VENUE: AMB MacNaughton invited / Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19

Pam and Kristen,

Correction: Upon conclusion of Hearing, the luncheon will take place at the Trump Hotel, in The Franklin Study, first floor, immediately off the Grand Lobby.

Apologies!

(b)(6)

Official
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From: Ellen Williams (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Pam.Saunders (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Kristin.vanderLeest (b)(6) Ottawa - Exec
<Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>
Subject: Re: AMB MacNaughton invited / Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19

This info is not accurate. Stand by and I will send an accurate agenda!

Ellen Williams

(b)(6)

(b)(6) cell

On Jun 17, 2019, at 9:16 AM, <Pam.Saunders (b)(6)>
<Pam.Saunders (b)(6)> wrote:

H (b)(6)

Leave this with us and we will get back to you later this morning.

Thanks!

Pam

From: (b)(6)
Sent: June-17-19 9:10 AM
To: Saunders, Pam -WSHDC -GR; van der Leest, Kristin -WSHDC -GR

Cc: Ellen Williams; Ottawa - Exec

Subject: AMB MacNaughton invited / Luncheon following AMB Craft's Confirmation Hearing, June 19

Good morning, Pam and Kristin!

I know you are extremely busy preparing for the visit of Prime Minister Trudeau, but I have been asked to ensure that Ambassador MacNaughton is aware Ambassador Craft is hosting a luncheon this Wednesday, June 19, following her confirmation hearing. Depending on the duration of the hearing, I anticipate the lunch may begin at 1:00'ish. I understand it will take place at the Hay-Adams Hotel, 800 16th St NW, but have asked for confirmation from Ellen Williams (copied into this message).

So that the caterers may prepare appropriately, would you be able to please confirm whether Ambassador MacNaughton is available to join the lunch on Wednesday? (If so, any food sensitivities we need to flag to caterers?)

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
	Kelly Craft
	Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
	Ellen Williams (b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Select USA, WashDC / Hotel & Agenda
Date:	Mon, 7 May 2018 15:39:03 -0400

Let's keep TRUMP Hotel
 Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 2:37 PM
To: Craft, Kelly
Cc: Ottawa - Exec
Subject: Select USA, WashDC / Hotel & Agenda

Ambassador,
 FCS provides below the draft agenda for Select USA. Chris Q also refers to your interest in a boutique hotel near the Gaylord. He mentions the AC Hotel National Airport, but you might like to consider the Old Town Alexandria area as well (Kimpton Lorian Hotel & Spa or Morrison House). As a placeholder and back-up, you currently have reservations at the Trump (Google Maps says 17 min away by car, 10 miles).

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 3:57 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov> (b)(6)
Subject: SelectUSA Summit Hotels

Hi (b)(6)

This is a list of the hotels near the Gaylord where the conference will take place (<https://www.nationalharbor.com/stay/>). I note that the reception on the evening of June 20 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm will be at the Canadian Embassy just down Pennsylvania Ave from the Trump hotel where I think you mentioned you have her booked as of now.

The Ambassador asked if there were any boutique hotels near the Gaylord. I believe the only hotel that would fit that category would be the AC Hotel National Harbor By Marriott, 156 Waterfront St., National Harbor, MD; (301) 749-2299.

We are working on a more substantive schedule for the Ambassador but for now these are some of the key elements as of now. POTUS and VPOTUS have been invited by Secretary Ross but are not yet confirmed.

Wednesday, June 20
 5:30 – 7:00 pm Reception at the Canadian Embassy

Thursday, June 21

Gaylord Hotel, Washington Harbor, MD

7:00 - 8:00 am Delegate breakfast and networking (Potomac Foyer)

8:00 – 8:15 am Welcome Remarks by the Honorable Wilbur Ross Secretary of Commerce (Potomac Ballroom)

VIP speeches and panels

Opportunities for private meetings with VIP delegates and Administration officials

12:00 – 1:30 pm Luncheon and Keynote Remarks (Potomac Ballroom)

VIP speeches and panels

Opportunities for private meetings with VIP delegates and Administration officials

5:00 – 6:00 pm Sunset VIP Reception (Potomac Foyer)

6:00 – 7:30 pm Main Summit Reception in Exhibition Hall

7:30 – TBD State receptions at the Gaylord after the main Summit (last year the Governor of Kentucky was among the governors/states hosting a reception)

Friday, June 22

9:30 – 10:00am Chief of Mission Meet and Greet with Secretary Ross (Room and Timing TBC)

VIP speeches and panels

Opportunities for private meetings with VIP delegates and Administration officials

12:15 – 12:45 pm Keynote Address (Potomac Foyer)

Best,
-Chris

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Control Officer - Arrived
Date:	Wed, 20 Jun 2018 12:09:53 +0000

Thank you!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Craft, Kelly
Cc: (b)(6) Christopher Quinlivan
Subject: Control Officer - Arrived

Good morning Madam Ambassador:

Just wanted to let you know that I arrived in DC earlier today and I'm available at (b)(6) in case you need anything. Chris Quinlivan and (b)(6) should be in route from Ottawa to DC and we'll meet up with you this afternoon at the Trump Hotel at 3:45 pm to review the briefing book and deliver your credentials.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)

Commercial Officer
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
U.S. Consulate General Toronto
480 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Office: (416) 595-5412 (b)(6)
(b)(6)
export.gov/CANADA
buyusa.gov/CANADA

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Ottawa - Press Office <Ottawa-PressOffice@state.gov>; Ottawa - POL - SBU <Ottawa-POL-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - ECON Office - SBU <Ottawa-ECONOffice-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - FAS Office <OttawaFASOffice@state.gov>; Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Subject:	Secretary Tillerson interview on 60 Minutes
Date:	Tue, 20 Feb 2018 08:48:07 -0500

In case you didn't get a chance to watch it this weekend, here is the transcript of Sec. Tillerson's interview on 60 Minutes.

Interview With Margaret Brennan of CBS 60 Minutes

Share

Interview
Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
Washington, DC

February 18, 2018

MS BRENNAN: Rex Tillerson admits he was an unconventional choice for Secretary of State. He had no prior government experience. But as CEO of ExxonMobil, he had crisscrossed the globe striking deals with foreign leaders. Secretary Tillerson, a man who still considers himself a Boy Scout and follows what he calls the Code of the West, is fiercely private and has shied away from interviews, but he agreed to do a rare, wide-ranging one with us. With the Olympics underway and North Korea very much on his mind, he talked to us about what may be the toughest deal he will ever work on.

QUESTION: In his New Year's Day speech, Kim Jong-un said the "entire area of the U.S. mainland is within our nuclear strike range." That's got to make you nervous.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It does make us nervous. It also – it also stiffens our resolve. That kind of a threat to the American people by a regime like this is not acceptable, and the President's meeting his responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief of asking our military – Secretary Mattis at the Defense Department – to ensure we are prepared for anything.

QUESTION: And those military options are there in case you fail.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: In case I fail. I say to my Chinese counterpart, "You and I fail, these people get to fight. That's not what we want."

QUESTION: But you are willing to work with and potentially negotiate with Kim Jong-un?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, that's who we will have to work with to achieve this diplomatically. What we have to determine now is: Are we even ready to start? Are they ready to start? And if they're not, we'll just keep the pressure campaign underway, and we will increase that pressure. And we are doing that. Every month there are new sanctions rolled out. The world wants North Korea to change.

QUESTION: Well, there are some questions about how badly China wants them to change. You've really needed their help to put economic pressure on Kim Jong-un. What reassurances have you given to China so that they actually follow through?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: What I think we got a common understanding with China is that North Korea represents a serious threat to China as well. And we've been very clear with them that they are going to have an important role to play once we get to the negotiating table.

QUESTION: So I hear you saying there these wouldn't be one-on-one talks. China would be at the table.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Early on they might be one-on-one discussions. For the U.S., first, and North Korea to determine? Is there a reason to begin to put the construct for negotiations in place?

QUESTION: What is the carrot that you're dangling for North Korea to convince them to talk?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We're not using a carrot to convince them to talk. We're using large sticks, and that is what they need to understand. This pressure campaign is putting – is having its bite on North Korea, its revenue streams. It's having a bite on its military programs.

QUESTION: But to say "full denuclearization" – why would they agree to give up something they've already got that they think is an insurance policy?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Because it buys them nothing. It buys them more of being the hermit kingdom, isolated – isolated from the world diplomatically, isolated from the world economically.

QUESTION: Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "Every one of us should pray Rex Tillerson and Jim Mattis are successful over the course of the next eight to ten months diplomatically, or our nation is going to be facing one of the greatest military decisions that we face." Eight to ten months. That's how much time you have to get this done?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'm going to use all the time available to me. Our diplomatic efforts will continue until that first bomb drops. My job is to never have a reason for the first bomb to drop. And we don't know precisely how much time is left on the clock.

QUESTION: You seem to have convinced the President that diplomacy is the way to go on this, but it wasn't always so clear. Back in October, you said you were working to get a dialogue going with the North Koreans, and the President tweeted, "Rex, stop wasting your time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man." Have you asked him not to call him "Little Rocket Man?" Is that a diplomatic term?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: (Laughter.) The President's going to – the President's going to communicate the way he communicates. My job as chief diplomat is to ensure that the North Koreans

know we keep our channels open. I'm listening. I'm not sending a lot of messages back because there's nothing to say to them at this point, so I'm listening for you to tell me you're ready to talk.

QUESTION: How will you know?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: They will tell me. They will tell me.

QUESTION: That explicitly?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We receive messages from them. And I think it will be very explicit as to how we want to have that first conversation.

(A video clip begins playing.) **"SECRETARY TILLERSON:** What's the latest?"

MS BRENNAN: As we saw during this meeting with top aides about the crisis in Yemen, the whole world is now his portfolio.

(The video clip continues.) **"SECRETARY TILLERSON:** I think I saw some reports of further missile attacks out of Yemen..."

MS BRENNAN: But Rex Wayne Tillerson comes from a family of modest means in north Texas. He was named after actors Rex Allen and John Wayne because his parents loved Westerns.

QUESTION: We actually have a photo of you back in your Boy Scout uniform. I understand you rose to Eagle Scout.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Yes.

QUESTION: How old were you here?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think I was 14 when that was taken.

QUESTION: You look very proud.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I am very proud. And was very proud. I still am.

QUESTION: I can tell. I mean, Boy Scouts, you reference it a fair amount. That played a big formative role in your life.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It really shaped who I am.

QUESTION: You still think of yourself as a Boy Scout?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Yes.

QUESTION: Really?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Absolutely.

QUESTION: You don't get to be the CEO of ExxonMobil as a Boy Scout.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I did.

QUESTION: You talked a lot about something that you've called the Code of the West. What does that mean?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, the Code of the West – as the West was unfolding, there wasn't a lot of law enforcement, and people basically relied upon each other's word and "as my word is my bond." And I've used that throughout my life as well, even at ExxonMobil. I would sit down with the head of state for that country or the CEO of that company, and we'd look each other in the eye, and I'd say, "All I need to know is that you're going to live up to your side of this deal, and I give you my word I'll live up to my side of this deal."

And then a lot of the Code of the West was people were very loyal to their organizations. And the phrase "riding for the brand" is a phrase that's always stuck with me that --

QUESTION: Riding for the brand?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Riding for the brand. When a cowboy signed on to a ranch or to that organization, he was committed to that organization.

QUESTION: And what is the brand for you now?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The State Department, the United States Government, the American people are my brand.

QUESTION: So one leader you hadn't met before December of 2016 was Donald Trump. Tell me what that first encounter was like.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We met in his office in Trump Tower, and he just began by asking me why don't you just kind of talk about how you see the world. So we just – we walked around the world for about an hour. And then after that, then he kind of went into a little bit of a sales pitch with me and said, "I want you to be my Secretary of State." And I was stunned.

QUESTION: You didn't know it was a job interview?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No, I didn't. I didn't. I thought it was just I was going up just to talk to him and share with him, which I've done with previous presidents. I did with President Obama. I did with President Bush. So I really thought that's all it was. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Did you have any sense of what you were getting yourself into?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: By and large, I did.

QUESTION: You've won some policy arguments: when it came to keeping troops in Afghanistan; you prevented the President in some ways from tearing up the Iran nuclear deal like he said he was going to do. You lost a few arguments too: the Paris climate agreement the President exited; the Trans-Pacific trade partnership, you cautioned against ripping up a deal America had committed to; and you

cautioned against moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem on the timeline they laid out. Do you think that's a fair accounting of your record?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think the American people have won with the decisions the President has taken. And it's not about agreeing or disagreeing, because he's the decision maker.

QUESTION: Tell me what it's like to work in an administration where the U.S. has walked away or threatened to walk away from a number of commitments. That has to be hard for someone who believes in the Code of the West.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, some of those I think it's important to keep in mind what the level of commitment was. We have agreements that the Congress never had the opportunity to weigh in on. And so President Trump was elected by the American people, and many of these were issues that he ran on.

(A video clip begins playing.) **QUESTION:** White House officials have said that you're going to be pushed out."

MS BRENNAN: In the past year, Tillerson spent a lot of time denying that he was being outflanked by others in the President's inner circle and that he was either going to resign or be fired.

(The video clip continues.) **SECRETARY TILLERSON:** That's ridiculous."

MS BRENNAN: After reports he called the President a moron:

QUESTION: Why didn't you deny calling the President a moron?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: That's a really old question.

QUESTION: Do you understand that, by not answering the question, some people thought you were confirming the story?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think I've answered the question.

QUESTION: You think you answered the question?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I've answered the question.

QUESTION: Did you call the President a moron?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'm not going to dignify the question. We've got so many bigger issues that we could be talking about. I'm not from this town. I understand this town likes to talk about a lot of things that are really not important.

QUESTION: Do you think you have enemies in this town?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I don't know.

QUESTION: Where do you think those reports came from that you were resigning or being fired?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I have no idea where they come from. I really don't, and I don't give it much thought.

QUESTION: I mean, you walk into ministry meetings and reporters are shouting, "Sir, when are you resigning?"

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I never hear those questions. The only person that knows whether I'm resigning or not is me.

QUESTION: So one of the other challenges that you have here is sometimes the President's message doesn't jive with your own. I think you'd acknowledge that.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, as I said, the President communicates in his own style, his own way, his own words. And from time to time, I will ask him, "Are you changing the policy?" Because if we are, obviously, I need to know, and everyone needs to know.

QUESTION: Well, you would have thought he'd talk to you about changing the policy before he tweeted.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: And to finish the thought, that has never happened. Every time I've talked to him, he said, "No, the policy hasn't changed." And I say, "Then I'm good." (Laughter.) That's all I need to know.

(A video clip is played.) **SECRETARY TILLERSON:** I thought today we'd just have a chat..."

MS BRENNAN: Within the ranks of the State Department, there have been complaints Secretary Tillerson is dismantling American diplomacy by embracing major budget cuts and being slow to fill crucial jobs.

QUESTION: There are 41 embassies without confirmed ambassadors, and that's even in places where there are crises. No ambassador in South Korea, Saudi Arabia, in Turkey. How do you explain that?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, there's been no dismantling at all of the State Department. We've got terrific people, both Foreign Service officers, civil servants, that have stepped into those roles around the world, and have stepped in here.

QUESTION: On an interim basis.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It is an interim basis. So clearly, it is not with the same kind of support that I wish everyone had. But our foreign policy objectives continue to be met (inaudible) Senate-confirmed --

QUESTION: But some of these don't even have nominees. I mean, 41 embassies without ambassadors in them.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, some of these are in the process. It's not a question of people being -- or neglecting the importance of it. It's just the nature of the process itself.

QUESTION: You've said you have a very close relationship with Vladimir Putin. You've done huge deals with him. Photos of you toasting him with champagne. And all that closeness raised eyebrows. It even inspired a Saturday Night Live skit. Did you ever see that skit?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I did. My kids pointed me to it. (Laughter.)

(A video clip is played.) "Puty, oh my God." "Rexy, baby..."

QUESTION: Did you laugh?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Absolutely. Absolutely. I laughed out loud.

QUESTION: It made light, though, of this concern that you have a friendship with Vladimir Putin, and that because of that you and the President aren't going to hold him to account.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The relationship that I had with President Putin spans 18 years now. It was always about what could I do to be successful on behalf of my shareholders, how Russia could succeed.

QUESTION: How different was it walking into the Kremlin as Secretary of State?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It was different because – and I had to think very, very carefully about that. And the only thing I said to him was, "Mr. President, the same man, a different hat."

QUESTION: But the dynamic changed.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The dynamic changed because the issues were different. What he is representing is different than what I now represent. And I said to him, "I now represent the American people." And I think it was important that that be said right up front, and he clearly got it. I mean, he clearly understood that as well.

QUESTION: But since you're Secretary of State now, you've accused him of violating nuclear arms control agreements, of cheating on North Korea sanctions, letting Assad continue now to use chlorine gas chemical weapons on civilians. He doesn't seem to be particularly concerned about the warnings you're giving him.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I don't know. We'll see if he's concerned or not.

QUESTION: There were six chlorine gas attacks in the past 30 days.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: That's correct. And we have called them out for the fact that Russia has special responsibilities, in our view, because of commitments they made to destroy chemical weapons and ensure they knew that there were none.

QUESTION: That sounds a lot like the last administration. It doesn't sound very different.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, when it comes to killing people with chemical weapons, it shouldn't look any different. I think the only difference is the consequences for it. And President Trump has already demonstrated there will be consequences.

QUESTION: Does that mean military action is still on the table for chlorine gas attacks?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: As it was – as it was in April last year, we are serious about our demands that chemical weapons not become regularized or normalized as a weapon in any conflict.

QUESTION: Why not implement the sanctions that Congress overwhelmingly says they want to see put on Russia?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We have and we are. We have taken steps that have already prevented a number of Russian military sales as a result of the legislation, and we are evaluating additional individuals for possible sanctioning.

QUESTION: So I know we're under a time constraint.

(A video clip is played.) "...the President."

MS BRENNAN: Near the end of our interview, we were interrupted by a phone call from the President.

(The video clip continues.) "**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Be right back."

MS BRENNAN: Afterward, the Secretary took us out for a brief stroll on his terrace before heading to the White House.

QUESTION: How often do you talk to the President?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We typically will try to talk every day even if it's only for a few minutes. A lot of times, I'll call from the road when I'm on a trip just to let him know how it's going and..."

MS BRENNAN: Rex Tillerson enjoys the view from the top of the State Department. He seems to be one of the few people in Washington not surprised he's still here.

QUESTION: If I believed the press reports that came out about you in the past year, you would not be sitting here talking to me as the Secretary of State. It seems like reports of your political death were premature?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I hope with this little bit of exchange we've had, you understand the man better. That's why I'm still here. Those things don't bother me. I'm here to serve my country. I committed to this President. My word is my bond. I ride for this brand. That's why I'm here, and nothing anybody else says is going to change that.

(b)(6) Senior Media Specialist

Press Office - US Embassy Ottawa

Phone (b)(6)

Email (b)(6)

<http://ottawa.usembassy.gov>

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Ottawa - Press Office <Ottawa-PressOffice@state.gov>; Ottawa - POL - SBU <Ottawa-POL-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - ECON Office - SBU <Ottawa-ECONOffice-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - FAS Office <OttawaFASOffice@state.gov>; Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6) (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 30, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated July 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney Sian Jones at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC
Date:	Tue, 6 Mar 2018 11:16:15 -0500

Thanks!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Craft, Kelly
Subject: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Asking him – he’s in a July 4 planning meeting at moment.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 11:15 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fw: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Would Matt like to attend with me?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:11 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Yes. Please.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Craft, Kelly
Subject: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Prefer your (b)(6) at the Trump, and (b)(6) joining?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:50 AM

To: Boyse, Matthew G; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

(b)(6)

Do you mind to secure rooms for us from april13-16?

Matt, I would like for you to travel with us if you are available.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Boyse, Matthew G
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:18 AM
To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft
Subject: FW: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 9:10 AM
To: Dwyer, Stuart A; Boyse, Matthew G; Ingalls, Linda C
Cc: Ottawa - Exec
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

I just heard that the Washington round will take place April 8-16 at a hotel near Dulles airport.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Dwyer, Stuart A
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:56 AM
To: Boyse, Matthew G; (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

No, understand they were still juggling with the Easter calendar. (b)(6) will reach out, but our guess is that it will be that week after Easter. SD

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Boyse, Matthew G
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:18 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; Dwyer, Stuart A (b)(6)
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

No -- Stuart?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Boyse, Matthew G
Cc: Ottawa - Exec; Dwyer, Stuart A
Subject: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Round 7 is ending, heard anything about Round 8 dates yet?

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Boyse, Matthew G
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: dates for NAFTA Round 8 yet?

Matt,
Wondering if you'd heard any specific dates for NAFTA Round 8 yet, in WashDC.

For (b)(6) info, in case she doesn't already know: AMB would like you to accompany her to WashDC for that.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	Eric John (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Kim, Sung Y (Manila) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: The Wit and Wisdom of Wayman on Wednesday
Date:	Wed, 19 Jul 2017 06:50:08 -0700

Gentlemen

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tomorrow morning, launching from Korea - via a stop during the last few days in Seattle - the John Economic Stimulus Tour (JEST) will head to Indianapolis for two days, then on to Bloomington for. Week. JEST will not only brief Gov. Holcomb and his economic team on trade with Korea, but also spend two nights at the official residence. (b)(6)

(b)(6) I'm looking forward to hearing about infrastructure plans, too. I'm already stoked.

Sent from my iPod

On 19 Jul 2017, at 5:33 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



Personal

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	Eric John (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Kim, Sung Y (Manila) (b)(6)

From:	"Klecheski, Michael S (Manila)"(b)(6)
To:	Kim, Sung Y (Manila)(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Online News Update, Thursday, 9 November 2017
Date:	Thu, 9 Nov 2017 02:30:02 -0500

(b)(6)

From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Klecheski, Michael S (Manila)
Subject: FW: Online News Update, Thursday, 9 November 2017

(b)(6)

Pinoy artist makes Trump action figure from flip flops

GMA News

A Filipino artist who won fame for his flip-flop sandal carving of a superhero this year has turned his talents to creating an action figure of U.S. President Donald Trump. The American leader is due to arrive in Manila on Sunday to attend a regional summit, the final leg of a 12-day Asian trip. Elmer Padilla, who is known for his collection of superheroes and pop culture characters made from flip-flop footwear, said he made the figurine of Trump to welcome him to the country.

From: U.S. Embassy Manila - Information Office
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2017 2:55 PM
To: Manila Daily Media Review
Subject: Online News Update, Thursday, 9 November 2017

BROADCAST MEDIA UPDATE

GABRIELA protests Trump visit to PH

ANC reported that GABRIELA, a leftist Filipino organization, conducted a protest rally in Kalaw, Manila this morning opposing the upcoming visit of U.S. President Donald Trump. The group intended to protest nearer to the U.S. Embassy, but were blocked by a group of armored police. The group insists the Philippines should not allow itself to be controlled by the United States and opposes the implementation of neo-liberal globalization and militaristic policies. They call for an end to the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. According to GABRIELA Secretary General Joms Salvador, President Rodrigo Duterte is leaving aside his claim of setting an independent foreign policy in favor of siding with the United States and China.

ONLINE STORIES

Return Balangiga bells, Trump told ahead of PH trip

Rappler

U.S. President Donald Trump should order the return of the historic Balangiga bells to the Philippines as he visits Manila from November 12 to 14, a former Philippine top diplomat said. "I personally believe that President Trump should, once and for all, return the Balangiga bells," former Philippine foreign secretary Roberto Romulo told Rappler on Wednesday. "At the end of the day, that is not owned by the United States or the Philippines. It's owned by the Catholic Church," Romulo added.

Bayan Muna activists pull off 'Ban Trump' protest at Trump Tower

Interaksyon

Activists of the Bayan Muna party-list staged a lightning protest at Trump Tower demanding that U.S. President Donald Trump be banned from the country. Trump is scheduled to visit the country for next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit. He is also expected to hold talks with President Rodrigo Duterte. The two leaders are currently in Vietnam for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Trump isolationism allows China to fill Southeast Asia void

The Philippine Star citing The Associated Press

When Chinese leader Xi Jinping said last month that "no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation," he might as well have been talking about Donald Trump as the U.S. president makes his first official visit to Southeast Asia. As Trump steers his administration's focus inward, China has stepped into what many see as a U.S.-sized void left behind in the region, boosting cooperation on infrastructure, security and trade, flooding eager countries with tourists and offering itself up as a model for developing nations with sometimes dodgy rights records.

Trump gets palatial treat at start of China visit

Philippine Daily Inquirer citing The Straits Times/Asia News Network

United States President Donald Trump has referred to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping as the "king" of China. So, it was fitting that the first stop on his first state visit to Beijing was the sprawling imperial palace of the Ming and Qing emperors, the Forbidden City. Mr. Trump and his wife Melania, together with Mr Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan, drank tea at Bao-yunlou, or the Hall of Embodied Treasures. The U.S. leader also showed Mr Xi a video of his granddaughter Arabella Kushner, six, reciting Chinese poems.

Xi offers hand of friendship to Trump

Philippine Daily Inquirer citing China Daily/Asia News Network

With an elaborate welcoming ceremony at Beijing Capital International Airport and a tour arranged at the Forbidden City, President Xi Jinping gave his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump a warm welcome at the beginning of his three-day state visit. From the time Air Force One landed at Beijing airport on Wednesday afternoon, the "state visit-plus" treatment for hosting Trump was rolled out, with a guard of honor, a military band and hundreds of elementary school students greeting the U.S. president.

Emboldened Xi, weakened Trump hold tough talks

Manila Times citing Agence France-Presse

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping put their professed friendship to the test Thursday as the least

popular U.S. president in decades and the newly empowered Chinese leader met for tough talks on trade and North Korea. Xi greeted Trump with more pageantry at the imposing Great Hall of the People, next to Tiananmen Square, on the second day of his visit to China — the crucial stop in a five-nation tour of Asia. The two leaders have stepped up the flattery but the U.S. leader is expected to prod Xi to make more efforts to slash China's massive trade surplus with the United States and curb its economic ties with North Korea.

Trump to tackle trade and North Korea with China's Xi

Interaksyon citing Reuters

North Korea and trade will likely top the agenda when U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping sit down for formal talks on Thursday, a day after Trump warned Pyongyang of the grave danger of developing nuclear weapons. In a show of the importance China puts on Trump's first official visit, Thursday morning's welcoming ceremony outside Beijing's Great Hall of the People overlooking Tiananmen Square was broadcast live on state television – unprecedented treatment for a visiting leader.

What's next for the ASEAN economy in a post-American world?

Rappler

The 10 nations that collectively make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have ridden globalization to become a major force in the global economy. Now, however, as the world's largest economy, the U.S., threatens to turn inwards, ASEAN will have to step up to navigate the suddenly choppy seas of the global trade, according to a group of former top officials at a Stratbase ADR Institute conference on Wednesday, November 8. "ASEAN's embrace of globalization was largely responsible for 'this [economic] transformation, it drove deeper integration among its members and with the global economy, that is why we are the fourth largest economy [combined] in the world," said former foreign secretary Roberto Romulo. Romulo noted, however, that the world order of economic liberalism that enabled globalization, or as he put it, "Pax-Americana, a collation of like-minded countries led by the United States" has all but vanished.

PH interest primordial in talking to China — Duterte

Manila Bulletin

President Duterte reiterated that the Philippines is not beholden to any country and that it will put the Philippines' best interest first before anything else. The opportunity for Duterte to raise the issue of the disputed South China Sea may surface as he is set to meet with two Chinese leaders, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, within one week.

Lorenzana: ASEAN defense chiefs worried Rohingya refugees may be recruited by terrorists

Interaksyon

Defense ministers of Association of Southeast Asian Nations member-states have voiced concern Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar may be recruited by terrorists and have urged the country to do more about the matter, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said. Speaking at the "ASEAN Leadership Amid a New World Order" forum hosted by the Stratbase Albert del Rosario Institute-at the Makati Shangri-La on Wednesday, Lorenzana said the matter was among several concerns raised during the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting and ADMM-Plus — which includes defense ministers from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea,

Russia, and United States — that he hosted about two weeks ago. Participants to the ADMM discussed terrorism and refugees, as well as climate change, natural disasters, piracy, illegal drugs, and the South China Sea. The ADMM-Plus, on the other hand, was more anxious about North Korea.

Pinoy artist makes Trump action figure from flip flops

GMA News

A Filipino artist who won fame for his flip-flop sandal carving of a superhero this year has turned his talents to creating an action figure of U.S. President Donald Trump. The American leader is due to arrive in Manila on Sunday to attend a regional summit, the final leg of a 12-day Asian trip. Elmer Padilla, who is known for his collection of superheroes and pop culture characters made from flip-flop footwear, said he made the figurine of Trump to welcome him to the country.

Retaliatory bombings possible after Marawi siege: analyst

ABS-CBN News

The siege of Marawi is already over but an analyst fears of possible bombings by pro-Islamic State personalities in some of the country's urban centers. Lisa Sidney Jones, director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, said the government should look into the identity and capacity of those involved in the siege to avoid such incidents. "I think it's possible the various components of the IS alliance actually dispersed back to their home territories... I also think there is a chance we'll see retaliatory bombings in some of the urban centers in the Philippines, maybe including Manila," Jones told ANC Thursday.

PDEA chief sets monthly drug war 'quota' for regional offices

Rappler

Regional directors of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency have been ordered to meet a monthly quota of "30 to 40" anti-drug operations, PDEA chief Aaron Aquino told Rappler. "Pinepressure ko ang mga regional directors ko. Binibigyan ko sila ng quota, to be honest with you (I'm pressuring my regional directors. I've given them quotas, to be honest with you)," Aquino said in Rappler Talk aired on Wednesday, November 8. He said he set a monthly quota of 30 to 40 drug raids per region, or a total of 510 to 680 operations a month nationwide. Based on this, the target number of operations per year would be from 6,120 to 8,160.

###

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Klecheski, Michael S (Manila)"(b)(6)
Recipient:	Kim, Sung Y (Manila)(b)(6)

From:	"Lee, Ron (TBS)"(b)(6)
To:	Kim, Sung Y (Manila)(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Manila
Date:	Fri, 5 Jan 2018 08:54:28 +0000

Thanks a lot!! Btw, please let me know if there is anything you need from Korea (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Ron Chongsuk Lee
Senior Vice President & General Manager / 대표이사
Turner Entertainment Networks Korea
Tel. (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 5:50 PM
To: Lee, Ron (TBS) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Manila

OK. Will make sure to find a worthy opponent for Yernho hyung :)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)
Subject: RE: Manila

Many thanks! I think they prefer to skip golf this time and think pool side is better place to hang out. ㅎㅎ It seems Yernho hyung has (b)(6) but he will bring his ping pong racquet to play in Manila, he is now very serious..

Thanks!
RON

Ron Chongsuk Lee
Senior Vice President & General Manager / 대표이사 Turner Entertainment Networks Korea
Tel. (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Lee, Ron (TBS) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Manila

Thanks Ron. Sounds good. I will let Joey know that Mr. Park will stay at Trump Tower Monday

night. I assume they will want to hang out together Mon-Tue. Would you, Yernho hyung, and Mr. Park want to play golf on Sunday? I can see if Joey or another friend can arrange a round at Manila Golf Club if you are interested. Let me know.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 1:24 PM

To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

Subject: RE: Manila

Hi Sung,

We all got together except for Mr. Park who is now in NY. We have a final schedule. 준용 형님 and YJ Chung decided to come back on Sunday, as they have busy schedules in the following week. 연호 형님 and I will leave on Monday. Mr. Park will leave on Tuesday as the original schedule. As we only have 2 days together, I think it's better to skip golf this time. Mr. Park will be alone after we all leave on Monday, and if it's fine with you and Joey, how about Sangwon Park stays at Trump Tower Condo for a day (Monday night)? Please let me know your thought. Thanks again!

Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 9:58 AM

To: Lee, Ron (TBS) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Manila

Good morning. Will everyone play golf?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Lee, Ron (TBS)

Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 9:37 AM

To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

Subject: Re: Manila

many thanks!

삼성 갤럭시 스마트폰에서 보냈습니다.

----- 원본 이메일 -----

보낸 사람: "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)" (b)(6)

날짜: 18/1/4 오전 9:37 (GMT+09:00)

받은 사람: "Lee, Ron (TBS)" (b)(6)

제목: Re: Manila

Great, let's all stay together at the Residence. Will look into ping pong.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Lee, Ron (TBS)

Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 7:13 AM

To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

Subject: Re: Manila

Many thanks!

All is so good and (b)(6) and would be interesting to play ping pong there only if it's not too much trouble.

Thanks again for organizing all these heavy plans out of your busy schedule!

Ron

Sent from my iPad

> On 2018. 1. 3., at 오후 5:08, "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)" (b)(6) wrote:

>

> Great. As you know, Joey has invited you and Mr. Park Sangwon to stay at his Trump Tower condo. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) What do you think?

>

> Will arrange golf for Sat or Sun. Do you also want to play table tennis with Filipino players? I might be able to arrange some players worthy of your attention.

>

> As for sightseeing, I would propose National Museum (relatively modest but interesting), American Cemetery (beautiful place, great for pictures), and the Embassy (again since Mr. Chung and Mr. Park have not seen).

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 3:07 PM

> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

> Subject: RE: Manila

>

> Hi Sung,

>

> Yes, our trip is still on track. There will be only 5 men (Judge & Mrs Park are not coming)this

trip without wives. We will arrive on the 19th 11AM and leave on the 22nd noon (KAL), except for Mr. Park Sangwon who will be leaving on the 23rd. Since we are staying for 3 days, I think golf will be good for one day. Please let me know what you think.

>

> Thanks,

> Ron

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 2:53 PM

> To: Lee, Ron (TBS) (b)(6)

> Subject: RE: Manila

>

> Hi Ron. I hope the trip is still on track. Let me know how things

> are looking so that I can start to finalize accommodation arrangements

> and other details. Very excited. Sung

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]

> Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:20 PM

> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

> Subject: Re: Manila

>

> Thank you Sung!

>

> It could be as many as 9 peoples... 연호 형님 형수님 & Mrs.박상원 might come as well.

> We of course will fly together on the same flight.

> Have a good trip and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family too!

>

> Ron

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On 2017. 11. 17., at 오후 11:27, "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)" (b)(6) wrote:

>>

>> Hi Ron.

>>

>> Sounds fun. Seven total, right? Yernho hyung, Joonyong hyung, you, Judge & Mrs. Park, Mr. Park Sangwon, Mr. YJ Chung.

>>

>> Will reserve three rooms at a good hotel near the residence.

>>

>> I think my trip to LA will be later -- around early Dec.

>>

>> Happy Thanksgiving.

>>

>> Sung

>>

>>

>>

>> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

>> From: Lee, Ron (TBS)

>> Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 7:16 PM

>> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

>> Subject: Re: Manila

>>

>>

>> Hi Sung,

>>

>> You must have been extremely busy with the President's visit, and we all heard that the atmosphere between Philippines and the US was very amicable. Everyone knows that it is the outcome of your great efforts! Congratulations again!

>>

>> In terms of our Philippines trip schedule, we will arrive on Jan 19 and leave on Jan 22. Mr. Park(박상옥 대법관)&Mrs.Park and Mr. YJ Chung (YBM) will be joining us too. Sorry for too many guests!!

>>

>> Thank you so much again for offering to stay at your residence again. If you are fine, we would like to let the people (박상원, 박상옥 & 준용 형님)who haven't stayed at the residence stay there this time.

>>

>> (b)(6) Could you please have someone book (3 Rooms) us hotel that is conveniently located to your place?

>>

>> I heard from 준용 형님 that you might visit LA during Thanksgiving, I will also stop by LA (Nov 24 ~27) on the way to Atlanta and 연호 형님 & 형수님 will be LA at that time too.

>>

>> We understand your top priority in LA, but please let me know if you would be free for lunch or dinner during your stay in LA.

>>

>> Thanks,

>> Ron

>>

>> Sent from my iPad

>>

>> On 2017. 10. 31., at 오후 1:31, "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)"

<(b)(6) <mailto:(b)(6)> wrote:

>>

>> Great, I'm super excited too. And of course everyone is invited to stay at our residence.

>>

>>

>> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

>> From: Lee, Ron (TBS)

>> Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:10 AM

>> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

>> Subject: RE: Manila

>>

>>

>> Hi Sung,

>> We are all set to go! All is fine with the dates (Jan 19-22).

>> We are all so excited to seeing you there again.

>> Thanks again!

>> Ron

>>

>>

>> From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:15 PM

>> To: Lee, Ron (TBS) (b)(6)

>> Subject: RE: Manila

>>

>> Heard back from Joey: "In all probability I should be in town and would be glad to entertain them this time." Will block Jan 19-22 on my calendar. Let me know when things are confirmed on your end. Very much looking forward.

>>

>> From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 3:22 PM

>> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

>> Subject: RE: Manila

>>

>> Great! We will wait for your confirmation.

>> Take good care of yourself!

>> Ron

>>

>> Ron Chongsuk Lee

>> Senior Vice President & General Manager / 대표이사 Turner Entertainment

>> Networks Korea Tel. (b)(6)

>>

>> From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) [mailto:(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:18 PM

>> To: Lee, Ron (TBS)

>> (b)(6)

>>

>>

>> Subject: RE: Manila

>>

>> Hi Ron. Great, very much looking forward to a reunion in mid-January.

>> The weekend of January 19-21 is perfect for me. I will check with
>> Joey. I think he is still traveling so it might take a couple of
>> days for him to respond. Sung

>>
>> From: Lee, Ron (TBS) [mailto:(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 1:26 PM
>> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)
>> Subject: RE: Manila

>>
>> Hi Sung,
>>
>> We all know how busy you must be..

>>
>> Due to everyone's different schedule, it would be great to go in mid-January including a
weekend for the Manila trip. Let me know if this schedule is convenient to you and Joey.

>>
>> As soon as I hear from you, we will confirm the schedule.

>>
>> Thanks,
>> Ron

>>
>>
>>
>> From: Lee, Ron (TBS)
>> Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 8:44 PM
>> To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)

>> (b)(6)
>>
>>
>> Subject: Re: Manila

>>
>> Hi Sung,
>> It's always so great to catch up with you, and I'm thrilled that we found(potentially!) a
common hobby to enjoy together. (b)(6) in ping pong!
>> I can't wait to play ping pong in Manila.
>> I am now working on visit schedule with 형님들 & Sang-won and will get back to you soon.
>> I'm always thankful for your thoughtful kindness!

>> Thanks,
>> Ron
>>
>> Sent from my iPad

>>
>> On 2017. 10. 17., at 오후 7:31, "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)"

(b)(6)
wrote:

>> Hi Ron. It was really great seeing you. Especially enjoyed
>> discovering the joy of ping pong. I even located a table tennis club
>> for you to try when you visit. I haven't found the courage to go
>> there myself but apparently it's a nice facility with serious
>> teaching pros. Both Joey and I are very much looking forward to your visit.
>> Let me know when would be convenient for you and the hyungnims. I'm
>> generally flexible except for mid-November and Christmas/New Year.
>> Take care. Sung

Sender:	"Lee, Ron (TBS)"(b)(6)
Recipient:	Kim, Sung Y (Manila)(b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: CONFIRMED - TODAY 1:15 - Lunch w Premier Ford & AMB MacNaughton
Date:	Wed, 19 Sep 2018 15:57:58 +0000

Thank you!

Kelly Craft
United States Ambassador
Canada

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Kelly Craft
Cc: Craft, Kelly; Barkin, Michael A; (b)(6)
Subject: CONFIRMED - TODAY 1:15 - Lunch w Premier Ford & AMB MacNaughton

Will do!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:23 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6); Barkin, Michael A (b)(6); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: PLS CONFIRM - TODAY 1:15 - Lunch w Premier Ford & AMB MacNaughton

Yes. Pls call Mikael at TRUMP to let him know

Kelly Craft
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

On Sep 19, 2018, at 11:21 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

Ambassador,
I received a call at 11:15 from Pam (David MacNaughton's office), asking if lunch at the Trump Intl Hotel could please begin at 1:15 PM today.

Minister Freeland is meeting with Premier Ford at 12:45 at the Canadian Embassy. They anticipate a 15-min meeting, followed by 15-min for the Premier and AMB MacNaughton to reach the Trump Hotel.

May I confirm that 1:15 for lunch works?

Thanks,

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	"Marocco, Pete"
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	For Consideration
Date:	Tue, 2 Apr 2019 22:44:19 +0000

Kelly,

Congratulations on your nomination and earning the high confidence of our President! If you recall, we met at the Trump hotel a little over a year ago, and submitted some applicants below for your consideration. Hopefully your time in Canada has been rewarding. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Hopefully you and your husband are doing well. Please tell me if I can be of further assistance in any capacity.

Thank you,
Pete



Pete Marocco
 Deputy Assistant Secretary
 U.S. Department of State
 Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO)
 Office: (b)(6) Mobile: (b)(6)
 Email: (b)(6)

@CSOAsstSec | www.state.gov/j/cso/index.htm

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 3:28 PM
To: Marocco, Pete (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Carol Flynn Resume

Thank you Pete!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Marocco, Pete
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Craft, Kelly

Subject: (b)(6) Resume

Kelly,

The first person I'd like to introduce to you, (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

She is also a good friend and is non-political. Her specialty is Insider Threat, and she has quite a bit of experience with major financial institutions.

I'll be sending you some more this week.

Pete



Pete Marocco
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Conflict and Stabilization Operations

(b)(6) (office)
NIPR: (b)(6)
SIPR: (b)(6)

Official - Privacy/PII

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Marocco, Pete"
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 29, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated September 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Subject:	WP: Trump team narrowing search for State Department's No. 2 official
Date:	Wed, 25 Jan 2017 13:30:17 -0500

Some good speculation on State Dept staffing (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

Official - Transitory
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: Greenberg, Brenda L
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:25 PM
To: CLIPS
Subject: WP: Trump team narrowing search for State Department's No. 2 official

Josh Rogin Opinion

Trump team narrowing search for State Department's No. 2 official

By Josh Rogin January 25 at 7:01 AM

Now that Rex Tillerson is set to be confirmed as secretary of state, the Trump administration's personnel team is focusing hard on who will be his No. 2 official, a diplomatic and management position that will have added significance and power in a State Department led by the former ExxonMobil chief executive.

The search for deputy secretary of state was reopened this month when the expected choice, former deputy treasury secretary Robert Kimmitt, took himself out of the running, three transition sources said. Kimmitt, who had been approved

by the then-transition team and Tillerson, withdrew due to a personal family issue, the sources said. The 70-year-old former Army officer had served on the White House National Security Council staff under President Reagan and in the State Department under President George H.W. Bush.

Two leading contenders for the job now are former White House and State Department official Elliott Abrams and former State Department official Paula Dobriansky. That list is not exhaustive and no decisions or announcement is expected until after Tillerson is confirmed, transition sources cautioned. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved his nomination Monday with an 11-to-10 party-line vote.

The Trump administration has decided not to appoint a deputy secretary of state for management, a post created by the Obama administration in 2009. This means the sole remaining deputy secretary will have enormous influence over both policy and management issues in Foggy Bottom. Both Abrams and Dobriansky have diplomatic backgrounds and experience working in the often thorny State Department bureaucracy.

“If you really want to drain the swamp you need some people who actually know how to do it but also are philosophically in line with this administration,” one transition source said. “This is a building where the foreign service crowd can really run amok if you don’t have someone reining them in.”

Abrams is a favorite of the conservative foreign policy community and also seen as someone who could balance out the Trump administration and Tillerson's lack of focus on issues such as human rights. Although Trump said in his inauguration address, "We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone," he has also criticized countries such as Cuba and Saudi Arabia for mistreating their citizens.

Tillerson, in his confirmation hearing testimony, said that while "it is unreasonable to expect that every foreign policy endeavor will be driven by human rights considerations alone ... our leadership demands action specifically focused on improving the conditions of people the world over."

In 1991, Abrams pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of withholding information to Congress, related to his knowledge of secret operations to arm and fund the Nicaraguan rebels during the Iran-Contra affair. He was pardoned in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush.

Dobriansky is also a well-known and well-liked fixture in the GOP foreign policy establishment. She served as the State Department's undersecretary for democracy and global affairs for the entire George W. Bush administration and was the special envoy to Northern Ireland in the administration's latter years. Dobriansky visited Trump Tower on multiple occasions during the transition to discuss policy and a potential role in the administration.

Two officials who had been rumored for deputy secretary of state, former national security adviser Stephen Hadley and former deputy national security adviser and ambassador to Iraq Jim Jeffrey, are not in contention for the State Department job, transition sources confirmed. The firm owned by Hadley, Condoleezza Rice and Bob Gates is a paid consultant for ExxonMobil and Jeffrey also worked as a paid consultant for ExxonMobil while Tillerson was chief executive. Rice, Hadley and Gates are said to be heavily involved in discussions with the Trump administration on a range of State Department appointments.

Inside the State Department, officials are also watching closely to see who will be appointed to the No. 3 position, undersecretary of state for political affairs. Tom Shannon has been held over for the time being but is not expected to be retained permanently. Speculation has centered around Beth Jones, a former assistant secretary of state and retired foreign service officer. Jones worked for Tillerson at ExxonMobil after leaving government.

The Trump team is also looking to replace Patrick Kennedy, the State Department's long-serving undersecretary for management. Transition sources said that Kennedy is seen as too powerful inside the building and not aligned with the Trump administration's interests. Republican lawmakers have also criticized Kennedy for his actions related to the Benghazi, Libya, attacks, both as the official who oversaw requests for

more security and for his involvement in the subsequent State Department internal investigation.

Former State Department official and Goldman Sachs executive Erin Walsh is now the White House official in charge of managing appointments for the State Department and USAID, transition officials said. Walsh was the leader of the State Department landing team during the transition.

Over at the White House, more experts and officials have joined the National Security Council staff led by retired Gen. Michael T. Flynn. Victoria Coates, the longtime national security adviser to Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), has moved over to the White House to join the NSC's "Strategic Initiatives Group." That group also includes professor and former Breitbart editor Sebastian Gorka.

Longtime senate staffer Christopher Ford has joined the NSC staff to work on non-proliferation and nuclear issues. Ford has served as chief council for the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Banking Committee and most recently the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During the George W. Bush administration, Ford was a deputy assistant secretary of state in the bureau of arms control and international security, then led by John Bolton.

Former DIA and Central Command official Derek Harvey is also joining the NSC staff as a senior official dealing with the Middle East, transition sources said. Before joining the DIA in

2006, he spent 26 years as an Army intelligence officer, working closely with retired Gen. David Petraeus.

Flynn has also selected former Army intelligence officer Craig Deare as senior director for the Western Hemisphere. Deare is currently the dean of admissions at the College of International Security Affairs at the National Defense University. The addition of Harvey and Deare to the NSC staff continues Flynn's pattern of selecting former military intelligence officers for key roles.

Brenda Greenberg | (202) 647-1679 | GreenbergBL2@state.gov
HR Public Affairs Officer | Bureau of Human Resources – U.S. Department of State

Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo)	(b)(6)

From:	"Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6) Adkins, Jessica L (Montevideo) (b)(6) Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Washington Post: Trump family's elaborate lifestyle is a 'logistical nightmare' — at taxpayer expense
Date:	Thu, 16 Feb 2017 20:27:13 -0500

WashPost just ran another story about the cost of Trump family travels. It includes the Eric Trump trip to Uruguay and is illustrated with the picture of Eric Trump at La Huella. Link below.

Regards,

Nick

Trump family's elaborate lifestyle is a 'logistical nightmare' — at taxpayer expense
From the White House to Trump Tower, Mar-a-Lago and beyond, local and federal governments stretch to meet the demands.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/trump-familys-elaborate-lifestyle-a-logistical-nightmare--at-taxpayer-expense/2017/02/16/763cce8e-f2ce-11e6-a9b0-ecee7ce475fc_story.html

Sender:	"Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6) Adkins, Jessica L (Montevideo) (b)(6) Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo) (b)(6) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
CC: (b)(6)
BCC: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Vivek Sarin NOT in Toronto / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA
Date: Sat, 9 Jun 2018 06:53:02 -0400

Thank you for closing the loop, Chris. I will let the Ambassador know that a lift from Toronto to WashDC will not be necessary.

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From: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 5:48 PM
To: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; Higgins, Holly S (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Flagging that Kentucky Secretary of Commerce Vivek Sarin will not be able to attend events in Toronto and therefore will not fly on Ambassador's plane from Toronto to DC.

From: Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 10:47 AM
To: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6) Sarin, Vivek K (CED)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 Garcia (b)(6) Persley, Erran F (CED) (b)(6) Pierstorff, Morgan
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Christopher, I apologize for not reaching out yesterday, Vivek will be unable to attend the reception in Canada due to prior scheduling commitments in Kentucky prior to leaving for SelectUSA. He is very appreciative of the invitation to attend the reception, and sends best wishes for a success event. He looks forward to connecting with Ambassador Craft and the Canadian delegation while attending the SelectUSA conference.

I have copied Erran Persley and Morgan Pierstorff from our staff as they have been coordinating the schedule of events which includes the confirmed attendance of Ambassador Craft at the Kentucky booth late Thursday afternoon (Jun 21), and the Canadian delegation attending Governor Bevin's speaking engagement on Friday morning (Jun 22). Thank you for your confirmation on dinner Thursday evening (Jun 21) with Ambassador Craft! Erran Persley had a conference call with (b)(6) this morning to

finalize details and we were still waiting on confirmation. This is great news! Thank you. We will adjust our schedules and communicate logistical details as they become available.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Karen Yates

*Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development
Office: (b)(6)*

(b)(6)



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

From: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Sarin, Vivek K (CED) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6); Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Dear Vivek,

As promised, I wanted to get back to you to let you know that Ambassador Craft would be happy to offer you a lift from Toronto to Washington. We anticipate she will be departing Toronto late morning on Wed, June 20. Hopefully you received the information I sent you on the June 19 reception for your consideration. If not please let me know and I will resend.

Please let (b)(6) copied, if you confirm that you will utilize transport on the Craft's aircraft, as the pilot will have simple documents that you must complete before travel.

Also, please let Governor Bevin know that Ambassador Craft would be delighted to have dinner with him on the evening of Thursday, June 21, after the Summit reception. You had mentioned perhaps dining at the Trump Hotel. Please provide details once known, so they may be added to Ambassador's calendar.

In addition to the Ambassador's Office Management Specialist (b)(6) I have also copied her Staff Assistant (b)(6) and Foreign Service Officer (b)(6) who will be with the Ambassador throughout this trip to DC and serve as her Control Officer.

(b)(6) contact info is (b)(6) (Office)
(b)(6) (Office Mobile).

Sincerely,
-Chris

Christopher Quinlivan
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs (Senior Commercial Officer)
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
Embassy of the United States of America
Ottawa, Canada
Office: (b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 11:49 AM
To: Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Subject: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Dear Ms Yates,

Ambassador Craft will be flying into Washington from Toronto on Wednesday, June 20, and there is some flexibility in her arrival time. We currently estimate it may be around mid-day, and this could change depending on how scheduling shapes up.

On Friday, June 22, I understand there is a 12:15 pm keynote address taking place at Select USA, but I am unaware of any other scheduling that may include Ambassador Craft after that. We anticipate she would depart Washington mid-afternoon'ish, and I understand that Governor Bevin may be flying to Kentucky with the Ambassador at that time.

If the Governor would like to suggest any scheduling with Ambassador Craft during these dates, or how adjusting her arrival or departure time to/from Washington may allow her to fit something else into the schedule, please feel welcome to provide us details ASAP.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

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From: Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 5:43 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Introduction

Best of Luck in your endeavors! Thank you for the information. I was hoping to find out the time of arrival and departure into Washington DC for SelectUSA. We are trying to coordinate meetings with Ambassador Craft and need to know how to suggest times to participating parties.

Thank you for your help!

Karen Yates

*Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development
Office: (b)(6)*

(b)(6)



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 3:16 PM
To: Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your email. The Ambassador will be in Washington for SelectUSA from June 20-June 22. I will be leaving the team before SelectUSA, so I am looping in my colleagues (b)(6) and (b)(6) (b)(6) who will be the appropriate POCs.

Regards,

(b)(6)

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From: Yates, Karen S (CED) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:28 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Introduction

(b)(6) I would like to take this opportunity to e-introduce myself. I am Karen Yates, Executive Assistant to Vivek Sarin, Executive Officer at the Cabinet for Economic Development in Frankfort, Kentucky. I also support Secretary Terry Gill at the Cabinet as well.

Vivek and Ambassador Craft often speak regarding different events, some involving Governor Matt Bevin. It would be beneficial for us to have each other as a point of contact for information exchange as we/they try and coordinate calendars and upcoming events. Most notably: SelectUSA, June 20 – June 22. Vivek asked me to touch base to see if you could inform us of Ambassador Craft’s arrival and departure dates into Washington, DC? Thank you for any information you can share.

It was nice to e-introduce. I’ll wait for your reply.

Karen Yates

*Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development*

Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
	(b)(6) Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From:	"Pixa, Lawrence D (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6) Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6) (b)(6) Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo) (b)(6) Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Uruguay: Press item - Punta del Este, Uruguay, April 13, 2018: Trump Tower Developer Group Seeks Level Playing Field
Date:	Fri, 13 Apr 2018 13:34:21 -0400

FYI – Post would like to highlight an item in today’s local Uruguayan press.

Larry

[\(Punta del Este, Uruguay, April 13, 2018\) Trump Tower Developer Group Seeks Level Playing Field](#)

Trump Tower Punta del Este started construction in 2014 and is scheduled to be complete in early 2019. The GoU passed a stimulus package October 2016 which extended a series of tax exemptions to new real estate development projects, but excludes projects started before 2016, such as the Punta del Este Trump Tower effort. Among the tax benefits on which the Trump Tower project is missing out are the duty-free importation of construction equipment, materials, interior furnishings, and all manner of technologies needed to equip a modern apartment complex, most of which are not produced domestically. The Argentine development group managing the project recently told local press that it had been petitioning the GoU since 2016 to be included in the tax exemptions and that the exclusion has made the project more costly than competitors in the market.



Lawrence Pixa

Economic/Commercial Section Chief | U.S. Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay | Ofc. (b)(6) | Mobile (b)(6)

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Sender:	"Pixa, Lawrence D (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)

Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo) (b)(6)

Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo) (b)(6)

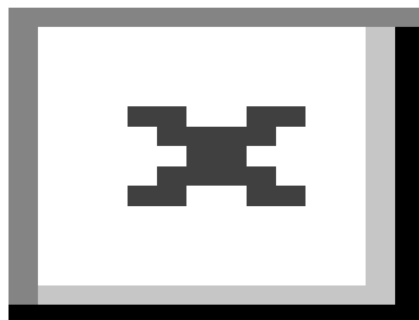
(b)(6)

From:	"Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6)
	Adkins, Jessica L (Montevideo) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Flehart, Carla J (Montevideo) (b)(6) Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)
CC:	(b)(6)
	Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	The Atlantic: Why the Trumps' Travel Expenses Matter
Date:	Wed, 8 Feb 2017 06:41:34 -0500

FYI. Somewhat misleading subtitle: Erik Trump wasn't here to vacation but to conduct business.

Why the Trumps' Travel Expenses Matter

Every previous first family took vacations. No previous first family profited off of them.



The construction site of Trump Tower Punta del Este in Uruguay Matilde Campodonico / AP
 In early January, President Donald Trump's son Eric flew to Uruguay for a business trip. While he was there, Eric visited the unfinished Trump Tower in the resort town of Punta del Este, snapping pictures of the property with which to commemorate the visit on Twitter. To provide security for the trip, Eric Trump took along with him a retinue of Secret Service agents, as is customary for members of the first family traveling abroad with or without the president. According to The Washington Post, the bill for the trip—or at least, the amount of taxpayer dollars spent—totaled \$97,830.

That Eric Trump left the country is not unusual; every first family has taken vacations while in office, although President Trump is the first in a generation whose children are old enough to jet-set on their own. The response is typically a textbook case of partisanship at work: The opposition party and its affiliated media outlets vociferously object to this use of taxpayer money; the

president's supporters respond with classic whataboutism, wondering where all this outrage was when the last guy did the same.

But Eric Trump's trip is different. It's not just about the cost of the trip, or the partisan hypocrisy at play given his father's vociferous condemnation of his predecessor using taxpayer money for vacations. It's not even that the Trumps will likely take international trips on their own fairly frequently compared to previous first children. The problem is that the \$97,830 charge was for all intents and purposes a business expense, one of what will likely be many instances of the federal government paying to effectively subsidize the Trump Organization. Not only that, it's yet another reminder of the president's refusal to divest from his businesses, a situation that continues to create a multitude of conflicts of interest.

In an alternate universe in which Donald Trump did not become president, Eric's trip is on the Trump Organization's dime. The charge, which, according to *The Washington Post*, went mainly toward covering the costs of hotel rooms for the Secret Service members and embassy staff who accompanied Eric, may never have been incurred in the first place, as the need for a security detail would not have been nearly as high for a private citizen as for the son of the president. In our universe, though, the expense came out of the federal government's budget, de facto subsidized by the American taxpayer.

Specifically where and how the money was spent remains unknown; there is no definitive answer as to whether any money was spent booking rooms at Trump properties, which of course would represent a conflict of interest, with the president's company profiting from taxpayer money. Nevertheless, the details that have emerged make it clear that the event was a business trip through and through: Eric Trump spent his time in Punta del Este checking up on the progress of construction, meeting with real-estate brokers who may soon be helping rent the building's luxury apartments, and speaking at an "ultra exclusive" gathering. In other words, his trip was designed for no other reason than to promote the building and increase its value when it opens, something he achieved using not only funds from the federal government but also the prestige provided by his association with the president, and the federal agents and embassy official who came along because of it.

Much the same can be said of President Trump's decision to spend the weekend at Mar-a-Lago, his club in Palm Beach, just two weeks after taking office. Amid a steady stream of stories about the Trump family's unprecedented commingling of their business with the presidency, Trump first attended a ball hosted by the Red Cross before holding a Super Bowl party at his club. Predictably, the trip raised eyebrows from critics who felt that Trump, who continually attacked his predecessor for spending time and money playing golf away from the Oval Office, and who explicitly pitched his campaign in opposition to "crooked" politicians enjoying themselves on taxpayers' dime, was being hypocritical by doing so himself so soon after inauguration. But the bigger issue here is that the trip represents yet another instance of Trump acting as both businessman and president: During the weekend, the Red Cross, a federally chartered organization, paid around \$300,000 for the privilege of hosting the event at the president's estate, while the Super Bowl party blurred the line between paying the Trump Organization to have a good time and paying the Trump Organization for the chance to bend the president's ear.

The focus on hypocrisy is understandable; historically, calling out politicians on lies and inconsistencies has been seen as a potent political tool, whether because the politicians themselves change their behavior or because voters turn against leaders they consider dishonest. But this may no longer be the case: The new administration seems singularly unresponsive to shame over their own lies and hypocrisy, and, with inflexible partisanship an increasingly powerful force in American politics, calling them out on their dissembling may no longer convince either the administration or its base to change their behavior. Besides, when it comes to vacations, doing so is arguably hypocritical in and of itself, a partisan ouroboros in which each changeover of the executive branch reawakens one half of the country to righteous indignation over the president's

personal expenses (which, it should be noted, comprise only a fraction of a percent of the executive branch's budget).

What is new, though, is the Trump family's continued commingling of their business with the presidency, and their continued refusal to even entertain the idea of divestment: President Trump did not file promised paperwork to resign from his titular organization until after ProPublica reported that he had not done so; Ivanka apparently has still not resigned from her own companies; the trust set up to prevent the president from overseeing his finances is not only not "blind" but is also revocable, meaning he can alter the arrangement whenever he wants. In light of this malfeasance, a decades-old criticism has taken on additional meaning. Partisan ire over presidential leisure time has been a mainstay of political discourse since at least the 1950s, when President Eisenhower was roundly castigated for spending too much time on the golf course. But only the Trump family has provided a genuine reason for the American public to be concerned that their vacations represent a true willingness to prioritize their own fortunes over that of the country.

Regards,

Kelly Keiderling
Ambassador
Embassy of the United States
EE.UU.
Montevideo, Uruguay

Embajadora
Embajada de los

Official
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Sender:	"Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)	(b)(6)
	Adkins, Jessica L (Montevideo)	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	
	Flehart, Carla J (Montevideo)	(b)(6)
	Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)	
	(b)(6)	
	Schreuder, Michael J (Montevideo)	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	

From:	"Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
CC:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Date:	Mon, 15 Oct 2018 23:14:31 +0000

Thanks for all the edits. I checked with (b)(6) compiled, and submitted. Attached in case we need to refer back to them again.

(b)(6) let's shoot for 7 in 100,000 for next year!

Best,

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama
Tel: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:57 PM
To: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S

Suggested edits in the attachment

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From: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Baumann, Elias S (Panama)

(b)(6)

Cc: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Importance: High

Team,

Can you please shoot me any edits to these by 4:00pm Panama time? I'm thinking this one could change from good to exceptional:

- (b)(5)

The rest looked good to me, I only saw one other typo highlighted.

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama

Tel: (b)(6)
Cell

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cox, Edward J
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:29 PM
To: (b)(6); Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)

(b)(6)

Subject: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Importance: High

Sorry, nothing is ever not urgent... Request your quickest possible look. (WHA-Press wanted these at 4:30, which is in 2 mins.) (b)(6) has cleared.

Thanks!

Ed Cox

Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for Central America | U.S Department of State
Phone: (b)(6) | E-mail: (b)(6)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR JOINT PRESS AVAILABILITY
WITH PRESIDENT VARELA OF PANAMA
October 18, 2018**

How do you describe the state of U.S. relations with Panama?

(b)(5)

How would you describe the collaboration between Panama and the United States on security and prosperity issues?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Do you have concerns about the growing Chinese-Panamanian relationship?

(b)(5)

Panama has been without a U.S. Ambassador since the resignation of Ambassador Feeley in March. When will there be a new Ambassador?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

What does the United States think about the rising incidence of crime, violence, and drug trafficking in the region?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Does the United States Government believe it is safe to travel to Panama?

(b)(5)

What have been the effects of the extradition of former President Ricardo Martinelli?

(b)(5)

What is your view of Panama's actions against money laundering?

(b)(5)

What do you say about allegations that the Trump Organization improperly solicited help from the Panamanian government before being removed from management of what had been the Trump Hotel in Panama City?

(b)(5)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)"(b)(6)
Recipient:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama)(b)(6)
	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama
	(b)(6)
	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
CC:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Date:	Mon, 15 Oct 2018 21:07:27 +0000

The latest numbers we have from PNP on homicide rate is 8 per 100,000.

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:58 PM
To: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
 (b)(6) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S

Hey Paco,
Some thoughts here from me. One requires Econ review but shouldn't stand as you sent it.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Importance: High

Team,

Can you please shoot me any edits to these by 4:00pm Panama time? I'm thinking this one could change from good to exceptional:

(b)(5)

The rest looked good to me, I only saw one other typo highlighted.

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama
Tel: (b)(6)
Cell

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cox, Edward J
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:29 PM
To: (b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)
(b)(6)
Subject: Tom/Peter and Post - FLASH CLEARANCE: QAs for S
Importance: High

Sorry, nothing is ever not urgent... Request your quickest possible look. (WHA-Press wanted these at 4:30, which is in 2 mins.) Roger has cleared.

Thanks!

Ed Cox
Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for Central America | U.S Department of State
Phone: (b)(6) | E-mail: (b)(6)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR JOINT PRESS AVAILABILITY
WITH PRESIDENT VARELA OF PANAMA
October 18, 2018**

-

How do you describe the state of U.S. relations with Panama?

(b)(5)

How would you describe the collaboration between Panama and the United States on security and prosperity issues?

(b)(5)

Do you have concerns about the growing Chinese-Panamanian relationship?

(b)(5)

Panama has been without a U.S. Ambassador since the resignation of Ambassador Feeley in March. When will there be a new Ambassador?

(b)(5)

What does the United States think about the rising incidence of crime, violence, and drug trafficking in the region?

(b)(5)

Does the United States Government believe it is safe to travel to Panama?

(b)(5)

What have been the effects of the extradition of former President Ricardo Martinelli?

(b)(5)

What is your view of Panama's actions against money laundering?

(b)(5)

What do you say about allegations that the Trump Organization improperly solicited help from the Panamanian

government before being removed from management of what had been the Trump Hotel in Panama City?

(b)(5)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
	Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6)
	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	NEA-FO-DL <NEAFODL@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Fwd: 02-20-18 Final Guidance Package
Date:	Wed, 21 Feb 2018 00:57:51 +0000

From: (b)(6)
Date: February 20, 2018 at 7:24:38 PM EST
To: PA Guidance <PAGuidance@state.gov>
Subject: 02-20-18 Final Guidance Package

Technical problems resulted in this evening's delayed guidance package. Thanks for your patience.
 Tonight's duty officer is Ambrose Sayles.

FINAL GUIDANCES		MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018	
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>State of Emergency in Maldives</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>Recent Actions Regarding Latvia's Banking Sector</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>The Gambia National Day</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>Fourth Anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity</u>
POSTED	--	Media Note	<u>State Department Designation of Ansarul Islam</u>
POSTED	--	Media Note	<u>Acting Assistant Secretary Thornton to Travel to Berlin</u>
POSTED	--	Notice to the Press	<u>United States and Libya Sign Cultural Property Protection Agreement</u>
SCA	--	India	<u>Donald Trump Jr. Visit</u>

MISC -- CA Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
(FAST ACT): Passport Related Talking points

MISC -- CT Terrorist Designation of Ansarul Islam

POSTED -- Interview Secretary of State Rex Tillerson With
Margaret Brennan of CBS 60 Minutes

POSTED -- Daily Press Briefing DPB by Heather Nauert, Spokesperson

THERE WAS A PRESS BRIEFING TODAY.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	NEA-FO-DL <NEAFODL@state.gov>; (b)(6)

<u>FINAL GUIDANCES</u>		<u>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018</u>	
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>State of Emergency in Maldives</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>Recent Actions Regarding Latvia's Banking Sector</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>The Gambia National Day</u>
POSTED	--	Statement	<u>Fourth Anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity</u>
POSTED	--	Media Note	<u>State Department Designation of Ansarul Islam</u>
POSTED	--	Media Note	<u>Acting Assistant Secretary Thornton to Travel to Berlin</u>
POSTED	--	Notice to the Press	<u>United States and Libya Sign Cultural Property Protection Agreement</u>
SCA	--	India	<u>Donald Trump Jr. Visit</u>
MISC	--	CA	<u>Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT): Passport Related Talking points</u>
MISC	--	CT	<u>Terrorist Designation of Ansarul Islam</u>
POSTED	--	Interview	<u>Secretary of State Rex Tillerson With Margaret Brennan of CBS 60 Minutes</u>
POSTED	--	Daily Press Briefing	<u>Press Briefing by Heather Nauert, Spokesperson</u>

THERE WAS A DAILY PRESS BRIEFING TODAY.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY HEATHER NAUERT, SPOKESPERSON

February 20, 2018

State of Emergency in Maldives

The United States is disappointed by reports that Maldivian President Yameen has extended the state of emergency in that country for an additional 30 days. The United States continues to call on President Yameen to end the state of emergency, uphold the rule of law, permit the full and proper functioning of the Parliament and the judiciary, restore constitutionally guaranteed rights of the people of Maldives, and respect Maldives' international human rights obligations and commitments.

###

Drafted: SCA/Press (b)(6)

Cleared:	SCA/FO:	(b)(6)	OK
	SCA/FO:	(b)(6)	OK
	SCA/NSB:	(b)(6)	OK
	DRL:	(b)(6)	OK
	L:	(b)(6)	OK
	S/P:	(b)(6)	OK
	P:	(b)(6)	OK
	D:	(b)(6)	OK
	PA:	(b)(6)	OK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY HEATHER NAUERT, SPOKESPERSON

February 20, 2018

Recent Actions Regarding Latvia's Banking Sector

The United States has full confidence that the Government of Latvia will take the necessary steps to uphold the integrity of its banking and financial sector. For many years, we have been working together with Latvia to combat corruption, money laundering, and other threats to international security. Moving forward, the United States supports and will continue to help the Government of Latvia, the Latvian Financial Capital and Markets Commission, and Latvian law enforcement to realize our shared vision of a strong and well-regulated Latvian financial sector.

###

Cleared:

EUR/FO:	(b)(6)	ok
EUR/FO:		ok
EUR/FO:		ok
EUR/NB:		ok
EUR/Press:	(b)(6)	ok
EUR/ERA:		ok
EB/Press:	(b)(6)	ok
EB/TFS/TFC:	(b)(6)	ok
P:	(b)(6)	ok
D:		ok
S/P:	(b)(6)	ok
Treasury:	(b)(6)	ok
Treasury:		ok
NSC:	(b)(6)	ok
Embassy Riga		ok
PA:	(b)(6)	

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY TILLERSON

The Gambia National Day

February 18, 2018

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I offer congratulations to the people of The Gambia on the 53rd anniversary of your country’s independence on February 18, 2018.

We commend your impressive progress since the return of democracy to The Gambia. The Gambia’s eligibility under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and its selection by the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a Threshold Program are endorsements of your commitment to good governance and economic development.

The United States remains committed to supporting The Gambia and its people as you strive to promote democratic principles, economic growth, and investment.

Approved: AF/FO – (b)(6)

Drafted: AF/W (b)(6)

Cleared:	AF/W: (b)(6)	ok
	AF/W:	ok
	P: (b)(6)	ok
	D:	ok
	R: (b)(6)	ok
	S/P: (b)(6)	ok
	AF/ERA: (b)(6)	ok
	AF/ERA: (b)(6)	ok
	AF/PDPA: (b)(6)	ok
	DRL/AF: (b)(6)	ok
	Embassy Banjul: Ambassador Alsup	ok

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY HEATHER NAUERT, SPOKESPERSON

February 19, 2018

Fourth Anniversary of Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity

Four years ago, Ukrainians from all walks of life and all regions of the country came together on the Maydan, Kyiv's central square, to demand their government recognize the choice of the citizens of Ukraine to join Europe. Scores of Ukrainians—the “Heavenly Hundred”—gave their lives on the Maydan for the dream of a better Ukraine. The United States will continue to stand by Ukraine as it faces ongoing Russian aggression, which has claimed over 10,000 lives and displaced more than 1.6 million Ukrainians.

Ukraine has taken important steps over the past four years, yet there is still more work needed to fulfill the promise of the Maydan and unlock Ukraine’s potential. The United States calls on Ukraine’s leaders to redouble their efforts to implement the deep, comprehensive and timely reforms that are necessary to build the stable, democratic, prosperous, and free country Ukrainians deserve. We are proud to work with the people of Ukraine to honor the sacrifices made four years ago for Ukraine’s European choice.

Cleared:

EUR/FO:	(b)(6)	ok
EUR/FO:		ok
EUR/FO:		ok
EUR/FO:		ok
EUR/EE:		ok
EUR/EE:		ok
EUR/Press:	(b)(6)	ok
EUR/RUS:		ok
DRL/Press:		ok
P:	(b)(6)	ok
D:		ok
S/P:	(b)(6)	ok
NS:		ok

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2018

MEDIA NOTE

State Department Designation of Ansarul Islam

The Department of State has designated Ansarul Islam as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Section 1(b) of Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. E.O. 13224 imposes strict sanctions on foreign persons determined to have committed, or pose a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States. This designation seeks to deny Ansarul Islam the resources it needs to plan and carry out further terrorist attacks. Among other consequences, all of its property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction are blocked, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with the group.

Ansarul Islam is a terrorist group based in Burkina Faso. The group has launched numerous attacks in northern Burkina Faso near the border with Mali, including a December 2016 attack against an army squad that killed a dozen soldiers, one of the deadliest ever attacks against Burkina Faso's military. Ansarul Islam also carried out a February 2017 strike on two police stations in the country and is believed to be responsible for the March 2017 murder of a school director and another man in Kourfayel, Burkina Faso.

Today's action notifies the U.S. public and the international community that Ansarul Islam has committed or poses a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism. Terrorism designations expose and isolate organizations and individuals, and deny them access to the U.S. financial system. Moreover, designations can assist the law enforcement activities of U.S. agencies and other governments.

A list of State Department-designated FTOs and SDGTs is available here:
<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/index.htm>.

Approved: CT (b)(6) NAS
Drafter: CTFD: (b)(6)

Cleared: CT/FO: (b)(6) ok
CT/CTFD: (b)(6) ok
CT/AEAA: ok
D: (b)(6) ok
S/P: (b)(6) ok
P: (b)(6) ok
L/EB: (b)(6) ok
EB/TFS/TFC: (b)(6) ok
E: (b)(6) ok
J: info by request
AF/Press: (b)(6) ok
AF/W: (b)(6) ok
NSC/Press: (b)(6) ok
Treasury: (b)(6) ok

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

MEDIA NOTE

February 16, 2018

Acting Assistant Secretary Thornton to Travel to Berlin

Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Susan Thornton, will travel to Berlin, Germany, to meet with European counterparts to discuss issues of mutual interest in the Indo-Pacific region February 19-20, 2018.

For updates, please follow the East Asian and Pacific Bureau on Twitter at @USAsiaPacific.

For press inquiries please contact EAP-P-Office-DL@state.gov.

###

Lead Bureau:	EAP/P	
Drafted:	EAP/MLA:	(b)(6)
Clearances:	EAP/MLA	(b)(6) (ok)
	EAP/MLS	(b)(6) (ok)
	EAP/MTS	(b)(6) (ok)
	EAP/RSP	(b)(6) (ok)
	EAP/K	(b)(6) (ok)
	EUR/ERA	(b)(6) (ok)
	EUR/WE-Germany	(b)(6) (ok)
	EUR/Press	(b)(6) (ok)
EAP/Press	(b)(6) (ok)	

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

February 20, 2018

United States and Libya Sign Cultural Property Protection Agreement

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs I. Steven Goldstein and Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary for Political Affairs Lutfi Almughrabi will sign a landmark bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on cultural property protection on February 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of State.

As part of the ongoing cooperation between the United States and Libya's Government of National Accord, the United States will impose import restrictions on categories of archaeological material representing Libya's cultural heritage dating from 12,000 B.C. through 1750 A.D. and Ottoman ethnological material from Libya dating from 1551 to 1911 A.D. Restrictions are intended to reduce the incentive for pillage and trafficking and are among the many ways the United States is combatting the financing of terrorism and disrupting the global market in illegal antiquities. These restrictions continue similar restrictions implemented by the U.S. government on an emergency basis on December 5, 2017.

The cultural property agreement negotiated by the State Department under the U.S. law implementing the 1970 UNESCO *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* underscores the United States' commitment to our relationship with Libya, as well as our global commitment to cultural heritage protection and preservation. The United States now has similar bilateral agreements with 17 countries around the world, as well as emergency import restrictions on cultural property from Iraq and Syria.

For further information, please contact eca-press@state.gov.

Pre-set time for cameras is 1:30 p.m. from the 21st Street entrance. Final access time for writers and stills is 1:45 p.m. from the 21st Street entrance.

Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist.

###

Lead Bureau: ECA

Drafted: ECA/PASC (b)(6)

Clearances:

ECA/FO:	(b)(6)	(OK)
ECA/FO:		(OK)
ECA/P/C		(OK)
ECA/P/C		(OK)
ECA/P/C		(OK)
ECA/P:	(b)(6)	(OK)
NEA/PRESS	(b)(6)	(OK)
NEA/MAG		(OK)

D	(b)(6)	(OK)
P		(OK)
R		(OK)
S/P		(OK)
PA		(OK)

**SCA Press Guidance
February 20, 2018**

India: Donald Trump Jr. Visit

- (b)(5)

We've seen Donald Trump Junior traveling in cars with Embassy plates, is this an official visit?

- (b)(5)
-

Drafted: Emb New Delhi (b)(6)
 SCA Press (b)(6)

Cleared: SCA/FO: (b)(6) OK
 SCA/FO: OK
 SCA/I: (b)(6) OK

Embassy New Delhi: (b)(6)

OK

P: (b)(6)

OK

D: (b)(6)

OK

S/P: (b)(6)

OK

**CA Press Guidance
January 18, 2018**

**Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act):
Passport Related Talking points**

(b)(5)



Lead Bureau(s): CA

Drafted: CA/P: (b)(6)

Clearances:

CA/PPT: (b)(6) ok

CA/PPT/S/L: (b)(6) ok

CA/OCS: (b)(6) ok

P: (b)(6) ok

L/CA: (b)(6) ok

D: (b)(6) ok

S/P: (b)(6) ok

M: (b)(6) ok

CT PRESS GUIDANCE

EMBARGOED UNTIL February 20, 2018

Terrorist Designation of Ansarul Islam

[**CONTEXT:** The Department of State has designated Ansarul Islam as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, which targets those committing or posing a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism. Ansarul Islam operates in Burkina Faso.]

Key Points:

- The Department of State has designated Ansarul Islam (pron. Aun-szar ahl Islam) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, which targets those committing or posing a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism.
- As a consequence of this designation, all of Ansarul Islam's property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction are blocked, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with the group.
- The Department of State took this action in consultation with the Departments of Justice and the Treasury.

Q: Why was Ansarul Islam designated?

- Ansarul Islam is a terrorist group based in Burkina Faso. The group has launched numerous attacks in northern Burkina Faso near the border with Mali, including a December 2016 attack against an army squad that killed a dozen soldiers, one of the deadliest ever attacks against Burkina Faso's military. Ansarul Islam also carried out a February 2017 strike on two police stations in the country and is believed responsible for the March 2017 murder of a school director and another man in Kourfayel, Burkina Faso.

Q: What is the immediate impact of this action?

- Today's action notifies the U.S. public and the international community that Ansarul Islam has committed or poses a significant risk of committing acts

of terrorism. Terrorism designations expose and isolate organizations and individuals, and deny them access to the U.S. financial system. Moreover, designations can assist the law enforcement activities of U.S. agencies and other governments.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release
As Aired

February 18, 2018

INTERVIEW

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson
With Margaret Brennan of CBS 60 Minutes

February 18, 2018
Washington, D.C.

MS BRENNAN: Rex Tillerson admits he was an unconventional choice for Secretary of State. He had no prior government experience. But as CEO of ExxonMobil, he had crisscrossed the globe striking deals with foreign leaders. Secretary Tillerson, a man who still considers himself a Boy Scout and follows what he calls the Code of the West, is fiercely private and has shied away from interviews, but he agreed to do a rare, wide-ranging one with us. With the Olympics underway and North Korea very much on his mind, he talked to us about what may be the toughest deal he will ever work on.

QUESTION: In his New Year's Day speech, Kim Jong-un said the "entire area of the U.S. mainland is within our nuclear strike range." That's got to make you nervous.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It does make us nervous. It also – it also stiffens our resolve. That kind of a threat to the American people by a regime like this is not acceptable, and the President's meeting his responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief of asking our military – Secretary Mattis at the Defense Department – to ensure we are prepared for anything.

QUESTION: And those military options are there in case you fail.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: In case I fail. I say to my Chinese counterpart, "You and I fail, these people get to fight. That's not what we want."

QUESTION: But you are willing to work with and potentially negotiate with Kim Jong-un?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, that's who we will have to work with to achieve this diplomatically. What we have to determine now is: Are we even ready to start? Are they ready to start? And if they're not, we'll just keep the pressure campaign underway, and we will increase that pressure. And we are doing that. Every month there are new sanctions rolled out. The world wants North Korea to change.

QUESTION: Well, there are some questions about how badly China wants them to change. You've really needed their help to put economic pressure on Kim Jong-un. What reassurances have you given to China so that they actually follow through?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: What I think we got a common understanding with China is that North Korea represents a serious threat to China as well. And we've been very clear with them that they are going to have an important role to play once we get to the negotiating table.

QUESTION: So I hear you saying there these wouldn't be one-on-one talks. China would be at the table.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Early on they might be one-on-one discussions. For the U.S., first, and North Korea to determine? Is there a reason to begin to put the construct for negotiations in place?

QUESTION: What is the carrot that you're dangling for North Korea to convince them to talk?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We're not using a carrot to convince them to talk. We're using large sticks, and that is what they need to understand. This pressure campaign is putting – is having its bite on North Korea, its revenue streams. It's having a bite on its military programs.

QUESTION: But to say "full denuclearization" – why would they agree to give up something they've already got that they think is an insurance policy?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Because it buys them nothing. It buys them more of being the hermit kingdom, isolated – isolated from the world diplomatically, isolated from the world economically.

QUESTION: Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "Every one of us should pray Rex Tillerson and Jim Mattis are successful over the course of the next eight to ten months diplomatically, or our nation is going to be facing one of the greatest military decisions that we face." Eight to ten months. That's how much time you have to get this done?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'm going to use all the time available to me. Our diplomatic efforts will continue until that first bomb drops. My job is to never have a reason for the first bomb to drop. And we don't know precisely how much time is left on the clock.

QUESTION: You seem to have convinced the President that diplomacy is the way to go on this, but it wasn't always so clear. Back in October, you said you were working to get a dialogue going with the North Koreans, and the President tweeted, "Rex, stop wasting your time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man." Have you asked him not to call him "Little Rocket Man?" Is that a diplomatic term?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: (Laughter.) The President's going to – the President's going to communicate the way he communicates. My job as chief diplomat is to ensure that the North Koreans know we keep our channels open. I'm listening. I'm not sending a lot of messages back because there's nothing to say to them at this point, so I'm listening for you to tell me you're ready to talk.

QUESTION: How will you know?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: They will tell me. They will tell me.

QUESTION: That explicitly?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We receive messages from them. And I think it will be very explicit as to how we want to have that first conversation.

(A video clip begins playing.) **“SECRETARY TILLERSON:** What’s the latest?”

MS BRENNAN: As we saw during this meeting with top aides about the crisis in Yemen, the whole world is now his portfolio.

(The video clip continues.) **“SECRETARY TILLERSON:** I think I saw some reports of further missile attacks out of Yemen...”

MS BRENNAN: But Rex Wayne Tillerson comes from a family of modest means in north Texas. He was named after actors Rex Allen and John Wayne because his parents loved Westerns.

QUESTION: We actually have a photo of you back in your Boy Scout uniform. I understand you rose to Eagle Scout.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Yes.

QUESTION: How old were you here?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think I was 14 when that was taken.

QUESTION: You look very proud.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I am very proud. And was very proud. I still am.

QUESTION: I can tell. I mean, Boy Scouts, you reference it a fair amount. That played a big formative role in your life.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It really shaped who I am.

QUESTION: You still think of yourself as a Boy Scout?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Yes.

QUESTION: Really?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Absolutely.

QUESTION: You don’t get to be the CEO of ExxonMobil as a Boy Scout.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I did.

QUESTION: You talked a lot about something that you've called the Code of the West. What does that mean?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, the Code of the West – as the West was unfolding, there wasn't a lot of law enforcement, and people basically relied upon each other's word and "as my word is my bond." And I've used that throughout my life as well, even at ExxonMobil. I would sit down with the head of state for that country or the CEO of that company, and we'd look each other in the eye, and I'd say, "All I need to know is that you're going to live up to your side of this deal, and I give you my word I'll live up to my side of this deal."

And then a lot of the Code of the West was people were very loyal to their organizations. And the phrase "riding for the brand" is a phrase that's always stuck with me that --

QUESTION: Riding for the brand?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Riding for the brand. When a cowboy signed on to a ranch or to that organization, he was committed to that organization.

QUESTION: And what is the brand for you now?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The State Department, the United States Government, the American people are my brand.

QUESTION: So one leader you hadn't met before December of 2016 was Donald Trump. Tell me what that first encounter was like.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We met in his office in Trump Tower, and he just began by asking me why don't you just kind of talk about how you see the world. So we just – we walked around the world for about an hour. And then after that, then he kind of went into a little bit of a sales pitch with me and said, "I want you to be my Secretary of State." And I was stunned.

QUESTION: You didn't know it was a job interview?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No, I didn't. I didn't. I thought it was just I was going up just to talk to him and share with him, which I've done with previous presidents. I did with President Obama. I did with President Bush. So I really thought that's all it was. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Did you have any sense of what you were getting yourself into?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: By and large, I did.

QUESTION: You've won some policy arguments: when it came to keeping troops in Afghanistan; you prevented the President in some ways from tearing up the Iran nuclear deal like he said he was going to do. You lost a few arguments too: the Paris climate agreement the President exited; the Trans-Pacific trade partnership, you cautioned against ripping up a deal America had committed to; and you cautioned against moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem on the timeline they laid out. Do you think that's a fair accounting of your record?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think the American people have won with the decisions the President has taken. And it's not about agreeing or disagreeing, because he's the decision maker.

QUESTION: Tell me what it's like to work in an administration where the U.S. has walked away or threatened to walk away from a number of commitments. That has to be hard for someone who believes in the Code of the West.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, some of those I think it's important to keep in mind what the level of commitment was. We have agreements that the Congress never had the opportunity to weigh in on. And so President Trump was elected by the American people, and many of these were issues that he ran on.

(A video clip begins playing.) **QUESTION:** White House officials have said that you're going to be pushed out."

MS BRENNAN: In the past year, Tillerson spent a lot of time denying that he was being outflanked by others in the President's inner circle and that he was either going to resign or be fired.

(The video clip continues.) **SECRETARY TILLERSON:** That's ridiculous."

MS BRENNAN: After reports he called the President a moron:

QUESTION: Why didn't you deny calling the President a moron?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: That's a really old question.

QUESTION: Do you understand that, by not answering the question, some people thought you were confirming the story?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I think I've answered the question.

QUESTION: You think you answered the question?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I've answered the question.

QUESTION: Did you call the President a moron?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'm not going to dignify the question. We've got so many bigger issues that we could be talking about. I'm not from this town. I understand this town likes to talk about a lot of things that are really not important.

QUESTION: Do you think you have enemies in this town?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I don't know.

QUESTION: Where do you think those reports came from that you were resigning or being fired?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I have no idea where they come from. I really don't, and I don't give it much thought.

QUESTION: I mean, you walk into ministry meetings and reporters are shouting, "Sir, when are you resigning?"

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I never hear those questions. The only person that knows whether I'm resigning or not is me.

QUESTION: So one of the other challenges that you have here is sometimes the President's message doesn't jive with your own. I think you'd acknowledge that.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, as I said, the President communicates in his own style, his own way, his own words. And from time to time, I will ask him, "Are you changing the policy?" Because if we are, obviously, I need to know, and everyone needs to know.

QUESTION: Well, you would have thought he'd talk to you about changing the policy before he tweeted.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: And to finish the thought, that has never happened. Every time I've talked to him, he said, "No, the policy hasn't changed." And I say, "Then I'm good." (Laughter.) That's all I need to know.

(A video clip is played.) **SECRETARY TILLERSON:** I thought today we'd just have a chat..."

MS BRENNAN: Within the ranks of the State Department, there have been complaints Secretary Tillerson is dismantling American diplomacy by embracing major budget cuts and being slow to fill crucial jobs.

QUESTION: There are 41 embassies without confirmed ambassadors, and that's even in places where there are crises. No ambassador in South Korea, Saudi Arabia, in Turkey. How do you explain that?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, there's been no dismantling at all of the State Department. We've got terrific people, both Foreign Service officers, civil servants, that have stepped into those roles around the world, and have stepped in here.

QUESTION: On an interim basis.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It is an interim basis. So clearly, it is not with the same kind of support that I wish everyone had. But our foreign policy objectives continue to be met (inaudible) Senate-confirmed --

QUESTION: But some of these don't even have nominees. I mean, 41 embassies without ambassadors in them.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, some of these are in the process. It's not a question of people being – or neglecting the importance of it. It's just the nature of the process itself.

QUESTION: You've said you have a very close relationship with Vladimir Putin. You've done huge deals with him. Photos of you toasting him with champagne. And all that closeness raised eyebrows. It even inspired a Saturday Night Live skit. Did you ever see that skit?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I did. My kids pointed me to it. (Laughter.)

(A video clip is played.) "Puty, oh my God." "Rexy, baby..."

QUESTION: Did you laugh?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Absolutely. Absolutely. I laughed out loud.

QUESTION: It made light, though, of this concern that you have a friendship with Vladimir Putin, and that because of that you and the President aren't going to hold him to account.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The relationship that I had with President Putin spans 18 years now. It was always about what could I do to be successful on behalf of my shareholders, how Russia could succeed.

QUESTION: How different was it walking into the Kremlin as Secretary of State?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: It was different because – and I had to think very, very carefully about that. And the only thing I said to him was, "Mr. President, the same man, a different hat."

QUESTION: But the dynamic changed.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The dynamic changed because the issues were different. What he is representing is different than what I now represent. And I said to him, "I now represent the American people." And I think it was important that that be said right up front, and he clearly got it. I mean, he clearly understood that as well.

QUESTION: But since you're Secretary of State now, you've accused him of violating nuclear arms control agreements, of cheating on North Korea sanctions, letting Assad continue now to use chlorine gas chemical weapons on civilians. He doesn't seem to be particularly concerned about the warnings you're giving him.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I don't know. We'll see if he's concerned or not.

QUESTION: There were six chlorine gas attacks in the past 30 days.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: That's correct. And we have called them out for the fact that Russia has special responsibilities, in our view, because of commitments they made to destroy chemical weapons and ensure they knew that there were none.

QUESTION: That sounds a lot like the last administration. It doesn't sound very different.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, when it comes to killing people with chemical weapons, it shouldn't look any different. I think the only difference is the consequences for it. And President Trump has already demonstrated there will be consequences.

QUESTION: Does that mean military action is still on the table for chlorine gas attacks?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: As it was – as it was in April last year, we are serious about our demands that chemical weapons not become regularized or normalized as a weapon in any conflict.

QUESTION: Why not implement the sanctions that Congress overwhelmingly says they want to see put on Russia?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We have and we are. We have taken steps that have already prevented a number of Russian military sales as a result of the legislation, and we are evaluating additional individuals for possible sanctioning.

QUESTION: So I know we're under a time constraint.

(A video clip is played.) "...the President."

MS BRENNAN: Near the end of our interview, we were interrupted by a phone call from the President.

(The video clip continues.) "**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Be right back."

MS BRENNAN: Afterward, the Secretary took us out for a brief stroll on his terrace before heading to the White House.

QUESTION: How often do you talk to the President?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We typically will try to talk every day even if it's only for a few minutes. A lot of times, I'll call from the road when I'm on a trip just to let him know how it's going and..."

MS BRENNAN: Rex Tillerson enjoys the view from the top of the State Department. He seems to be one of the few people in Washington not surprised he's still here.

QUESTION: If I believed the press reports that came out about you in the past year, you would not be sitting here talking to me as the Secretary of State. It seems like reports of your political death were premature?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I hope with this little bit of exchange we've had, you understand the man better. That's why I'm still here. Those things don't bother me. I'm here to serve my country. I committed to this President. My word is my bond. I ride for this brand. That's why I'm here, and nothing anybody else says is going to change that.

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Tuesday, February 20, 2018
2:47 p.m. EST
Briefer: Heather Nauert, Spokesperson

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 11

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

2:47 p.m. EST

MS NAUERT: Hi, everybody. How are you today?

QUESTION: Hello.

MS NAUERT: I hope you all had a great long weekend. Matt, welcome back from your trip.

QUESTION: Thank you. I feel like I've been gone for weeks.

MS NAUERT: I feel like you've been gone for weeks too. (Laughter.) Nice to see you all, and we have a AFP stand-in today, so hi, sir. Welcome.

QUESTION: Thank you so very much.

MS NAUERT: Nice to see you here.

Start out with a couple announcements this afternoon. First is about the deputy secretary's travel. On Friday and Saturday, Deputy Secretary John Sullivan led the State Department's delegation to the Munich Security Conference. He participated in a panel discussion with a number of world leaders and reaffirmed the United States commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and also arms control. While there, the deputy secretary conducted some bilateral meetings with senior officials from China, Germany, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and also the Vatican to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern.

The deputy secretary traveled to Rome on Sunday the 18th for meetings with senior Italian officials, including the foreign minister, the minister of economic development, and the interior minister, to discuss our shared priorities in Ukraine, Libya, Iran, and the Sahel, as well as our cooperation in the fight against ISIS. He also met with local journalists and think tank representatives and spoke to a group of students, members of civil society, and the media about the importance of the U.S.-Italian alliance and our cooperation on security issues around the world at the Center for American Studies. In both Rome and in Munich, the deputy secretary met with our mission staff and thanked them for the important work they do to advance U.S. policy.

Today and tomorrow, the deputy secretary will visit Kyiv. He – his visit will fall just one day after Ukraine celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity. There, in addition to meeting with President Poroshenko and other senior government officials, the deputy

secretary will deliver a public speech to an audience of civil society leaders, students, and media at the ministry of foreign affairs diplomatic academy, where he will underline the United States commitment to stand behind Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression and press Ukraine's leaders to continue progress on critical reforms and renew their commitment to uproot corruption.

Following his trip to Ukraine, he will go to Latvia and then Brussels, and I'll provide you with updates on that as the week goes on.

In addition to that, I'd like to highlight something that's very troubling that's taking place in Syria right now. The United States is deeply concerned by the escalating violence in the Damascus suburbs of East Ghouta. Recent reports indicate airstrikes directly targeted hospitals and what little civilian infrastructure remains, resulting in more than 100 civilian deaths in less than 48 hours. The escalation is exacerbating the already grave human suffering of nearly 400,000 people. It also increases the number of individuals who require urgent medical evacuation, which already stood at approximately 1,000.

The Assad regime's siege-and-starve tactics are creating a humanitarian disaster – or I should say are adding to the humanitarian disaster there. The horrors of East Aleppo are being repeated in East Ghouta with the ongoing slaughter of trapped civilians and woefully inadequate access for humanitarian actors. In such a dire situation, we should express our admiration and our deep appreciation to the medical workers and also the first responders in East Ghouta who both risk and lose their lives every day trying to help civilians.

We call on all parties to commit to the unconditional de-escalation of violence. Russia must end its support of the Assad regime and its allies. They are responsible for the attacks, for the dire humanitarian situation in East Ghouta, and for the horrendous civilian death toll. The United States supports the United Nations demand for a month-long cessation of violence to allow for the unfettered delivery of humanitarian supplies and the urgent medical evacuation of civilians in East Ghouta. The cessation of violence must begin now, and those needing emergency assistance should be allowed to evacuate immediately.

And with that, I'd be happy to take your questions.

QUESTION: Hi. Thanks.

MS NAUERT: Hi.

QUESTION: I want to start in Syria, but further north first. What's your understanding of the situation in Afrin right now? And coming on the heels – well, let's start with that.

MS NAUERT: Okay. Well, let me add this: The United States is not operating in Afrin. The United States is not equipping anyone in Afrin. So our knowledge in terms of what is going on in Afrin is somewhat limited because we're not operating, because we're not equipping there, because U.S. forces are not there.

QUESTION: So – okay, so you don't know at all what's going on there? You don't know that – whether or not – I mean, fine, you may not have people there, you might not have people who

you're supporting there, but you have eyes in the sky and other ways of finding things out. So – but you don't know whether or not it's true that Syrian troops have gone in with the permission of the Kurds and – or – and/or with the --

MS NAUERT: Matt, I'd have to refer you to DOD on that. Perhaps they have something that we're not able to provide on that matter. I can tell you that the Secretary had some productive meetings with his counterpart and also with President Erdogan in Turkey, where they talked a lot about the overall situation in Syria and our concerns about that, in which we continue to stress for a de-escalation of violence, for people to not take actions that would escalate and exacerbate tensions there, and to keep – keep an eye out for not striking civilians is certainly something that we've stressed.

QUESTION: Right. So when he was in Ankara, there was this agreement in principle, I suppose you could say, to calm things down, to repair the U.S.-Turkey relationship, but – and start – and to start to do that in northern Syria, Manbij in particular, but that would include the whole thing. And that seems to have kind of collapsed, has it not? I mean, it didn't – it doesn't seem to have lasted much longer than the – even over the entire weekend.

MS NAUERT: Well, let's look back at this. The Secretary just days ago sat down and met with his counterpart and also with President Erdogan. They recognize that perhaps we haven't (inaudible) working well enough together over the past few years. That was a commitment that the Secretary and President Erdogan made to one another. As NATO allies and partners who both share in the interest and the shared goal of defeating ISIS, we are now going to start to work together in a better fashion so that we can achieve those mutual goals.

QUESTION: But that – so that does not include dealing with the Afrin situation?

MS NAUERT: Look, some of these are private diplomatic conversations that I'm not going to be able to get into for you. But I can tell you they agreed to sit down and have a series of meetings, some working groups that they put together, where we can look at determining ways that we can better confront the situation there.

QUESTION: Okay. But it sounds as though, then, that you've entirely separated off this one situation from the rest of it, that – and I get that you're not there and you're not supporting anyone that's there. But the Turks are involved here, and not so far away there are U.S. forces, so I'm just wondering if they decided to intentionally leave the Afrin situation out of this new working group dynamic, or if --

MS NAUERT: Perhaps that is in the working group dynamic. I don't know that. These are some of the private diplomatic conversations. As you well know, the Secretary firmly believes that sometimes he can achieve the best results, get the best results for Americans and for others where we're engaged, in having private conversations behind the scenes.

QUESTION: All right. Then the last thing, going back to Eastern Ghouta, you said Russia must end its support for the Assad regime and its allies. This has been something that the – that has been called – the last eight, nine years the U.S. has been calling for it. Do you have an answer to the question that follows that declarative statement "Russia must end its support," the question being, "Or what?" Is there an answer? Does this administration have an answer?

MS NAUERT: Well, Matt, you well know, as do many others, that we don't forecast some of the actions that the United States Government may or may not take. So we want to reserve the right to engage in certain activities if we feel the need to do so. This has been a tremendous concern not just on the part of the United States but many other countries as well: the activities that Syria has been engaged with with the backing of Bashar al-Assad. So we are not going to forecast those and not going to announce anything that may take place or may not.

QUESTION: With the backing of Russia?

MS NAUERT: I'm sorry. Did I not say – that's what I meant. If I – I misspoke then. Pardon me.

QUESTION: All right, thank you.

MS NAUERT: Okay, okay. Laurie, hi.

QUESTION: Hi. In Afrin, would you – do you think it's reasonable to suggest that Russia has acted very cynically; they gave Turkey a green light to attack the Kurds in Afrin and then a stalemate developed, and they used that stalemate then to try and extent Syrian regime control over the area?

MS NAUERT: Laurie, I'm not going to get into that. I'm not going to speak about – about what Turkey may be – what Russia may be doing to Turkey, and what Turkey may be doing to Russia. I'm just not going to get into that.

QUESTION: You're not going to --

MS NAUERT: One of our goals is to de-escalate tensions and try to get the parties refocused on the fight against ISIS.

QUESTION: But you're not going to say that the Russians are cynically using their leverage in Syria?

MS NAUERT: Look, I think it's clear that they have been using their leverage in Syria. They have been backing, as we just talked about, Bashar al-Assad's regime. How many times have we talked about it here that they were on the brink of collapse, and who came in and who saved them back in 2015? Russia did. Russia bears a unique responsibility for the suffering and the plight of the Syrian people.

Russia has also committed to the Geneva process, so we expect Russia to be helpful in that front. We have yet to see that, but we hope they will be.

QUESTION: And if I could ask you a question about the recent visit of Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati to Baghdad, who went there for an Islamic conference, and he met with various figures, including the deputy speaker of parliament, who said that he agrees with the Iranians in rejecting any U.S. – continued U.S. presence in the region. What's your comment on that?

MS NAUERT: Yeah. I certainly heard about those remarks and those comments and some of those reports. It would be natural for Iraq and Iran to want to have conversations. I mean, they're neighbors, right? As we talked about South Korea, as we talked about North Korea – having certain conversations because they are neighbors. That is something just natural, and it is a fact of life that different countries may want to talk to – talk with one another.

The question of their foreign relations is something that gets back to Iraq. We are fully comfortable and confident in our relationship with the Government of Iraq as key strategic partners in the region. As you well know, we are there for the defeat of ISIS, but we are also there at the invitation of the Iraqi Government. We value Iraq's independence, we have confidence in the Iraqi Government, and are highly skeptical that they would bow down to Iran. So we feel comfortable with them. And that would just be largely an internal matter if they want to have those conversations.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MS NAUERT: Okay? Anything else related to Iraq?

QUESTION: Afrin.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: Iraq.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: Iraq.

MS NAUERT: Go right --

QUESTION: Russia? Russia?

MS NAUERT: Sorry. Go right ahead, sir.

QUESTION: So as to the – for the upcoming election, is U.S. doing anything with that to help Iraqis? And if I also ask a question about Syria-related. Lavrov recently said that --

MS NAUERT: Okay, hold on. One question at a time, please.

In terms of the elections, if we're doing anything in support of the elections, I am not aware of that. We tend to promote democracy and other things, but I'd have to just check to see if there are any specific programs that we are involved with.

And back to your last question, and then we'll move on to another region.

QUESTION: Lavrov recently said that – accused the U.S. of supporting establishing a local authority for the Kurds and creating an autonomy for the Kurds. Do you have --

MS NAUERT: Creating a what?

QUESTION: An autonomous region – well, an autonomous region for the Kurds --

MS NAUERT: No.

QUESTION: -- and saying that this is --

MS NAUERT: The United States supports a secure, independent Syria with current borders. We're not changing it, we're not supporting the changing or the addition of any kind of autonomous region, so --

QUESTION: But is U.S. doing anything to kind of fight that misconception? I believe that misconception is also fueling some of the Turkish aggression.

MS NAUERT: Look, I think that's what some nations do. There are certain countries out there, certain actors out there – you know well who they are – who foment, who come up with mistruths, put out disinformation, and they put that out there. And I'm not going to be able to respond to every single one of them, okay?

QUESTION: You don't want to identify any of those countries?

MS NAUERT: Well, I mean, you know all the countries. We talk about them here. Certain countries do that, I don't feel like really getting into – getting down to that level today, but we've talked about them before. And I'm sure you know exactly who I'm talking about. Okay.

QUESTION: On Maldives. The emergency in Maldives has been extended by another 30 days. How do you see the developments there?

MS NAUERT: Let me get back to you on that with regard to the Maldives. I'll check with our experts. Hi, Lalit.

QUESTION: Different subject.

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: Thank you very much, Madam. Two questions, please. According to the Indian website, Indian embassy and Indian Americans are troubled. This may be the first time that somebody is using the embassy, threatening calls, and they are telling that your visa will be canceled, your passport will be canceled unless you bring certain amount of money. And this is – a letter has been issued by the Indian embassy that they are saying they are – somebody using their number, but not the physical location, the Indian embassy. So they are not making these phone calls. What my – my question is: Have you received any requests from the Indian embassy about this problem?

MS NAUERT: I have not. I can certainly reach out to our officials at our embassy there, and see if they are hearing anything about that. Okay?

QUESTION: And you want to say anything about this?

MS NAUERT: I'm not familiar with it myself, so I'll have to check with some of our folks in the region. Anything else related to India?

QUESTION: And may I ask – second question on Afghanistan, please.

MS NAUERT: Let's get back to Afghanistan. I'd like to sort of stick in the region.

QUESTION: Oh, I got an India question.

MS NAUERT: Yes.

QUESTION: The President's son is – one of the President's son is – sons is in Delhi now. I believe he just arrived. Does – is the embassy there supporting this trip in any way? He's supposed to give a speech at an event that the prime minister is also supposed to be at. Is the embassy involved in that in any way?

MS NAUERT: Yeah. I'm not aware of who exactly is attending this speech. We certainly are aware that Mr. Trump is in the region, that he's there as a private citizen, not as a official U.S. Government in any capacity. The U.S. embassy is in touch with the Secret Service, as we would be, because he is afforded Secret Service protection. And so any time we have an official or someone who would go over there who does have Secret Service protection, there is some amount of coordination and conversation. But overall, the United States embassy does not have any kind of role in that visit.

QUESTION: So there was no booking of hotels or transportation or anything like that?

MS NAUERT: I'm not aware of the specifics. I can just tell you that our embassy has been in touch with the Secret Service, as we would when other people who are afforded Secret Service protection are traveling overseas.

QUESTION: Okay. Well, I guess the question is: What exactly has that contact been, what does it involve, and is there any taxpayer money, other than the Secret Service protection, that's involved?

MS NAUERT: Not that I'm aware of. Okay. Anything --

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

QUESTION: One more, Heather.

QUESTION: Yeah, but I said can we – can someone look into that?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, certainly.

QUESTION: Okay, thank you.

MS NAUERT: Yeah, that's what that means.

QUESTION: Related. He's – the --

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: -- the President's son is giving a speech entitled "Reshaping Indo-Pacific Ties: A New Era of Cooperation." There's been no coordination with State Department on what that reshaping is going to look like?

MS NAUERT: No. I'm not familiar with what is going to be in the content of his speech, or how it was put together. Okay.

QUESTION: Can I just -- a follow up on that, then.

MS NAUERT: Okay, yeah.

QUESTION: Are there any concerns in this building that he appears to be representing the U.S. Government, that it's being sort of taken as a major foreign policy address and it could be interpreted that way?

MS NAUERT: He is there as a private citizen and I don't have any comment beyond that regarding his trip. Okay?

QUESTION: And do you know if anyone was consulted on the speech itself?

MS NAUERT: Again, I think I just answered that question: Not that I'm aware of. Okay, let's move on to something else. Hi.

QUESTION: One on India. One small one on India.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: Do you have dates for the 2+2 dialogue?

MS NAUERT: I don't have any meetings to read out right now, or any new travel. Okay?

QUESTION: If I could follow up on the --

MS NAUERT: Hi.

QUESTION: Here?

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: To Ethiopia.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: Do you have anything on Ethiopia and its decision to impose a state of emergency for six months? Is the United States concerned of the restriction of fundamental rights?

MS NAUERT: Well, we certainly would disagree with that agreement, the agreement to decide to go to a state of emergency. It restricts freedom of speech and freedom of expression, which in any part of the world is a concern of ours. We are – we consider Ethiopia to be a dedicated partner for Ethiopia’s long-term success and prosperity. We’ve been a long-time friend of the Ethiopian Government. We aim to engage both frankly and constructively with that government. But we do not see their recent step as being helpful.

QUESTION: What is the U.S. vision of a generally inclusive political process in Ethiopia?

MS NAUERT: I’ll check with our Africa bureau and see what I can get for you on that, okay?

QUESTION: Russia?

QUESTION: Korea?

MS NAUERT: Okay. All right. Yeah.

QUESTION: I wanted to ask about the indictment that came out Friday against the 13 Russians and some entities, since we haven’t had a chance to talk about that here yet. The special consul laid out in exquisite detail some of what happened in the meddling in our election. I was curious whether that information has increased the sense of urgency here at the State Department to take some actions in response to that, perhaps to use some of those sanctions authorities that we’ve discussed, became available to you in the recent weeks.

MS NAUERT: This is something that has been on our radar ever since the Secretary came into his position as Secretary of State. I think the number of questions that we’ve gotten about Russia and Russia’s meddling in our elections has sort of ebbed and flowed. We’ve had times where reporters and the outside world has been very interested in this; other times where they have not. The Secretary has spoken very openly about his opinion that Russia meddled in our elections. He’s been very clear about that. The Secretary just spoke to Fox News within the last week or two and spoke to the fact that we believe that they are interested in becoming entangled in our overall elections process. That is no secret.

Let me remind you the U.S. Government and the State Department has done a lot when it’s come to holding Russia accountable for its actions back in the 2016 elections. We’ve talked a little bit about CAATSA. A lot of you have said, “Oh my gosh, you haven’t imposed those sanctions just yet.” Remember, January 29th was the first day that we could impose sanctions. Among the things that we have done – and I’ll have other things I want to talk about in addition to CAATSA. But among the things that we have done, we have sent out ALDAC cables to all of our posts around the world, where those posts have been instructed to speak with their host governments about the new CAATSA law. In explaining to those countries, here’s what you could face if companies, if individuals are involved in these sorts of activities that meet a certain threshold that would contribute positively to Russia’s defense and intelligence and other sectors that are similar to those.

So we’ve been communicating with our posts. We’ve been communicating with likeminded governments. We have hundreds of people around the world who are working on sanctions

activity each and every day not just at the State Department, but also at Treasury and other departments as well.

So this is something we continue to comb through those transactions. I know you all want to see results overnight. We don't have sanctionable activity just yet, but we are working every day to try to determine if there is something that is taking place. If there is something taking place, we will sanction those countries, those individuals, and those entities. That is something we continue to look at doing very, very carefully.

In addition to CAATSA, though, when we talk about election interference and how the U.S. Government has responded as a result, we have other sanctions that have taken place. Please make that clear in your reporting. The sum of our actions as it pertains to Russia and Russia's meddling in our elections is not CAATSA. We have done a lot more than just CAATSA. There have been other sanctions that have taken place. You may recall the previous administration kicked the Russians out of their dachas. We have kept them out of their dachas. We have closed a consulate in San Francisco. People seem to forget about that. We have closed facilities in Washington, D.C. and also New York. That certainly upset the Russians. That is partly because of what they did in our 2016 elections.

You may recall last month – or maybe it was late December – that we expanded the list of individuals who were sanctioned under the Magnitsky Act. We also had the Global Magnitsky Act, in which there were Russians who were named – at least one Russian or two who were named under that. In addition to that, we have the sanctions that are put in place because of Russian activity in Ukraine.

Our government is engaged on an interagency level, where we are talking with one another and we are putting forth actions, activities related to Russians' malign activity as it pertains to our 2016 election. So please, this is not just CAATSA. It's a whole lot of other things that people tend to forget about.

QUESTION: So that's a really good list of steps the U.S. has taken --

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- to essentially punish Russia for what happened in the last election. Anything that you can add, as far as conversations Tillerson or others have had with the Russians to try to prevent them from doing it in future elections?

MS NAUERT: Yeah. So they are well aware of our position on this. Secretary Tillerson has said to the Russians – and he said this publicly – it has to stop. We're watching what you're doing. The issue of bots – we're still seeing bots out there. This is not just a U.S. Government approach, but the private sector needs to do something as well. We are somewhat limited in terms of what we can do. We don't regulate Facebook. We don't regulate Google. Some of these private sector companies need to stand up and they need to be good American citizens and help us to prevent this. The FBI is involved with this; DHS is heavily involved with this.

And the Secretary has asked and has spoken to Congress about setting up a new bureau here at the State Department that would handle cyber activity. You all have talked and you've asked me

in the past about our special envoy for cyber. Well, we're changing that. The goal is to change that to make it a cyber bureau that would be headed up by an assistant secretary. So if anything, we're elevating the importance of cyber activity and cracking down.

QUESTION: Heather, two very brief things on that.

MS NAUERT: Yeah. Okay.

QUESTION: When you said – first of all, I just want to make sure that I understood this. You said – in his interview that you referenced just now, you said the Secretary said it's his opinion that the Russians did interfere or meddle or however you want to say it --

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- in 2016. Is it – is that his opinion or is that just – is that a fact?

MS NAUERT: He views that as a fact. I mean, look, I don't need to go over this again --

QUESTION: Okay. No, no, no.

MS NAUERT: -- but the Intelligence Community --

QUESTION: Got it.

MS NAUERT: -- has put together its reports and the Secretary has reviewed those reports.

QUESTION: I just – I just wanted to make sure I got that right.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: And then when you say we don't have sanctionable activity right now --

MS NAUERT: Yes.

QUESTION: -- you're referring to things --

MS NAUERT: Under CAATSA --

QUESTION: -- related to 2018, related to the 2018 elections? Not that – you're talking about stuff that --

MS NAUERT: I was talking about CAATSA.

QUESTION: -- is happening --

MS NAUERT: Sanctionable activity under CAATSA is something that we continue to take a very close look at.

QUESTION: Right.

MS NAUERT: This is not going to be done overnight. Let me remind you these are – there are transactions that the U.S. Government and our colleagues have to comb through, so that will continue to take some time. We are pleased, however, that some countries have stopped the purchase of certain Russian materials and supplies. We believe somewhere north of \$3 billion – we've been able to stop those transactions. Stopping transactions like that is, in effect, a punishment. Why? Because that means less money goes into Russian coffers. So that is considered a part of what we view as a success in holding Russia accountable.

QUESTION: Well, when you mean – when you say we don't have sanctionable activity, you mean you haven't discovered any or you --

MS NAUERT: We haven't --

QUESTION: -- discovered things that might have been, but you stopped them?

MS NAUERT: We – I'm not going to get into any of those – into some of those details, but we are continuing to look very closely for sanctionable activity.

QUESTION: All right. And then when you say – you make this appeal to private sector companies like Google and Facebook and Twitter, I guess, and whoever else, but when you say – when the Secretary goes to – and tells the Russians it has to stop, does he tell them that that kind of thing, that this bot activity or whatever it is, the misinformation, disinformation, that that has to stop too?

MS NAUERT: I don't know if he has specifically raised the issue of bots with that government, but I know he's raised that issue of bots publicly. So perhaps he has privately as well. I know his conversations are very broad with them in terms of this. Okay?

QUESTION: On this subject --

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: Hey, Heather.

MS NAUERT: Welcome. Congratulations on your – on your job.

QUESTION: Thanks, I appreciate it.

MS NAUERT: Are you here as a part of *The Washington Post* today, or are you here with BuzzFeed?

QUESTION: I'm here as BuzzFeed.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: On March 5th I start at --

MS NAUERT: March 5th you start, okay.

QUESTION: Yeah.

MS NAUERT: Well, congrats.

QUESTION: Thank you. The – that list of tough administration actions against the Russian Government, it seems like another data point might be the decision to send Javelins to Ukraine. Has that happened yet? Just in terms of timing, like, are those in Ukraine now?

MS NAUERT: I'd have to look into that. I'm not sure. And even if they were, I'm not sure we'd be able to confirm that.

QUESTION: Okay. Thanks.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

QUESTION: Can I ask another follow-up question?

MS NAUERT: Yes, okay. Hi.

QUESTION: Hi. Regardless of Russia's stance on extraditing people, what's the State Department doing to follow up with the indictments issued by Mr. Mueller? There's 13 people he's charged. Does the State Department take action to actually try to help engage those people or encourage the Russian Government to arrest them?

MS NAUERT: Well, the United States Government wouldn't be engaged with those individuals in any way. I'd just have to refer you back to the Department of Justice for anything more on that. Okay?

QUESTION: And is there any way of considering sanctions on those since they've been --

MS NAUERT: Sanctions is something we typically don't forecast, but we could potentially take a look at that. Okay?

Okay. Hi.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS NAUERT: Yeah. Hi, sir. How are you? Go right ahead. Hi.

QUESTION: In his speech today before the Security Council, the Palestinian president called for an international conference as a substitute for the U.S. role in the peace process. Do you have any comment?

MS NAUERT: So the President has made it a priority, as has Jason Greenblatt and Jared Kushner, to try to bring Middle East peace. This is something that they have not backed away from. As you may know, Mr. Greenblatt and Mr. Kushner were up at the United Nations earlier today to hear what Mahmoud Abbas had to say in front of the UN Security Council.

I'd like to just note that he kept his remarks constructive, and that was something that we certainly noticed. We hope the Palestinians will come to the negotiating table. We are not backing away from peace. That is something that is important to this administration. And I think their presence just reaffirms that we are willing to listen to both sides, to the Palestinians and the Israelis, and we're willing to commit to hearing all sides.

QUESTION: But you do not support the international conference as a frame for this, do you?

MS NAUERT: Look, if at some point we believe that other countries could be helpful to the peace process, we would certainly be willing to bring them in. Is the time right for that right now? I'm not sure we've decided that, but that is something that could certainly happen in the future. Okay?

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: A follow-up on that?

MS NAUERT: Okay. Yeah, go ahead. Hi, sir.

QUESTION: Over the --

MS NAUERT: No, the gentleman right behind you.

QUESTION: Yeah, thank you very much.

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: But how can you maintain both things at the same time, that you have a special relationship with Israel and you want to be the mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, to have --

MS NAUERT: Well, we've covered this numerous times before. This administration looks back at the many -- numerous decades of inability to bring peace to the Middle East. So the administration is determined that it wants to look at things perhaps a little differently. And that may confound some people --

QUESTION: But --

MS NAUERT: Let me finish. And that may confound some people, and that's fine. But the administration is still saying that we are willing to sit down and have peace talks, and both sides are going to have to give a little, and that's something that they've not -- we've not backed away from in terms of our standpoint.

QUESTION: I'm not saying that you're unique in this respect.

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: Multiple administrations have said we have a special relationship with Israel and we're going to be the mediator, and it hasn't worked out well. So aren't you actually sort of doing the same thing that past administrations have?

MS NAUERT: No, I think the administration is handling this – handling this differently. And there are a lot of examples that I could think of that --

QUESTION: Can I ask about Honduras?

MS NAUERT: Okay.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS NAUERT: I'm not sure I'm going to have anything for you on Honduras today, but you can --

QUESTION: Well, perhaps --

MS NAUERT: -- take a stab at it.

QUESTION: Thank you, for next time. On January 27th, the AP published a report based on Honduran Government documents describing the involvement of a new national police chief in assisting a drug cartel leader in transporting, quote, "nearly a ton of cocaine." Subsequently, the Honduran police have formally requested a criminal investigation, quote, "preparatory to a complaint," not into the police chief, but into the AP reporters who broke the story. It seems a clear attempt to retaliate and intimidate a U.S. media outlet. Is the State Department doing anything on this, especially considering that the revelations are about the police chief Jose David Aguilar Moran's involvement and that the U.S. Government provides assistance to the Honduran police?

MS NAUERT: I will certainly have to take a look into that. I was not aware of that story. I'll check with our experts in Honduras and at our Western Hemisphere Bureau as well. Okay, thank you.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS NAUERT: Pardon me?

QUESTION: Thank you (inaudible).

MS NAUERT: And I'm sorry, which publication are you with?

QUESTION: Sam Husseini with *The Nation*.

MS NAUERT: *The Nation*, okay.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS NAUERT: Okay, thank you. Hi.

QUESTION: Just over the weekend in a CBS interview, Secretary Tillerson said that China would have an important role to play once we get to the negotiating table. So does the U.S. support a return to the Six-Party Talks or some other sort of multilateral framework?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, I'm not going to commit to any kind of framework in which the United States would sit down and have talks. I know everybody's anxious to talk about talks and all that. We're not there yet. China obviously has unique leverage over the DPRK because it's its primary trading partner. In terms of China, we've had many frank conversations with Chinese officials, saying that they can certainly do more to help us and to help work with the maximum pressure campaign. They – and let me remind you – signed on to the four unanimous UN Security Council resolutions to crack down on the DPRK.

QUESTION: If there were to be some sort of multilateral framework, what other countries would be at the table?

MS NAUERT: You think I'm going to answer that question? (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Possibly.

MS NAUERT: You – no. No, we're not going there. We are not at that point yet. I know some of you like your hypotheticals, but I'm not going to jump into that, okay?

QUESTION: Still on North Korea, but not (inaudible).

MS NAUERT: Okay, hi – yeah.

QUESTION: So the South Korean defense minister said that the U.S. and the ROK will announce plans before April of resuming the postponed joint military exercises. What is the U.S. position? Are we planning to go ahead with them starting in April?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, so some of this would be under – some of would be under DO – Department of Defense. I have no reason, though, to believe that they – that we wouldn't restart some of our – some of our exercises that we do. We've done those for many decades. As you well know, the Republic of Korea is our strong, staunch ally, but again, I'd have to have you talk to DOD about that.

QUESTION: One more question --

MS NAUERT: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- on North Korea still.

MS NAUERT: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So the North Korean state media released a statement recently saying that North Korea is ready for both dialogue and war. I believe that's a direct quote. What is the U.S. response to that?

MS NAUERT: They said they're ready for both dialogue and war.

QUESTION: Yes.

MS NAUERT: I guess countries have to be ready for every eventuality, don't they?

QUESTION: So your response is we are too?

MS NAUERT: (Laughter.) That doesn't sound too dissimilar from the United States policy. Our preferred approach is diplomacy. That is something that the Secretary in his interview over the weekend and many times has talked about, the importance of diplomacy, and there are so many countries that have signed on and are backing our diplomatic approach as well. However, if that should fail, and we certainly hope it would not, the United States Government is prepared to respond in that type of way. Things like that always have to be backed up by a credible military response if at all necessary, but what we do here in this building is diplomacy.

Okay, all right.

QUESTION: One on Korea.

QUESTION: One small one on FATF. Pakistan's foreign minister --

MS NAUERT: Yeah, okay.

QUESTION: -- had just tweeted that there was no consensus in the FATF meeting in Paris today, and he also said that the motion was sponsored by U.S. Can you confirm that?

MS NAUERT: I can't because my understanding was that the final decision on that was due later this week, so I don't want to get ahead of what that final decision would be. So I don't have just independent confirmation that a decision was made early. We're anticipating that the final decision would be made on Thursday of this week. What he's asking about is this Financial Action Task Force, and it's where a lot of countries have come together and they look at various nations who we believe and those other countries believe are not doing enough to crack down on terror financing, counterterrorism and the like. Pakistan is one of those countries that they're taking a close look at, and they may be making -- they'll be making an announcement sometime soon.

QUESTION: It looks like, from his tweet, that at least three countries are opposing your motion.

MS NAUERT: I see. Okay. Well, I think we have been very clear with Pakistan. Our concerns about terror financing -- how many times have we talked about the person who's -- Pakistan let out of house arrest, who was responsible for the Mumbai attacks back in 2008 that killed so many people, including Americans too.

Okay.

QUESTION: Just a quick --

MS NAUERT: We're going to have to wrap it up, everybody.

QUESTION: Just a quick follow-up.

MS NAUERT: We – we already did something. Let me – sir, you in the back.

Okay.

QUESTION: Thank you – from Turkish media. U.S. media suggests that Secretary Tillerson offered three things in Ankara last week. One is joint patrol by Turkish-U.S. forces in Manbij, and the other one is a buffer zone in Afrin, and the third one is cutting U.S.-YPG relations gradually. Can you confirm this report?

MS NAUERT: I cannot confirm that report. Okay. Thank you.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS NAUERT: Okay, we're going to have to go.

QUESTION: Really quickly, and you might have to take this.

MS NAUERT: Yes.

QUESTION: Tomorrow, a court in Bahrain is scheduled to sentence Nabeel Rajab, who I – case I've raised before. I'm just wondering if you have anything to say to the Bahrainis ahead – ahead of this sentencing, and whether or not you'll be – have a presence there.

MS NAUERT: We were at the last – a representative from our embassy was at the last hearing. We know that they ejected – rejected his appeal on January the 15th, a little over a month ago. We're very disappointed by the court of cessation that's – or cassation, rather – that they made the decision to uphold the verdict sentencing Nabeel Rajab. He's a prominent human rights activist. The sentencing would be, we understand, up to two years in prison, and I understand there's this separate sentencing that could take place for some of his Twitter activity. So we continue to have conversations with the Government of Bahrain about our very serious concerns about – about this.

Okay.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS NAUERT: All right, thanks everybody.

(The briefing was concluded at 3:23 p.m.)

###



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 29, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated October 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified nine additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all nine records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Feeley, John D (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6) Salazar, Joseph E (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Subject:	RE: Wash Post query
Date:	Wed, 31 Jan 2018 15:29:03 -0500

Depends. Not on this issue. Don't know anything about it. I'd see him for off-the-record drinks, however.

Will let you know.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Feeley, John D (Panama); Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama); Salazar, Joseph E (Panama); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Subject: RE: Wash Post query

Good to know. Will you be meeting with him?

Adrienne Bory
Press Officer | Public Affairs Section | U.S. Embassy Panama
Agregada de Prensa | Oficina de Asuntos Públicos | Embajada de EEUU

(b)(6) office (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Feeley, John D (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:04 PM
To: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6); Salazar, Joseph E (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Wash Post query

Heads up. See chain with a WP reporter I know. Looks like they are doing a Trump-Panama story related to the hotel. (b)(5)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Partlow, Joshua [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:50 PM
To: Feeley, John D (Panama)
Subject: Re: Wash Post query

It's about a Trump hotel-related issue that they've been doing some reporting on already.

--
Joshua Partlow
Mexico City Bureau Chief
The Washington Post
(b)(6)
Mex cell: (b)(6)
Mex office: (b)(6)
US office: +
US cell: (b)(6)

From: "Feeley, John D (Panama)" (b)(6)
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 7:50 AM
To: Joshua Partlow (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Wash Post query

Sure. What story cooking in DC?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

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Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:58 PM
To: Feeley, John D (Panama)
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One of the things that I wanted to mention is that it looks like the Post is going to ask me to head down to Panama next week for a couple days to help out on some story they've got cooking in Washington. If that ends up happening, would you have time for a coffee? I'm sure it's going to be a busy time so no worries if not. But it would probably be in the earlier part of the week, Monday-Wednesday, if it actually happens. I'm still waiting to hear from my editors what the status is.
Best, Josh

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To: Joshua Partlow (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Wash Post query

Hey Josh. I am not going to attend, but you are correct that Roberta and Sec Tillerson will host ambassadors from all of Central America and the Caribbean. There will be a second mtg for South American ambassadors in BA when he visits there. Given my departure from the service, it makes more sense for my DCM to attend the Mexico mtg so I proposed and they accepted that plan. (b)(6) 😊

New POCs to follow soon and hope to stay in touch. John

*John Feeley
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Panama*

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Partlow, Joshua [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:56 PM
To: Feeley, John D (Panama)
Subject: Wash Post query

Hi Ambassador Feeley, hope this finds you well. I'm still in Mexico City, which is currently freezing but otherwise all good.
I noticed that US diplomats from around the region will be coming to Mexico City this week for the secretary's visit. I wanted to see if you might have a few minutes to meet while you're here (if in fact you're coming)? I'd love to catch up on how things are going in Panama.
Best, Josh

--
Joshua Partlow
Mexico City Bureau Chief
The Washington Post
(b)(6)
Mex cell: (b)(6)
Mex office: (b)(6)
US office: (b)(6)
US cell: +

Sender:	"Feeley, John D (Panama)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)

Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)	(b)(6)
Salazar, Joseph E (Panama)	(b)(6)
Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)	

From:	"Baumann, Elias S (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Wash Post query
Date:	Wed, 31 Jan 2018 22:03:51 -0500

What's the oops! here?

From: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Date: January 31, 2018 at 8:17:16 PM EST
To: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Wash Post query

From: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6)
Date: January 31, 2018 at 5:44:37 PM EST
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6) Salazar, Joseph E (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Wash Post query

From the *Slate* article JDF just sent:

In June, the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel in Panama hosted guests from the U.S. Embassy and paid the hotel \$632 using a government travel charge card, according to a receipt **analyzed by Slate** and obtained by the transparency group Operation 45. Though Trump doesn't own the hotel, his Panamanian hotel management corporation made more than \$800,000 between January 2016 and April 2017, the president's recent financial disclosures indicate, and his payout is likely tied to the success of the property. The **Domestic Emoluments Clause** of the U.S. Constitution prohibits the president from receiving any compensation from federal, state, or local governments beyond the salary he earns as chief executive, whether the payment was made inside or outside the U.S. This transaction, along with other government spending at Trump properties since the president took office, may be in direct violation of the constitutional anti-corruption clause.

Oops!

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama
Tel: (b)(6)
Cell (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Feeley, John D (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:27 PM
To: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6); Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)
(b)(6); Salazar, Joseph E (Panama) (b)(6); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Wash Post query

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2017/11/the trump tower in panama may have been used to launder drug money from.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2017/11/the_trump_tower_in_panama_may_have_been_used_to_launder_drug_money_from.html)

Nope. Meant this guy from Global Witness report.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama); Feeley, John D (Panama); Salazar, Joseph E (Panama); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Subject: RE: Wash Post query

For background, this is the prior Washington Post reporting I think Partlow is referring to:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-little-moscow-russians-helped-donald-trumps-brand-survive-the-recession/2016/11/04/f9dbd38e-97cf-11e6-bb29-bf2701dbe0a3_story.html?utm_term=.091c51789fca

In addition to the towers of “Little Moscow,” Russian investors have been a valuable source of capital for Trump buildings in nearby Hollywood, Fla., and in a large complex in Panama City, Panama. Trump does not own these buildings, but, like many Trump projects around the world, he licensed the use of his name and took a percentage of the profits from the initial sales of units. Real estate agents say there have been fewer Russian investors in Florida condos since

U.S.-imposed sanctions on Russia took effect in 2014. They predict that the market will improve if Trump wins and reconsiders the sanctions.

(b)(5); (b)(6)

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-trump-panama/>

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama

Tel (b)(6)
Cel (b)(6)

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Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:56 PM
To: Feeley, John D (Panama)
Subject: Wash Post query

Hi Ambassador Feeley, hope this finds you well. I'm still in Mexico City, which is currently freezing but otherwise all good.
I noticed that US diplomats from around the region will be coming to Mexico City this week for the secretary's visit. I wanted to see if you might have a few minutes to meet while you're here (if in fact you're coming)? I'd love to catch up on how things are going in Panama.
Best, Josh

--

Joshua Partlow
Mexico City Bureau Chief
The Washington Post

(b)(6)

Mex cell: (b)(6)
Mex office: (b)(6)
US office: (b)(6)
US cell: +

Sender:	"Baumann, Elias S (Panama)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)	

From:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Visitors in Trump International per ECC
Date:	Mon, 20 Nov 2017 13:19:09 -0500

Put this on your list with the Amb. today.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 9:03 AM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Visitors in Trump International per ECC

Cool. Just an FYI that we put up our longer term TDYers at the Marriott Finisterre which is what I think you're talking about below. We have a negotiated rate that is great with them. \$74/night for stays longer than 30 days.

Elias S. Baumann
Management Counselor
U.S. Embassy Panama

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Visitors in Trump International per ECC

Currently only some CBP personnel staying there. This weekend Team went out and found 2 options. Waldorf Astoria and Marriott Executive Apartments. Today we are checking for derog on property manager that set up the apartments in the Trump. He is offering the same package in the Waldorf.

(b)(6)
DHS Regional Attache
Central America
Cell (b)(6)

Wk (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Date: Monday, Nov 20, 2017, 08:44
To: (b)(6), Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: Visitors in Trump International per ECC

To follow up from Friday’s discussion, the only folks that show up as staying at the Trump International in ECC are all from CBP and are all listed below. Information in ECC is often out of date and incomplete. People do not update ECC when something changes and many do not include hotel information in ECC. That said, these folks did list Trump hotel as their lodging.

Itinerary ID	Traveler Name	Organization	Clearance	Grade	eMail
1955529	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		
1957584	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		
1850330	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		
1968293	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		
1882838	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		

	(b)(6)		(b)(6)
1958283		Department of Homeland Security/CBP	

Elias S. Baumann
Management Counselor
U.S. Embassy Panama

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Recipient:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) <

From:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Visitors in Trump International per ECC
Date:	Mon, 20 Nov 2017 09:22:39 -0500

Elias – Can you check with ODC? (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 9:03 AM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Visitors in Trump International per ECC

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 U.S. Embassy Panama

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

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 (b)(6)
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(b)(6)

DHS Regional Attache
 Central America

Cell (b)(6)
 Wk -
 (b)(6)

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Date: Monday, Nov 20, 2017, 08:44
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: Visitors in Trump International per ECC

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1957584		Department of Homeland Security/CBP			
1850330		Department of Homeland Security/CBP			
1968293		Department of Homeland Security/CBP			
1882838		Department of Homeland Security/CBP			

1958283	(b)(6)	Department of Homeland Security/CBP	(b)(6)		

Elias S. Baumann
Management Counselor
U.S. Embassy Panama

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama)	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	

From:	Kelly Craft (b)(6)
To:	Barkin, Michael A (b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
	Lawson, Leslie (Ottawa) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Visa Details - (b)(6)
Date:	Sun, 12 Aug 2018 11:20:18 +0000

Thank you Michael!

Kelly Craft
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

On Aug 12, 2018, at 7:14 AM, Barkin, Michael A (b)(6) wrote:

Good morning Ambassador!
It sounds to me that her concerns are related to the visa status she received at the port of entry and for how long. As these decisions were made by CPB, I defer to them. I've copied (b)(6) and Leslie for their thoughts.
Michael

From: Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Date: August 12, 2018 at 5:47:46 AM GMT -4
To: Barkin, Michael A (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Visa Details (b)(6)

Please advise

Kelly Craft
US Ambassador to Canada

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6)
Date: July 6, 2018 at 8:44:02 PM EDT
To: kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Visa Details - (b)(6)

Good afternoon Ambassador Craft,

I am glad that I am able to remain in touch with you, although my tenure at the Trump Hotel has ended. I truly value the relationship that I am able to maintain with you and Mr. Craft.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) I crossed the Rainbow Bridge and was given an I94 until (b)(6) Departure Number

(b)(6)

I do wish to build my career and maintain residency in the United States, however, we were unsuccessful in the renewal of my TN visa. I had hoped for a longer period to stay in the United States as a tourist while I decide on my next move.

Kindly let me know if there might be additional information that I could supply.

Wishing you and Mr. Craft comfortable travels and a great weekend!

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Sender:	Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Recipient:	Barkin, Michael A (b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Lawson, Leslie (Ottawa) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Kelly Craft (b)(6)
CC:	barkinM (b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Visa Details - (b)(6)
Date:	Sun, 12 Aug 2018 17:40:39 +0000

Thank you Ambassador

(b)(6)

CBP Attaché Office
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa

(b)(6) desk
(b)(6) mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 12:16 PM, Kelly Craft (b)(6) wrote:

Additional info included with the initial email

Kelly Craft
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6)
Date: August 11, 2018 at 3:38:58 PM EDT
To: kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Visa Details - Chriselle Aquio

Good afternoon Ambassador Craft,
I hope you are well and that this email finds you well.
Pardon me as I feel embarrassed asking, however, might there be a way I could ask for your assistance in possibly extending my current tourist visa by another month or two? It expires on

(b)(6)

I am certain that you have more pressing matters to deal with, I thought to take a chance and ask.

Your time is appreciated.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 23, 2018, at 11:14 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

Good morning Ambassador Craft,
I hope you had an enjoyable weekend.
Thank you for the kindness you've extended to me and for confirming the receipt of my email.
Please let me know if there may be additional information I can provide.
Sending my regards to Mr. Craft as well and I wish you both a great week ahead!
Best regards,

(b)(6)

On Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 9:23 PM Kelly Craft (b)(6) wrote:

Received
Thank you!

Kelly Craft
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

On Jul 6, 2018, at 6:44 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Good afternoon Ambassador Craft,
I am glad that I am able to remain in touch with you, although my tenure at the Trump Hotel has ended. I truly value the relationship that I am able to maintain with you and Mr. Craft.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) I crossed the Rainbow Bridge and was given an I94 until (b)(6) Departure Number

(b)(6)

I do wish to build my career and maintain residency in the United States, however, we were unsuccessful in the renewal of my TN visa. I had hoped for a longer period to stay in the United States as a tourist while I decide on my next move.

Kindly let me know if there might be additional information that I could supply.
Wishing you and Mr. Craft comfortable travels and a great weekend!
Respectfully,

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Kelly Craft (b)(6)
	barkinM (b)(6)
	Kelly Craft (b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Trump Hotels Confirmation for Rex Murphy - 24729083-1
Date:	Fri, 6 Sep 2019 09:47:30 +0000

Thank you !!!!!

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On September 5, 2019 at 9:40:31 PM EDT, (b)(6) wrote:
Ambassador,

In further cleaning out of emails, I found confirmation for Rex Murphy (FYI, this is an updated confirmation - they found a better price than originally quoted).

Apologies for the delay in sending!!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

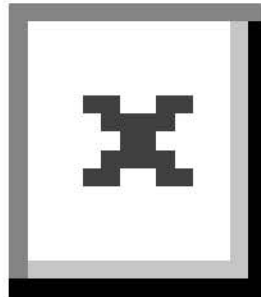
From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 11:25 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Updated Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for Rex Murphy - 24729083-1





THANK YOU REX MURPHY FOR BOOKING AT
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER	24729083
GUEST NAME	REX MURPHY
TRUMP CARD	<u>JOIN NO</u>
ARRIVAL DATE	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 2017
DEPARTURE DATE	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2017
NO. OF NIGHTS	3 NIGHT
NO. OF PERSONS	1 ADULT
ROOM DESCRIPTION	DELUXE KING ROOM
RATE NAME	BEST AVAILABLE RATE
RATE BY DAY	USD 395.00 PER NIGHT
RATE INCLUSIONS	ACCOMMODATION ONLY

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

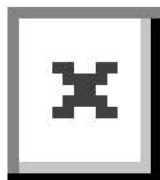
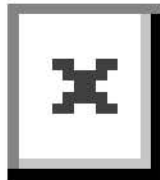
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004

PHONE: 202.695.1100TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COMAREA MAP | DIRECTIONS

Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.

PROFILE & STAY PREFERENCES

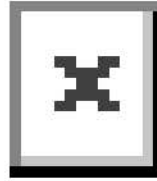
Be sure to update your Trump Card profile and preferences, so that we can deliver you the best possible experience for your upcoming stay.

LOGIN

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We want to help you maintain your healthy lifestyle when traveling. With our Trump Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

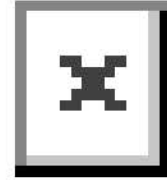
[LEARN MORE](#)



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We welcome you to unwind and enjoy refreshing customized level of service in a haven of relaxation and well-being. The Spa by IVANKA TRUMP™ seeks to create pathways for you through inner health and external beauty.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

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Rates are subject to the following:

14.95% Room Tax

INCIDENTAL CHARGES For all reservations, the Hotel requires a deposit of \$150 per day for incidental charges upon check-in. This deposit may be made by cash, credit card or debit card. Your bank will release the hold after check-out.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.



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(b)(6)

Director of Corporate & Travel Industry Sales

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Old Post Office Building

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004

T: +1 202.868.5013 | M: +1 202.431.2517

EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS



Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: trip
Date:	Tue, 26 Mar 2019 14:46:08 +0000

Thursday - Sunday

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 9:12:22 AM EDT
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: trip

Just talked to another atty in Ethics. They are checking on one thing and will let me know. How long do you plan to stay in town? Sounded like it was a pretty short trip?

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of Presidential Appointments (HR/PAS)
Department of State
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (b)(6)

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

I'll call over and see if there is someone else there who could assist. Just got to the office. Will look at your EA and get back to you on both.

(b)(6)

Jennifer Wicks
Office of Presidential Appointments (HR/PAS)
Department of State
Tel: (202) 647-9731
Fax: (202) 647-4694

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

Until I'm able to consult with (b)(6) we will be staying at Trump Hotel where we have been during our travels to DC since 2017.

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 7:59:52 AM GMT-4
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

(b)(6) If you need immediate assistance, please contact
ethicsattorneymailbox@state.gov . Best, (b)(6)

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	UK-Ireland Night Notes <UKIrelandNightNotes@state.gov>
Subject:	UK/Ireland Desk Night Notes, September 12
Date:	Wed, 12 Sep 2018 21:07:48 +0000

UK/Ireland Desk Night Notes, September 12

(b)(5)

FLAGGING FOR POSTS:

- (SBU) REVISED RELEASE DATE: COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM 2017 RELEASE
- (SBU) Bullets and transcript from A/S Mitchell 9/5 discussion at the DC-based Institute for the Study of War
- (SBU) WEOG - Transcript RUS briefing

General Information, attached:

- (U) EUR Press Clips
- (U) State Department News Briefing
- (U) EUR Press Final Package

(b)(6)

Desk Officer for Ireland and Northern Ireland
Office of Western European Affairs
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
Office: 202-647-6591

Mobile: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	UK-Ireland Night Notes <UKIrelandNightNotes@state.gov>



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 27, 2021

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated November 29, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney Sian Jones at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; Ottawa - POL/ECON - SBU <Ottawa-POL_ECON-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - Press Office <Ottawa-PressOffice@state.gov>;
To:	(b)(6) WHA-CAN-Internal <WHACANInternal@state.gov>; Higgins, Holly S (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Transcript of QP 10-02-2018 - USMCA
Date:	Wed, 3 Oct 2018 16:17:48 +0000

The Government was attacked by all three parties in the House of Commons yesterday for concessions on the USMCA. FM Freeland fielded all questions on the agreement. Partial transcript of yesterday's QP relating to USMCA:

International Trade

Q. Hon. Andrew Scheer (Leader of the Opposition, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, Canadians do not want a review. They want action and they want the government to make this right.

When the Prime Minister volunteered to have Canada be part of the renegotiations of NAFTA, he promised that he would come back with an improved deal. Now we know what the government has given up. It has backed down on pharmaceuticals, meaning Canadian patients will have to pay more so U.S. companies can make bigger profits. However, we are looking for where the gains are.

Could the minister confirm that she has gained on removing tariffs on softwood lumber?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the most important gain from this agreement is retaining our access to the U.S. market, and Canadians understand that.

However, the new trade agreement is significantly better than NAFTA 1.0 in important ways. We have gotten rid of investor-state dispute settlement, which allowed U.S. companies to sue the Government of Canada for hundreds of millions of dollars. The energy ratchet clause that restricted our sovereignty is gone.

Q. Hon. Andrew Scheer (Leader of the Opposition, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, the Liberals would like Canadians to believe that this is somehow NAFTA 2.0. In reality, this is NAFTA 0.5. They have made so many concessions on key areas. They have backed down on pharmaceuticals. They have backed down on dairy. In fact, they gave away so much that Donald Trump's key economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said, "Canada gave graciously".

After giving so much graciously, did the minister get anything on the softwood lumber tariffs, on buy American or on steel and aluminum tariffs?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I did not hear too many gracious words about our chief negotiator.

Canadians should listen to a Conservative who actually knows what he is talking about when it comes to trade. Former prime minister Brian Mulroney said yesterday, "This agreement is a highly significant achievement for Canada" and "Canada appears to have achieved most if not all of its important objectives in this lengthy and challenging set of negotiations." I could not have said it better.

Q. Mr. Alain Rayes (Richmond—Arthabaska, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, the minister and her colleagues seem to be celebrating. Meanwhile, aluminum, steel, softwood lumber and agriculture, all of which account for hundreds of thousands of jobs in Quebec and Canada, were sacrificed by the Liberals to the U.S. president.

The Prime Minister even agreed to a clause that limits global dairy exports to please Donald Trump. We know about the concessions, but we also want to know what new gains the Liberals managed to achieve. We have been looking but have not found any.

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives seemed to have regained their confidence, which is surprising, since last year, Stephen Harper and the Conservatives were begging us to give in and accept any agreement, no matter the cost to Canadians.

Thanks to our patience and negotiating skills we managed to reach a good agreement for Canada.

Q. Mr. Alain Rayes (Richmond—Arthabaska, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe what I am hearing. It does not sound as if the Liberals have any clue that they hold the reins of power and are responsible for managing our economy. We all know the concessions the government made to reach a free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico. A 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminum remain, softwood tariffs remain and major concessions were made on supply management, with 3.59% of our market being opened up to the Americans. The Prime Minister boasts that he has signed a good agreement. We are looking for the gains.

What is new in this agreement that was not already there in the previous agreement signed by the Conservatives?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, there are many new developments. We have gotten rid of the NAFTA clause that undermined our sovereignty by preventing our government from controlling access to our precious energy resources. We have also gotten rid of the investor-state dispute settlement mechanism, which cost over \$300 million. The new rules in the auto sector are going to protect Canadian workers.

Q. Mr. Guy Caron (Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister rose yesterday to say with a straight face that he had preserved supply management. However, a first breach was opened with the European trade agreement, a second was opened with the trans-Pacific partnership, and a third has been opened with this new agreement. As a result of these three

agreements, more than 10% of Canada's dairy market has been handed over to foreign producers.

Is that what they mean by preserving supply management? The Liberals had the opportunity to stand up for Canadians and agricultural producers.

Why did they cave?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, we fully support our dairy producers, their families and their communities. It was a Liberal government that created the supply management system and it is a Liberal government that is preserving it. This agreement will provide market access, but most importantly it does not put the future of supply management in question. We will always support our agricultural producers and our dairy producers.

Q. Mr. Guy Caron (Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, I doubt she even understands what supply management is, because if she did, she would not be saying that. The Liberals not only caved to the United States on supply management, they also offered up an extra goody, the elimination of class 7. The U.S. will now be able to export unlimited amounts of diafiltered milk here, not to mention getting an even bigger share of the market for regular milk. Ultimately, Canada has just told the U.S. to bypass our supply management system, to keep subsidizing their agriculture industry, and above all, to come dump their surpluses here, yet the Liberals claim to stand up for our farmers.

Why did they cave?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, our government worked very hard to defend Canadians' interests. Our government defended our supply management system, which the U.S. sought to dismantle. We are the party that implemented supply management, and we are going to defend it. I want to assure dairy farmers that they will receive compensation.

Q. Ms. Tracey Ramsey (Essex, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, the devil is in the details and now we learn about an astonishing new clause in the USMCA. Part of Canada's concessions in this deal was to include language that holds Canada hostage to the Americans if we decide to trade with another country. No wonder the Minister of Foreign Affairs tried to downplay questions about this yesterday. Experts have called this concession a "severe restriction on Canadian independence and capability" and that the Americans are trying to control our trade.

Why did the Liberal give the go-ahead for the U.S. to pull us into their trade wars?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking the member for Essex for her collaboration in our work on trade. She is a really great partner.

Trade diversification is an extremely important part of growing the Canadian economy and we are going to continue to increase our trade around the world. In fact, it is our government that concluded CETA and the CPTPP. NAFTA, as an agreement, has always had a way for parties to leave, and that is essential, but let me be clear: Canada retains full sovereignty and complete control over our trade relations.

Q. Ms. Tracey Ramsey (Essex, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, I promise if the government was listening, we would not have signed this deal.

Remember when the Prime Minister stood in Hamilton and said that Liberals would have the backs of Canadian steel workers. Where I come from, having their back does not mean signing a deal that could sell out 6,000 Canadian jobs.

Sacrifices made in the USMCA will hurt our steel and aluminum workers, and the Liberals failed to get any assurances that the U.S. would lift steel and aluminum tariffs before they signed the deal.

Do members know who the middle class is? It is steel and aluminum workers. How can this Prime Minister turn his back on them?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, this is a question that is very close to my heart.

I want to assure Canada's steel and aluminum workers that we are 100% with them. That is why, when the illegal section 232 tariffs were imposed on Canada, our government did not hesitate. We responded immediately, in a measured dollar-for-dollar response.

That is standing up for our steel and aluminum workers, and that is what we are going to continue to do.

Q. Mr. Dean Allison (Niagara West, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, in the USMCA trade agreement, the U.S. made no concessions, while Canada made many.

Canadians will now pay more for drugs and lose the protection to have their personal data stored here in servers in Canada. Our farmers are being hurt. Our steel and aluminum sectors are being tariffed still. The softwood lumber tariffs seem permanent. If that was not enough, the Liberals gave Donald Trump a veto over our trade policies.

Will the minister tell us when, exactly, steel and aluminum tariffs will be removed?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I guess the members opposite were shouting so much they did not hear me when I talked about the improvements we have made.

Let me go through it again. We have removed ISDS, which has allowed U.S. companies to sue our country and has cost us hundreds of millions of dollars. We have removed the energy ratchet clause, which hugely restricted Canadian sovereignty. We have tremendously improved the environment and labour chapters. The rules of origin in the auto sector will be a great advantage for high-wage Canadian workers.

Q. Mr. Gérard Deltell (Louis-Saint-Laurent, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, President Trump's top economic adviser said, and I quote, "Canada gave very graciously". Yes, sadly, Canada gave very graciously. We now have quotas on the auto industry where none existed before, and our medications are going to cost more due to the government's inaction.

There is one more thing: could the minister reassure steelworkers and tell them whether the steel tariffs are still in place right now?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I prefer to listen to a Conservative who actually knows what he is talking about, like the first NAFTA negotiator, former prime minister Brian Mulroney, who said that this agreement is a highly significant achievement for Canada, while benefiting all three countries as it should. He said that Canada appears to have achieved most, if not all, of its important objectives, and he is right.

Q. Mr. Gérard Deltell (Louis-Saint-Laurent, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, I actually do know what I am talking about, and when I talk about Canada's economy, and especially Quebec's economy, I know that steel, aluminum and softwood lumber are very important to Quebec.

Could the minister tell us whether or not the U.S. tariffs on steel, aluminum and softwood lumber are still in place? This is important for the economies of Quebec and Canada.

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, we negotiated an agreement that protects Canadian jobs and creates opportunities for the middle class. It also preserves the dispute settlement system, maintains supply management, and supports our auto sector workers.

If we had given in when Stephen Harper told us to a year ago, we would not have any of this.

Q. Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, the champagne is flowing at the Trump Tower today.

Larry Kudlow, Trump's economic adviser, said, "Canada gave very graciously."

Trump gave nothing back in return that we did not already have. In fact, we now have higher drug prices, so American companies can make more. The Prime Minister backed down on dairy without getting a single concession on American protectionism and subsidies. The Liberals gave Trump a veto power over our other trade deals and capped our auto sector growth.

Why did the Liberals give so much in exchange for so little?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the hypocrisy on the other side of the aisle is astonishing to me.

Before we got this deal, what we were hearing from the Conservatives was that we needed to start surrendering as quickly as possible. What we were hearing was a criticism of our view, which was that no deal is better than a bad deal.

We stood firm and we got a good deal for Canada.

Q. Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC):

They did warn us about a bad deal, Mr. Speaker, and now we see exactly what it looks like. They got absolutely nothing that we did not already have.

We now have higher drug prices to profit American drug companies, big concessions on dairy without any concessions from American agricultural producers, a Trump veto power on future Canadian trade deals and a cap on the future growth of our auto sector.

Why did the government capitulate so much in order to gain so little?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, it is a bit rich to hear from the member on the other side of the aisle who lectures on the dangers of capitulation.

Our government is the one that in the face of hesitation, anxiety and hand-wringing from the other side of the aisle, stood firm and was resolute in defence of Canadian national interests. That is why we got a good deal.

Q. Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC):

Well, the government resolutely backed down, Mr. Speaker. It backed down on drug prices, which will be higher for Canadian seniors and Canadian patients. It backed down on agriculture, without getting a single concession from the powerful American farm lobby. It backed down on Trump's veto power over our ability to sign our own trade deals. The government backed down by allowing Trump to impose a cap on future exports of Canadian autos.

Again, why did the government capitulate so much to get so little?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Yet again, Mr. Speaker, it is very easy the day after to preach strength and firmness. That is not what we were hearing before this deal got done.

Let me correct the member opposite on a factual point, because it is important to tell the truth to Canadians. There is of course no cap, no quota on Canadian autos and car part exports to the United States. That is why the share prices of Canadian car part companies soared on Monday.

Q. Ms. Anne Minh-Thu Quach (Salaberry—Suroît, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, Eric and Jennifer Simpson are two young dairy farmers in Rockburn, which is in my riding. They told me that they have lost 15% of their revenue since 2004 because of trade agreements and American diafiltered milk. They are worried they might lose their farm because of the TPP and the new NAFTA.

Do the Liberals realize that young people who are interested in farming get discouraged when their government backs down instead of standing up and fully defending supply management?

Just how many people have to leave our rural areas before the government will take a stand and defend our dairy sector?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, we fully support our dairy producers, their families and their communities. A Liberal government created supply management, and it is a Liberal government that is preserving it.

This agreement will provide some market access, but the most important thing is that the future of supply management is secure. I want to emphasize that dairy producers will be fully compensated.

Q. Mr. Alistair MacGregor (Cowichan—Malahat—Langford, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, this morning at agriculture committee I heard about the detrimental effects these trade deals are having on the mental health of farmers in our supply-managed sectors.

The Liberals have now given up 10% of our market, putting Canadian producers under significant pressure and leaving Canadians worried about the quality and safety of products that will cross over our border.

Farmers and the high-quality food they produce for Canadians are not bargaining chips.

Why did the Prime Minister make concessions at the expense of food safety and quality Canadian products?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear. We fully support our dairy producers, their families and their communities. After all, it was a Liberal government that created supply management, and it is a Liberal government that is preserving supply management.

This agreement will provide some market access, but the most important thing, and what we achieved, was to preserve the future of supply management, which the U.S. had sought to dismantle. I want to emphasize that dairy producers will be fully and fairly compensated.

Q. Mrs. Marilène Gill (Manicouagan, BQ):

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Quebecers chose a new government. Despite this change, Quebec remains united in denouncing Ottawa for abandoning dairy farmers.

All of the elected candidates and all of the parties that will make up the Quebec National Assembly spoke out against the new free trade agreement. Clearly, the federal government is once again ignoring Quebec's vital interests.

Why did the government once again use Quebec as a bargaining chip in its trade negotiations?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the cultural exemption is very important to all Canadians, but especially to Quebecers. We maintained the cultural exemption, and I am very proud of that.

Chapter 19 is very important for all Canadians, but especially for Quebecers and softwood lumber producers. I am also very proud that say that we are going to maintain that.

Q. Mr. Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères, BQ):

Mr. Speaker, the question was about supply management.

The government keeps saying that it protected supply management, but everyone knows that is false. Even Canada's most loyal ally, Philippe Couillard, came out and said that the agreement was very bad for Quebec.

That is not all. There is also diafiltered milk. The problem was solved, but the Liberals decided to quietly undo it all by the back door. Now it is going to come streaming across our borders from the U.S. This is not just a small breach in supply management; it is going to completely destabilize the system.

Why did the government go back on its word?
Why did it fail our farmers?

A. Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the previous question was on Quebec and the agreement, but I would be very happy to answer questions about supply management.

We fully support our dairy farmers, their families and their communities. It was a Liberal government that created supply management and it is a Liberal government that is preserving it. I also want to emphasize once again that all dairy farmers will receive fair and equitable compensation.

(b)(6)

Political Specialist
Embassy of the United States of America
P.O. Box: 866, Station 'B'
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5T1

Tel: (b)(6)
Cell:
Fax:

(b)(6)

Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; Ottawa - POL/ECON - SBU <Ottawa-POL_ECON-SBU@state.gov>; Ottawa - Press Office <Ottawa-PressOffice@state.gov>; (b)(6) WHA-CAN-Internal <WHACANInternal@state.gov>; Higgins, Holly S (b)(6) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft
CC:	Deborah Lackey (b)(6) Ellen Williams (b)(6)
Subject:	SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~
Date:	Tue, 18 Jun 2019 13:46:34 +0000

(b)(6)

In case you're asking me to handle: am about to board the plane and have not been POC. I happened to receive the email from Trump Hotel, but don't know who handled reservations. Perhaps call the Trump directly to arrange additional support and get vehicle details?
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:13 AM
To: (b)(6) Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft
Cc: Deborah Lackey; Ellen Williams
Subject: Re: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Update: one more person in the car

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:06 AM
To: (b)(6) Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft
Cc: Deborah Lackey; Ellen Williams
Subject: Re: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Hi there,
Can the SUV pick us up at (b)(6) and take us to the hearing?
We'll be at (b)(6)
Also, I need to provide the committee with the information below.

- Make, Model and Color of vehicle:
- Driver cell:
- License Plate and State where issued:
- Driver's name:
- Driver's License number and state where issued:
- DOB:
- Place of Birth:
- Passengers in the vehicle: Ambassador Kelly Craft, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft

Cc: (b)(6) Deborah Lackey; Ellen Williams
Subject: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Trump D.C. Concierge Team <tdconcierge@trumphotels.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:37 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Good Evening,
Please find the attached confirmation for Ambassador Craft's transportation for Wednesday morning. Let us know if there is anything else we may assist with.
Best regards,

(b)(6)

THE CONCIERGE TEAM
Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C.

**FIRST AND ONLY FORBES FIVE-STAR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN
WASHINGTON D.C.
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON D.C.**

Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
T: 202.695.1100 | D: 202.868.5150
[EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS](#)



Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6) Deborah Lackey (b)(6) Ellen Williams (b)(6)

From:	Ellen Williams (b)(6)
To:	Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft
Subject:	Re: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~
Date:	Tue, 18 Jun 2019 11:28:04 -0400

Perfect. Thank you letting us know

Ellen Williams

(b)(6)

On Jun 18, 2019, at 9:36 AM, Deborah Lackey (b)(6) wrote:

Per Joe, I will arrange for this car separate from the cars for the group leaving from the Trump Hotel.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:14 AM
To: (b)(6) Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft
(b)(6)
Cc: Deborah Lackey (b)(6); Ellen Williams (b)(6)
Subject: Re: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

Update: one more person in the car

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:06 AM
To: (b)(6) Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft
Cc: Deborah Lackey; Ellen Williams
Subject: Re: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Hi there,

Can the SUV pick us up at (b)(6) and take us to the hearing?

We'll be at (b)(6)

Also, I need to provide the committee with the information below.

Also, I need to provide the committee with the information below.

Make, Model and Color of vehicle:

Driver cell:

License Plate and State where issued:

Driver's name:

Driver's License number and state where issued:

DOB:

Place of Birth:

Passengers in the vehicle: Ambassador Kelly Craft, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:50 AM

To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft

Cc: (b)(6) Deborah Lackey; Ellen Williams

Subject: SUV's CONFIRMED /Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Trump D.C. Concierge Team <tdcconcierge@trumphotels.com>

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:37 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Trump International Hotel - SUV's for Wednesday~

Good Evening,

Please find the attached confirmation for Ambassador Craft's transportation for Wednesday morning. Let us know if there is anything else we may assist with.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

THE CONCIERGE TEAM
Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C.

FIRST AND ONLY FORBES FIVE-STAR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON D.C.

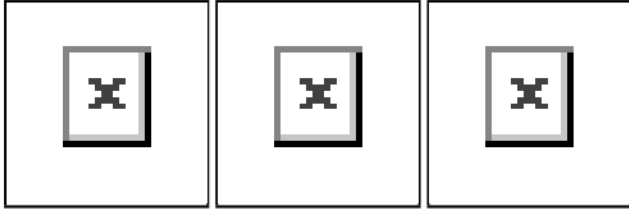
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON D.C.

Old Post Office Building

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004

T: 202.695.1100 | D: 202.868.5150

EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS



<image001.gif>

Sender:	Ellen Williams (b)(6)
Recipient:	Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft

From:	"Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	Rioja-Scott, Isabel E (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6)
CC:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6) (b)(6) Rowlands, Ryan D (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Press guidance updates
Date:	Thu, 8 Nov 2018 20:10:47 +0000

Yes, there is a way now, with the OneDrive system that the document can live on our intranet site as a landing page and live document. I'll need to figure that part out.

Adrienne Bory
 Press Officer | Public Affairs Section | U.S. Embassy Panama
 Agregada de Prensa | Oficina de Asuntos Públicos | Embajada de EEUU
 (b)(6) | office: (b)(6)

Official
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From: Rioja-Scott, Isabel E (Panama)
Sent: Thursday, November 8, 2018 3:06 PM
To: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6); Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6)
Cc: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6); (b)(6) Rowlands, Ryan D (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Press guidance updates

The model WHA PA had in Washington was a big set of reference Qs and As that were updated as needed and sent to directors periodically or upon request. Each section would review for updates to their sections or help draft new guidance based on late breaking events. I thought that model worked pretty well. I like the idea of it living on the intranet.

I would add Russia points given the visit.

From: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Date: November 8, 2018 at 10:39:39 AM EST
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6); Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6)
Cc: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6); (b)(6), Rowlands, Ryan D (Panama) (b)(6), Rioja-Scott,

Isabel E (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Press guidance updates

Will do.

Adrienne Bory
Press Officer | Public Affairs Section | U.S. Embassy Panama
Agregada de Prensa | Oficina de Asuntos Públicos | Embajada de EEUU
(b)(6) office-(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Sent: Thursday, November 8, 2018 9:24 AM
To: Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)
(b)(6)
Cc: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Rowlands, Ryan D (Panama) (b)(6) Rioja-Scott, Isabel E
(Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: Press guidance updates

Can you please add the questions (b)(6) got to our press guidance? I get the VZ invasion question occasionally and haven't seen the guidance on that one, for example. I've gotten the others too.

Can you update the China TPs based on Pompeo's comments, too?

Please also add sound bytes for each theme (China, security coop, FATF, bilat relationship, VZ, Nicaragua, Cuba, Trump hotel, (b)(6) assistance levels, US investment), education exchanges, Panama elections, Visa policy, other topics???

It would be good to have this document "living" so you can just add to it regularly from State and NSC press guidance or statements. It should be accessible to everyone too via a shared file or shared drive (our intranet embassy page)?

Open to other suggestions on how to make this more user- friendly.

Sender:	"Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Rioja-Scott, Isabel E (Panama) (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) < Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) < Baumann, Elias S (Panama) < (b)(6) Rowlands, Ryan D (Panama) (b)(6)

From:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	INR-EAP (b)(6) (b)(6) Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Panamá- China disinformation?
Date:	Tue, 21 Nov 2017 09:29:23 -0500

And here's the gist with some context:

The blog post by a ghost writer from a group that doesn't seem to exist, likely a paid PR firm. The piece is making its way around Whatsapp, capitalizing on the excitement of President Varela's visit to China. In essence, the piece talks about Panama as the new strategic hub for the Americas and all of the wonder that will come because of this special new position—luxury, tourism, industry, energy, infrastructure. Much to the chagrin of the West, who has just been making problems from the U.S. via the Clinton List and OSCD, the Panama-China relationship will be the new order of the day. It notes that Panama not only offers a unique strategic “choke point” but also has a Panamanian-Chinese population in place with Chinese/English/Spanish language skills.

**Official
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From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:18 AM
To:	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Cc:	(b)(6) INR-EAP (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

Cleaned up Google Translate:

* The previously unknown details of the agreement between China and Panama *

China promises Panama an unprecedented economic scenario, and the reason is very simple according to China's foreign minister Wang Chao: "it's one thing to have commercial relations with Latin America and another thing to be part of the Silk Road."

The difference is that commercial relations of the continent will have a meeting point: * Panama *, considered by the Chinese President as * most favored nation *, this important.

For China, opening diplomatic relations with Panama was always a priority, so much so that, according to analysts of the Russian information network RT, since the West became aware of the talks between the Chinese government and Panama at the end of 2014, there appeared the Papers of Panama, the Clinton List, and the problems with OECD and France. But the Panamanian government continued with the negotiations. Western intelligence was aware without the Panamanian government knowing, it was something like an open secret of the main commercial powers of the world.

The last coordinated attack on Panama was a few days ago with the Panamanian official delegation already in China when it came to light a dark report by the Reuters network attacking a Trump hotel in Panama associated with drug trafficking, but focused more than anything in attacking Panama.

China recognizes that these new diplomatic relations would bring jealousy and some pitfalls because having Panama for China changes the global economic landscape, and Europe, the US and Canada are somewhat relegated to the American continent in some way.

With this, China completes one of the most important pieces within the commercial puzzle necessary to continue growing, and with Panama as a partner, the * jewel of the commercial crown of the Americas *, China ensures the orderly supply and Coordinated raw materials, also it politically increases its influence in the region of more growth in the world of developing economies.

So Panama will enter an unprecedented growth phase never seen in that small but powerful country, the two main Chinese banks will open for the first time in its history in a foreign country, it is as if the US federal reserve opened a branch In Panama.

China does not skimp on anything and makes sure that Panama is in optimal conditions to achieve its mission, from bullet trains, thermoelectric plants, bridges, roads, container supermarkets and cruise ships, mega cargo and passenger airports, dams for power generation, power plants, natural gas, assembly and distribution center of automobiles manufactured in China.

China promises to revolutionize the agriculture of Panama with large areas of agricultural crops and equipment, equipment and repair centers of agricultural equipment of last generation, distribution of manufacturing products, electronics and trade for the entire region, buildings, offices of commercial representation, hotels, restaurants, shipping lines of pleasure and cargo, convention and business centers, construction of artificial islands.

China has proposed the creation of a new ultramodern city on Isla Del Rey, one of the largest in the American Pacific with 240 square kilometers, five times larger than the city of Panama that would have ultra luxury hotels with casinos and amusement park ecological for Chinese tourism.

Another aspect that benefits China is the tens of thousands of prosperous Panamanian Chinese who speak simultaneously Chinese, Spanish and English, and who favor business relations, something unique

to Panama, in addition to its strategic location known as the "Choke Points" strategy. there are the platforms of the Colon and Panama Pacifico free zones, unique in America.

The West observes astonished what was believed to be practically impossible two years ago, China and Panama are playing everything for everything, and the question is, is Panama ready?

Mark Smitsson for Estrategic Review.
Google Translate for Business:Translator ToolkitWebsite Translator

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:22 AM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) INR-EAP (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

For those of us who have wasted our adult lives immersed in Asian languages, could we have a one or two sentence English summary of the Spanish? 😊

Official
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 11:27 PM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

Looping in (b)(6) who covers Panama for WHA/CEN and (b)(6) from INR/EC

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 11:55 AM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) INR-EAP; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panama- China disinformation?

+Panama Desk Officer and WHA/CEN INR

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) INR-EAP
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

(b)(6)

Looping in EAP/PD colleagues as well, who have been in touch with the GEC folks on this end, as well as the INR/EAP team. We'll see what we can find out.

Best,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 7:51 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Panamá- China disinformation?

(b)(6) - the article below is circulating among our high level contacts on social media. The byline is "Mark Smitsson para Estrategic Review," which doesn't seem to exist.

Any chance you could help us figure out the origin? I'll also ask the GEC but I don't know if they have any China experts yet.

Thanks.

(b)(6)

Conoce las interioridades hasta ahora desconocidas del acuerdo entre China y Panamá
China promete a Panamá un panorama económico sin precedentes, y la razón es muy simple de acuerdo al ministro de relaciones exteriores de China Wang Chao: "una cosa es tener relaciones comerciales con Latinoamérica y otra es ser parte de la Ruta de la Seda*"

La diferencia esta en que todas esas relaciones comerciales del continente tendrán un punto de encuentro: *Panamá* , considerada por el Presidente Chino como *nación mas favorecida* , esto no es cualquier cosa.

Para China el abrir relaciones diplomáticas con Panama siempre fue una prioridad, tanto así que según analistas de la cadena informativa rusa RT, desde que occidente se percató de las conversaciones entre el gobierno Chino y de Panamá a finales de 2014, surgieron sospechosamente los Papeles de Panamá, luego la Lista Clinton, los problemas con OCDE y Francia y aun así, el gobierno panameño continuo con las negociaciones mientras la

inteligencia occidental estaba al tanto sin que el gobierno panameño lo supiera, era algo así como un secreto a voces de las principales potencias comerciales del mundo.

El último ataque coordinado fue hace unos días con la delegación oficial panameña ya en China a mediados de este noviembre cuando salió a la luz publica un oscuro informe de la cadena Reuters atacando supuestamente un hotel de la cadena Trump en Panamá y el narcotráfico pero se enfocaba mas que todo en atacar a Panamá.

China reconoce que estas nuevas relaciones diplomáticas traerían celos y algunos escollos pues con Panamá ahora cambia el panorama económico mundial y Europa , EEUU y Canada quedan un poco relegados en el continente americano de alguna manera.

Con esto China completa una de las piezas mas importantes dentro del rompecabezas comercial necesario para seguir creciendo, finalmente y tras innumerables intentos, ahora con Panamá como socio, la *joya de la corona comercial de las Américas*, China se asegura el suministro ordenado y coordinado de materias primas y de sus exportaciones, ademas políticamente aumenta su influencia en la región de mas crecimiento en el mundo de economías en desarrollo.

Así las cosas Panamá entrara en una fase de crecimiento sin precedentes jamas visto en ese pequeño pero pujante país, los dos principales bancos chinos abrirán por primera vez en su historia en un país extranjero, es como si la reserva federal de Estados Unidos abriera una sucursal en Panamá.

China no escatima nada y se asegurara de que Panamá este en optimas condiciones para lograr su cometido, desde trenes balas, termoeléctricas, puentes, carreteras, superpuertos de contenedores y de cruceros, mega aeropuertos de carga y pasajeros, represas para generación eléctrica, plantas de gas natural, ensamblaje y centro de distribución de automóviles fabricados en China.

China promete revolucionar el agro de Panamá con grandes extensiones de siembras y acopios agrícolas, equipos y centros de reparación de equipos agrícolas de ultima generación, distribución de productos de manufactura, electrónica y comercio para toda la región, edificios oficinas de representación comercial, hoteles, restaurantes, lineas navieras de placer y de carga, centros de convenciones y de negocios, construcción de islas artificiales.

China ha propuesto la creación de una nueva ciudad ultramoderna en la Isla Del Rey, una de las mas grandes del pacifico americano con 240 kms cuadrados, cinco veces mas grande que la ciudad de Panamá que tendría hoteles se ultra lujo con casinos y parque de diversiones ecológicos para el turismo chino.

Otro de los aspectos que benefician a China son las decenas de miles de chinos panameños prósperos que hablan simultáneamente chino, español e ingles, y que favorecen las relaciones comerciales, algo único de Panamá, ademas de su ubicación estratégica conocidas como strategic Choke points, también están las plataformas de las zonas libres de Colon y Panama Pacífico, únicas en America.

Occidente observa atónito lo que se creía prácticamente imposible hace dos años, China y Panamá se están jugando todo por el todo, y la pregunta es, Panama esta preparado?

Mark Smitsson para Estrategic Review.

Sender:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

INR-EAP (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) Craft, Kelly (b)(6) (b)(6) Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: New POC for Ambassador Kelly Craft / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington DC
Date:	Wed, 11 Sep 2019 11:23:39 -0400

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for this update and the introduction! The email address and phone number on the Ambassador's hotel profile has been updated. It has been a pleasure working with you and we look forward to welcoming you back to Trump Hotel DC at the next opportunity.

Dear (b)(6) please don't hesitate to reach out if I can ever be of assistance. I look forward to keeping in touch and hope to meet when you are next in the hotel.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

On Wed, Sep 11, 2019 at 9:49 AM (b)(6) wrote:

Good morning (b)(6)

I am writing to electronically introduce you to (b)(6) who serves as Ambassador Kelly Craft's office manager in New York. As receipts from the Trump Intl Hotel are being emailed to me, it is important to please change the POC on record to (b)(6). Her email is:

(b)(6) and her direct phone number is (b)(6)

As Ambassador Craft was officially sworn in yesterday as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, I am no longer her office manager. May I take this opportunity to tell you how grateful I have been for your assistance in meeting Ambassador Craft's needs, and for the consistently excellent service at the Trump Intl Hotel. It has been noticed and very much appreciated!

With my thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft

U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:47 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Ambassador Craft's upcoming Reservation - September 8

Dear (b)(6)

DS for Ambo Craft had a reservation for September 8 to 10 and their housing office just requested that this be extended to depart on September 11. Please advise if the Ambassador's reservations are also to be extended. At this time, they are booked for September 8 to 10.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

Director of Corporate & Travel Industry Sales

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T: +1 202.868.5013 | M: (b)(6)

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Unclassified

Sender: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>

Recipient: (b)(6)
Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Deborah Lackey (b)(6)

From:	"Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este
Date:	Mon, 9 Apr 2018 15:24:50 -0400

Roger that. Mark

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

Thanks for the update, please be sure to pass this info along to WHA/PDA.

Regards,

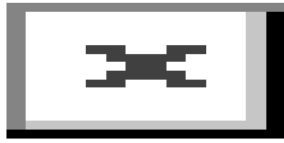
Nick

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6) Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)
(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

Ambassador and DCM, I just spoke on the phone from a DC based reporter from Talking Points Memo (not affiliated with Bill O'Reilly) about the Trump Tower in Punta del Este. She asked whether anyone had asked the Public Affairs Office about the Trump Tower in relation to the problems the Trump Tower in Panama City- Rep of Panama is having there. PAS has not received any inquiries about any Trump property since the Washington Post inquired about Eric Trump's visit to Punta del Este in December 2016. Thanks- Mark

<https://talkingpointsmemo.com/>



Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo)	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)	
	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo)	(b)(6)

From:	"Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
To:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6) (b)(6) Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Eric Trump's business trip to Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,830 in hotel bills from The Washington Post
Date:	Sat, 4 Feb 2017 20:13:24 -0500

Yes, it was parroted in El Observador and El País.
<http://www.elobservador.com.uy/la-visita-eric-trump-punta-del-este-le-costo-us-97000-su-gobierno-n1026991>
<http://www.elpais.com.uy/mundo/viaje-eric-trump-uruguay-costo.html>

From: Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Date: February 4, 2017 at 12:19:31 PM GMT-3
To: Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Eric Trump's business trip to Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,830 in hotel bills from The Washington Post

Thanks. Any play in the Uruguayan press?
 Regards,
 Nick
 Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
 Deputy Chief of Mission
 U.S. Embassy Montevideo, Uruguay

From: Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo); Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo); Cabrera, Marcos A (Montevideo)
Subject: Fwd: RV: Eric Trump's business trip to Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,830 in hotel bills from The Washington Post

From: (b)(6)
Date: February 4, 2017 at 8:45:34 AM GMT-3
To: Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)

<DiazCX@state.gov>

Subject: RV: Eric Trump's business trip to Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,830 in hotel bills
http://wapo.st/2l6gJAP?tid=ss_mail

De: (b)(6)

Fecha: 4 de febrero de 2017, 08:30:45 UYT

Para: (b)(6)

Asunto: Eric Trump's business trip to Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,830 in hotel bills from The Washington Post

http://wapo.st/2l6gJAP?tid=ss_mail

Enviado desde mi iPad

Sender:	"Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Giacobbe, Nicholas J (Montevideo) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Keiderling, Kelly A (Montevideo) (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 31, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated December 27, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

FL-2020-00059 A-00000407366 "UNCLASSIFIED" 1/31/2022 FL-2020-00059 01/31/2022 01

[View this email in your browser](#)

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CONFIRMATION NUMBER 45009086-1

GUEST NAME (b)(6)

TRUMP CARD (b)(6)

ARRIVAL DATE THURSDAY JANUARY 18 2018

DEPARTURE DATE FRIDAY JANUARY 19 2018

NO. OF NIGHTS 1 NIGHT

NO. OF PERSONS 1 ADULT

ROOM DESCRIPTION

FL-2020-00059 A-00000407366 "UNCLASSIFIED" 1/31/2022 FL-2020-00059 01/31/2022 02

1 PREMIER ONE-BEDROOM SUITE, ONE KING BED

RATE NAME DISYBR

RATE BY DAY USD 1,195.00 PER NIGHT

RATE INCLUSIONS ACCOMMODATION ONLY

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lifestyle when traveling. With our Trump Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

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more DETAILS

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Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

ADDITIONAL TAX & SERVICES

Rates are subject to the following:

14.8% Room Tax

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.

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FL-2020-00059 A-00000407366 "UNCLASSIFIED" 1/31/2022 FL-2020-00059 01/31/2022 04

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	TRUMP HOTEL / FLIGHT CHANGES for January 18
Date:	Fri, 12 Jan 2018 09:30:26 -0500

(b)(6)

Sir,

I copied (b)(6) into a separate email sent to you regarding Vancouver specifics.

A suite has been booked at the Trump International Hotel for late arrival on Jan 18 (Conf # 45009086-1). I will inform (b)(6) you would like **6pm** check-out on Jan 19.

Note that you will not attend utility reception. If you happen to have start time for dinner with the (b)(6) I will add to AMB's calendar.

Thanks much,

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:03 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly
Subject: Re: FLIGHT CHANGES for January 18

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Once a decision is made on Vancouver can you reach out to (b)(6) to ask if flight times are doable. There may be Federal regulations for pilot flight hours per day that may need to be considered.

Also, based on last conversation with Amb. I will not travel to Ottawa for the Utility reception but will meet Amb in DC. We will also have a dinner with (b)(6) on the 19th before we depart to Lexington later that evening.

Confirming you will get room at Trump for the 19th. If so please advise (b)(6) Director of Attaché at Trump, that we need 6 pm check out for the 19th.

Thank you, (b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone powered by Coal!

On Jan 12, 2018, at 8:17 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

(b)(6)

As you know, the Ambassador's travel plans (flights) have changed. Based on my discussion with her this morning, and a scheduled provided to me by DHS that has the program now ending sooner than expected , below is what the Ambassador's day looks like on January 18 (Ottawa-Toronto-Ottawa-Washington). Her three flights are yellow in color to better help you see them.

<image001.jpg>

<image002.jpg>

<image003.jpg>

Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From: "Kim, Sung Y (Manila)" (b)(6)
To: Yun, Joseph Y (b)(6)
Subject: RE: 2/26/18 US-NK-SK; China/Trade Wars; NAFTA; Guns
Date: Mon, 26 Feb 2018 21:57:07 -0500

(b)(6)

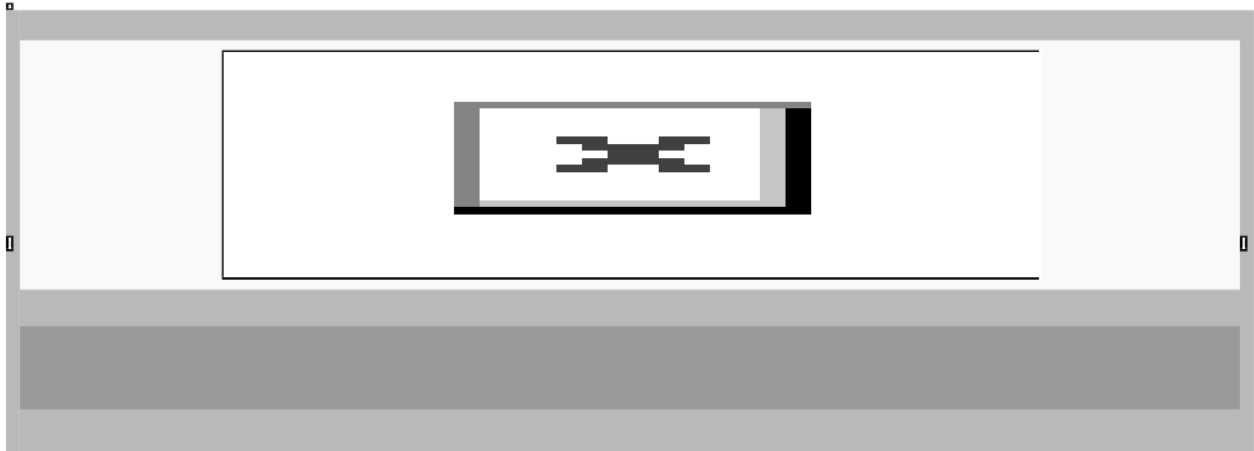
From: Yun, Joseph Y
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)
Subject: Re: 2/26/18 US-NK-SK; China/Trade Wars; NAFTA; Guns

(b)(6)

From: Kim, Sung Y (Manila) (b)(6)
Date: February 26, 2018 at 9:00:25 PM EST
To: Yun, Joseph Y (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2/26/18 US-NK-SK; China/Trade Wars; NAFTA; Guns

(b)(6)

From: Chris Nelson [mailto:cdnelson@samuelsinternational.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Chris Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 7:50 AM
To: Kim, Sung Y (Manila)
Subject: 2/26/18 US-NK-SK; China/Trade Wars; NAFTA; Guns



Feb. 26, 2018

CHINA "TRADE WAR"? TRUMP LOOKING TO 301'S, AVOIDING WTO...WANTS 25% TARIFFS! (Axios, Politico et al)
...TED ALDEN BREAKS THE CODE...it's all about US manufacturing
...NAFTA? WH/USTR stall to pressure manufactures' return?
...NAVARRO PROMOTION...CONFIRMED!
N. KOREA POLICY: TRUMP "OPEN" TO MOON/NK OFFER, JAPAN WANTS US-ROK MARITIME COOPERATION; AMB JOE YUN'S LAST DAY...FRIDAY
...strong voice against military action gone on 3/2; LR'S DEBATE
...Norks offer delegation to negotiate ParaOlympics team
GUNS: TRUMP SON OK WITH AGE BAN; A GOV CONFRONTS TRUMP ON SCHOOLS

SUMMARY: the next few weeks are shaping up to be highly consequential on China/trade and N. Korea policy. Sources increasingly agree that Trump is getting ready to hit Beijing hard on not just steel, but possibly "hundreds of products"...and that it will use a 301 process focus on all the stolen IPR in hopes of "avoiding the WTO", which the president "does not trust", rather than the long threatened 232's.

Scroll down for an Axios report that charts the on-going fight, with a decision perhaps leaning toward Chinese products the US can source in other countries:

--Timing: Two sources told me Trump has been impatient and wanted these 301 tariffs done yesterday, but the team still hasn't settled on which Chinese products to attack. The team hasn't presented its recommendations to Trump.

--The free traders - think Steven Mnuchin, Gary Cohn, Kevin Hassett, and Everett Eissenstat - only want tariffs on Chinese products that many other countries also produce (including uranium, consumer electronics and LED light bulbs.) They're trying to blunt any impact on American consumers.

--However, a former top government trade official told me: "This is how trade wars start. There is zero chance China does not retaliate against us in painful ways..."

Politico adds perspective on China, on Xi Jinping's stunning power grab, and a public "rehabilitation" of trade hard-liner Peter Navarro, which we have confirmed. Scroll down for detailed pieces on all three matters, but for the Summary:

Xi sending his guy for talks: With Trump seemingly getting close to making his move on steel and aluminum, Lighthizer is expected to meet this week with Liu He, a senior economic adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping. The discussions will focus on the potential actions on steel/aluminum as well as the China-focused probe into intellectual property theft and forced technology transfer. Reuters reported Friday that U.S. officials didn't expect any major breakthroughs.

XI COULD BRING CHINA BACK TO TIME OF ONE-MAN RULE: China's Communist Party is moving towards scrapping a constitutional rule that limits Chinese presidents and vice presidents to two terms, a move that could allow Xi to remain in power for the rest of his life. The Communist Party's Central Committee today begins three days of meetings - the kind of venue at which a big policy move like this could be announced, The Washington Post notes.

Your Editor can confirm the following, directly...for sure it adds weight to the "25% tariff" option!

NAVARRO MAY REGAIN POLE POSITION ON TRADE: Peter Navarro, the White House trade adviser who was sidelined last year after repeatedly clashing with Trump's more moderate advisers, could soon be granted a title change that would give him more direct influence over the administration's trade agenda, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia reports.

White House aides are strongly considering promoting Navarro, a trade hardliner and China hawk, to assistant to the president for trade policy. The new title would ensure he has a seat at the table at a pivotal moment for the administration on trade and give him access to the daily senior staff meeting.

Trump, who likes Navarro and regularly inquires why he isn't in key meetings, ordered the change, one administration official told Andrew. Another person familiar with the matter said things haven't been finalized, but Chief of Staff John Kelly has agreed to implement the change...

ALSO on the "watch list"...N. Korea policy. We sent out Sunday Readings with the big news from Pres. Moon, accomplishing his "Olympic goal" of a possible US-DPRK official meeting, for "talks" if not (yet?) "negotiations". *Much* Loyal Reader commentary ensued, for which scroll down. But major news *today* is confirmation that long-time senior St. Dept. Korea Hand Joe Yun is retiring...*this Friday!*

Joe has been even *more* outspoken against the so-called "Bloody Nose" option on the DPRK than the deposed nominee for Amb. to S. Korea Victor Cha, and joined Sec. St. Tillerson last Fall in urging "talks about talks" which the White House brutally shot down. That he put in for retirement just as he and Tillerson may be about to see that happening? "Speaks for itself", ruefully comments an ANON "inside the building" reaction to the announcement that Mar. 3 would be Yun's final day speaks volumes:

"He didn't say where he was going -- must finish the two-month retirement course for Foreign Service professionals first. But obviously terrible news for those opposed to military action. Sigh."

WHY THIS MAY BE A REALLY SERIOUS MATTER...scroll down for Loyal Reader Steve Herman's report for VOA today, then the results from our weekend "colloquies""

VOA just now...excerpt:

U.S. President Donald Trump is expressing a willingness to talk with North Korea, but "only under the right conditions," while warning that if Pyongyang doesn't abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs there could be a potentially tremendous "loss of lives, numbers that nobody's ever contemplated, never thought of."

OVER THE WEEKEND- TRUMP WARNS OF MILITARY ACTION IF SANCTIONS FAIL,via The Hill: "President Trump signaled on Friday that military action could be in the works if new sanctions against North Korea don't curb the country's nuclear ambitions..."

"We'll have to see," Trump said. "I don't think I'm going to exactly play that card. But we'll have to see. If the sanctions don't work we'll have to go to phase two. Phase two may be a very rough thing. May be very, very unfortunate for the world."

China says new U.S. sanctions threaten cooperation over North Korea, alsovia Reuters. But it will deal "seriously" with any breaches of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the APadds

HUMMM...A decision-making crunch on US military force could come sooner than anyone wants, given Trump's latest ambiguous threat, and the continued Administration position that N. Korean nukes, especially a working ICBM, "cannot be tolerated":

The Atlantic

3 Signs the Korean Olympics Truce Won't Last

It's been a relatively quiet February on the missile-testing front. March could be different.

URI FRIEDMAN

The closing ceremony of South Korea's Winter Olympics marks the end not just of dazzling twizzles, celebrity curlers, and shirtless Tongans, but also of an interlude in the international crisis over North Korea's nuclear-weapons program. In recent weeks we've witnessed North and South Koreans marching and competing together, American Vice President Mike Pence almost literally rubbing elbows with the sister of the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and tentative talk of a grand summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae In. The spectacle of the Olympics has obscured several signs that the nuclear crisis will soon resume—and quite possibly accelerate.

Sanctions

While Pence signaled during the Olympics that the Trump administration is willing to meet directly with North Korean officials, he stressed that the United States will not ease economic sanctions until the North takes steps toward dismantling its nuclear arsenal. In fact, the administration is intent on increasing the pressure amid evidence that international sanctions are inflicting serious pain on the Kim government. On Friday, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned dozens of ships and shipping companies that it says are helping North Korea evade severe restrictions on trade in fuel and other essential products.

These sanctions are designed to compel North Korea to make concessions on its nuclear program. Yet in the near term, at least, they could make substantive negotiations less likely to take place. Pence, for example, was planning to hold a secret meeting with North Korea's official delegation as part of his visit to the opening ceremony, in Pyeongchang, but the North Koreans canceled at the last minute. Their reason? Anger about Pence's announcement of the latest round of sanctions.

Military Exercises

The United States and South Korea suspended joint military exercises during the Olympics, but they plan to reschedule the massive drills for after the Paralympics conclude, in mid-March. While the Americans and South Koreans characterize these exercises as crucial to preparing for North Korean aggression, the North views the training as a rehearsal for invasion. A commentary in North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency this week pointedly argued that North-South dialogue can't progress so long as U.S.-South Korean drills persist.

Missile and Nuclear Tests

North Korea has a track record of conducting missile tests in the spring, and that might be particularly true this spring as it refines the technology to place a nuclear warhead on a missile that can reach the United States. The Center for Strategic and International Studies has found that U.S.-South Korean military exercises lead to more provocations by the Kim government when North Korea's relations with America are strained in the weeks preceding the drills. That's the case now despite the reconciliation between North and South Korea for the Olympics; the U.S. standoff with North Korea is primarily about nuclear weapons, while the overtures between North and South Korea have avoided nuclear issues.

In testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier this month, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said he expected North Korea to conduct more missile tests in the months ahead. He also suggested that additional tests of nuclear weapons could be in the offing, noting that North Korean officials have threatened to take the extremely provocative step of detonating a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean. (The North Koreans might be tempted to carry out such an atmospheric nuclear test, which hasn't occurred since the Chinese staged one in 1980, to dispel doubts about their capacity to threaten the U.S. with nuclear weapons.)

In December, three months after North Korea's last nuclear test, the Trump confidant Senator

Lindsey Graham told me he thought there was a 70 percent chance of the Trump administration taking military action against North Korea if Kim Jong Un tested another nuclear bomb. Even if the probability is far lower than that, Graham's estimate speaks to how high the stakes are in every test that moves North Korea closer to a long-range nuclear capability that the Trump administration claims is unacceptable.

A nuclear-armed North Korea poses a "potentially ... existential" danger to the United States and could blackmail America into abandoning its alliance with South Korea, Coats told the Senate. "The decision time is becoming ever closer in terms of how we respond to this."

As for whether the U.S. can reverse North Korea's nuclear program through sanctions rather than military force, Coats didn't sound particularly optimistic. The North "has repeatedly stated that it does not intend to negotiate its nuclear weapons and missiles away," he noted.

SCROLL DOWN FOR LOYAL READER DISCUSSION ON THE N. KOREA POLICY CONUNDRUM...Your Editor will attend KEI's Tuesday lunch seminar on "The N. Korean Economy Under Sanctions", including the transparently silly White House effort to claim it never said nothin' to nobody about no "Bloody Nose", so gee whiz what's all the fuss about? They might want to ask Joe...

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CHINA TRADE, cont'd...if Axios is right, these should be "interesting"...

Reuters

U.S. to discuss trade disputes with China economic official next week

Steve Holland, Jeff Mason

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Senior U.S. officials will discuss trade disputes next week with a top Chinese economic official when he visits Washington, a senior U.S. official said on Friday as President Donald Trump considers new tariffs on steel imports.

The talks will be led by Trump's trade envoy, Robert Lighthizer, who will meet with senior Chinese economic adviser Liu He, the official said. U.S. officials say they do not expect a major breakthrough in the discussions.

Trump has long sought a way to a more balanced trade relationship with China and threatened to impose a big "fine" against China to protect American intellectual property. The U.S. official said Trump had been discussing imposing a global tariff on imports of steel from China and other countries.

A source close to the White House said he had expressed interest in imposing a tariff on steel imports of at least 24 percent, but a White House spokesman said no final decision had been made. The prospect of a global tariff sent steel shares rising after hours with United States Steel Corp and AK Steel Holding Corp up more than 3 percent.

The Commerce Department on Feb. 16 recommended that Trump impose stiff curbs on steel imports from China and other countries and offered the president several options, ranging from global and country-specific tariffs to broad import quotas.

A blanket tariff on steel would cover every steel and aluminum product entering the American market from China, the world's largest steel producer. "No final decisions have been made. As with every decision he makes, the security of the American people and the American economy will be the president's primary concerns while he considers his potential options," White House spokesman Raj Shah said

"President Trump is committed to achieving fair and reciprocal trade relationships that protect the American worker and grow our economy," he said. Liu, a Harvard-trained economist and trusted confidant of Chinese President Xi Jinping, has emerged as the front-runner to be the next governor of China's central bank, according to sources with knowledge of the situation. Liu is the top adviser to Xi on economic policy and is also expected to become vice premier overseeing the Chinese economy.

China has not officially confirmed the trip. Speaking at a daily news briefing in Beijing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang would only say when asked if Liu was going that the two countries have frequent exchanges of officials at various levels.

"If there is important news, China will issue it in a timely manner," Geng added. China has expressed concerns over excessive protectionism in the U.S. steel sector and urged restraint. It has also said it will oppose any "unfair and unreasonable" trade measures by countries such as the United States.

American steel companies have pressed the administration to impose trade measures to curb excess steel capacity and surging imports they say are undermining the U.S. industry. Exports from China to the United States reached 1.18 million tonnes last year. China produces a total of 800 million tonnes of steel each year, equal to about half of global output.

In a meeting with a bipartisan group of U.S. senators and representatives at the White House earlier this month, Trump signaled he would take at least some action to restrict imports of both steel and aluminum.

Reporting by Steve Holland and Jeff Mason; Additional reporting by Ben Blanchard in BEIJING

RELATED: WHAT CHINA IS DOING WITH THE HELP OF BILLIONS...TRILLIONS (?)...IN STOLEN IPR

Wall St. Journal

China's Authoritarian State Has an Edge in Artificial Intelligence Development

A wealthy repressive state can press ahead with tech innovation unimpeded by privacy concerns

By Bob Davis

China made enormous economic strides in the past quarter-century by manufacturing everything from toys to tires inexpensively and exporting them overseas. To become a truly wealthy nation, it must move beyond its role as a low-cost manufacturer and become an economic innovator itself.

Can a repressive state, led by a central government specializing in five-year plans and surveillance of its own people, make such a leap? The odds against success look steep. Economic history includes few examples of authoritarian states becoming innovative business leaders. But China aims to make that jump in artificial intelligence-or high-level machine learning-with an unusual approach that can't be dismissed.

Beijing is bankrolling a big effort in AI, in part, to keep better track of homegrown individuals it considers criminals and dissidents, and to intimidate would-be opponents. That work involves fundamental research in image recognition, data collection and sorting that could have commercial spinoffs in the software used to run complex systems. A city with millions of self-driving cars, for instance, would need data analysis and the ability to recognize, say, that a ball bouncing across the street might be followed by a child chasing it.

"What gives China an edge is there is more of a sense of urgency," says Paul Triolo, a technology research manager at Eurasia Group.

Last summer, China's central government published a comprehensive plan for artificial intelligence development that aims to make the nation "the world's primary AI innovation center" by 2030.

In China such plans aren't simply blueprints, but indications of central government priorities, which work down to localities, state-owned firms and entrepreneurs. So far, local governments, looking to turn themselves into software centers, have pledged about \$7 billion in funding for AI development, estimates a congressional panel that focuses on China.

Mix that with genuine enthusiasm for the technology among Chinese scientists and companies-and world-class talent-and you have a formidable force, say U.S. researchers who have studied China's AI program.

"There's an enthusiasm for AI and culture of dynamism that we don't see as much in the U.S., at least outside of Silicon Valley," says Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher Erik Brynjolfsson.

Among the most innovative-and threatening-of the Chinese research involves surveillance. The Wall Street Journal has detailed how Beijing has turned its western Xinjiang region into a warren of facial scanners to track millions of Uighur minorities. Police there use hand-held devices to search smartphones for encrypted chat apps. A new twist: mobile facial-recognition units mounted on eyeglasses that police use to search crowds for fugitives, among other uses.

Artificial intelligence works by the collection of vast amounts of data used to "train" computer software to recognize patterns and reach conclusions, precisely the kind of skills needed to track a small number of dissidents among a sea of Chinese faces.

"A repressive state can be an engine of innovation," says Robert Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a tech policy center.

In the past, Chinese efforts to innovate have stumbled over the state's desire to centralize control, denying researchers and companies the freedom to follow their own ideas. China, for instance, has tried to jump-start its semiconductor industry with projects dating as far back as the Cultural Revolution, but still hasn't produced a company that can compete with global leaders like Intel or Samsung. Beijing is trying once again in computer chips, putting together a massive government fund, but the U.S. government so far has blocked China's efforts to acquire advanced Western technology.

AI may be different, say U.S. technology researchers. China's AI effort is being joined by globally competitive internet powerhouses including Tencent Holdings Ltd. , which is focused on medical imaging, and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. , which wants to help create smart cities that use sensors, cameras and computers to manage traffic. So far, the government is following their lead in technology development, AI researchers say, whatever the goals laid out in the government plan.

Chinese researchers may not have political freedom, they say, but they have the economic freedom to chart their own course. And the Chinese government doesn't throw up roadblocks to the technology on the grounds of privacy, as occurs in the West. "Freedom is very important," says Mr. Brynjolfsson. "But there is more freedom in China to do startups than most people realize."

Becoming an innovator in high technology and making a business success of those innovations in international markets is something that only a few countries have done, says Loren Graham, an emeritus MIT science historian. "All of them-so far-are open, democratic societies in which government companies do not dominate," he said.

He says China's push in AI represents a great economic experiment. "Can a country like China with lots of money combine repression, creativity and economic success based on that creativity? If the answer is yes, then we will have to rethink everything."

RELATED:

Lowy Institute

Echoes of Mao as Xi Jinping ends term limits

Has Xi Jinping just made himself president for life?

Richard McGregor | February 26

The announcement on Sunday that China will amend its state constitution to remove the two-term limit for the presidency has seemingly cleared the way for just that. Under the old constitutional provisions, Xi would have been required to step aside as president in early 2023, when his second five-year term would come to an end. Xi would not necessarily have had to cede power, however. There are no terms limits for one of the other key positions he occupies, that of secretary of the communist party, the office in which true power resides in China.

In that respect, the position of president (head of state) is just being bought into line with that of the ruling party. As recently as the early 1990s, different figures held the office of president and party secretary. The announcement is enormously significant nonetheless.

Xi's current term as party secretary lasts until late 2022, and there are no formal impediments to him staying for longer - other than the evolving institutional norms which aligned the CCP job with that of president, and thus limited it to two terms. Hu Jintao, Xi's predecessor, for example, served two terms in both positions.

With Sunday's announcement, these nascent institutional norms have gone out the window. In their place, we are returning to the system that prevailed into the early 1990s, of informal, opaque bargaining, usually involving elders, to determine top positions.

In Xi's case, however, Chinese politics may be going back even further, to the Mao era of strongman rule. Xi, of course, is not Mao, and Mao's China is not today's China, but that in many respects makes his removal of any restraints on staying in office all the more remarkable. However you read it, his centralisation of power does hark back to darker times in China.

The early propaganda takes coming out of China suggested that this change was needed for stability. In the words of a scholar quoted in the *Global Times*, the party-controlled populist tabloid, Beijing needs a strong stable leadership in the "crucial period" between 2020 and 2035, by which time China will be a modern, prosperous state.

Far from providing stability, however, Xi's decision to remove formal impediments to him staying in power may do the opposite. One of the CCP's great strengths in recent decades has been to build a system of orderly succession at the top, something that often eluded and defenestrated authoritarian regimes around the world. Jiang Zemin handed over power to Hu Jintao on a fixed timetable; Hu in turn did the same with Xi.

Late October, at the once-in-five-years party congress, Xi indicated the direction he was heading in by declining to appoint a clear successor who could be groomed to take over the position of party secretary in late 2022. The announcement of Sunday reinforces that decision.

The timing of the Sunday missive is telling as well. Coming at the beginning of a second term, it both cements for the moment Xi's overwhelming authority over the party and the government, and also sends a warning to his legion of enemies at the top of the party who have been hit by the anti-corruption campaign: he is not going anywhere.

It also dovetails with the broader theme of Xi's period in office - of the party erasing distinctions between it and the state. In this case, the terms for the state presidency have been bought into alignment with the party secretary's job. But does it signal that Xi is all-powerful? That can be argued both ways.

Xi's ability to push this decision through in the short-term is undoubtedly a display of his grip on all levers of power. But the very fact that he feels the need to do so could easily be a sign of something else - that he is possessed by an urgency to gather even more power than he already has to keep his enemies at bay.

One thing is certain. Many Chinese scholars and officials who have worked hard to advance political and legal reforms in China will be furious that Xi is throwing their efforts aside.

Editor's Note: if you've not already, get on Amazon and order Richard's book!

Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century

ROBERT BLOHM comments from Beijing:

Dear Chris,

Today's announcement of flash constitutional change to no term limit (for Xi) marks a coup d'etat in the making, a hijacking of the Central Committee in-the-making over these next three days. The Chinese have this cryptic saying about Xi:

*"All three dreaded traits (in a politician):
Strength is light but task hard,
Virtue is thin but position honorable,
Wisdom is shallow while eyeing greatness."*

Some Chinese are mockingly circulating online a photo of China's last Beijing-based emperor (if only for three months in 1910) General Yuan Shikai in his full military regalia with Chairman Xi's face photoshopped thereon.

The *Peoples Daily's* verdict (translated):

The Western Elected System Faces a Historical Crisis that is Untenable.

The pioneering and proven practice of Chinas political system has made it unnecessary for us to follow the West's lead and abolish the so-called term limit. It is the biggest correction of the outmoded, rigidly elected Western system, the great progress of the political system with Chinese characteristics and the newest achievement of the political civilization of mankind, which is instructive and exemplary to all political systems throughout the world."

My take on Xi: he's an organization-man (poker-face) robot in my opinion with little original vision of his own. He knows just how to identify and blend the dominant views and represent them. A kind of genius at reading which way the wind is blowing and riding it. In other words, talking about "Xi thought" is a misnomer.

He was a personnel manager-by-ideology all his career. On-the-job PhD in Marxism. He's a real committeeman. He knows how to commandeer committees by successfully identifying the dominant forces and harnessing them. Last but not least, he's a product of luck: he was tactful enough never to find himself on the losing side in any major discussion. A "Great Helmsman" through the bureaucratic swamp.

Chairman Xi's going to use (VP to be) Wang Qishan and (econ guru and Politburo parachuttee just dispatched to Washington) Liu He to deal with the foreign element, smooth the interface, try to convince them that one-man dictatorship is the only way to get good things done and to depend on them to influence the Boss the right way. I think Wang's and Liu's colleagues view them as window-dressing decoys.

Financial Times

China moves to silence outcry over abolition of Xi's term limit

Yuan Yang | February 26

China's censors have gone into overdrive to silence displeasure over the Communist party's plans to scrap the presidential two-term limit, even blocking the phrase "I disagree" on social media.

China's system of online curbs - operated through government departments as well as internet companies' self-censorship - blocked dozens of new terms on social media to silence criticism of a proposal that many fear will allow President Xi Jinping to effectively become a dictator for life.

On Monday, phrases including "I disagree", "migration" and "boarding a plane" were blocked from posts by regular users of Weibo, China's top microblogging site, yielding the error: "Sorry, the content violates the relevant laws and regulations or Weibo's terms of service."

The phrase "boarding a plane" is a homophone for "ascending the throne" in Chinese. Other terms censored on Weibo include "life-long rule", "long live the emperor" and the title of George Orwell's dystopian novel Animal Farm.

"Censored terms are the best evidence for what people are talking a lot about," said Xiao Qiang, founder of censorship-watching organisation China Digital Times, which is based in California. "The banned keywords are precisely expressions that are ringing true, as public concerns rise over Xi Jinping's authoritarian tendencies putting China back politically at least 30 years," Mr Xiao added.

China's search engine giant Baidu, which pushes news notifications to smartphone users, was also affected. An employee of Baidu's news unit who wished to remain anonymous said it, along with at least 13 other internet news companies, had received edicts from authorities to prioritise articles supportive of the proposed constitutional change. Such articles had to be placed in the top slot of the landing page of the news apps.

Chinese netizens shared more oblique memes to sidestep censors, such as a cartoon featuring Winnie the Pooh - the rotund bear who has drawn comparisons with Mr Xi - hugging a pot of honey with the caption: "Find the thing you love and stick with it."

Condom manufacturer Durex issued two statements on its official Weibo account asking readers to "clearly distinguish between what was real and fake" after netizens shared its old advert sporting the slogan: "Doing it twice is not enough".

Some Chinese netizens tried to vote with their feet. Web searches for "migration" rose four hours after the term limit proposals were announced. The Baidu Index score for the term, which measures the popularity of searches on the search engine, shot up from 30 to more than 4,200. Searches for the term on Baidu Index were blocked on Monday.

Other people drew historical parallels. Some referred to Yuan Shikai, a general who amended the constitution to make himself "emperor for life" during the early days of the Chinese republic. Others spoke of Zhang Xun, a contemporary of Yuan who tried to restore the Qing emperor. Both those names were banned from Weibo, as well as from Weibo searches and Baidu Index searches, as of Monday morning.

"Internet censorship will aim to manage the narrative that this is reform and not a fall back to one-man rule," said Michael Davis, senior fellow at the Centre for Comparative and Public Law at Hong Kong University. "Many Chinese people, with some collective memory of what one-man rule was like under Mao [Zedong], might justifiably be sceptical," he added.

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TRADE...CONT'D...NAFTA UPDATE AND SOME BIG PICTURE THINKING FROM LOYAL READER TED ALDEN, CFR:

Politico Morning Trade

PRESSURE'S ON LIGHTHIZER IN NAFTA ROUND 7: The outcome of talks unfolding in Mexico City this week could hinge on whether U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will be willing to work with Canada's recent offers and others Mexico is expected to make. After the fall rounds ended in

impasse and pessimism, with the Trump administration blaming its counterparts for refusing to engage, negotiators finally seemed to take a step forward in late January in the aftermath of the Montreal round, when Canada, in particular, began floating ideas for the first time to respond to U.S. priority issues like auto rules of origin and a five-year sunset provision.

If Lighthizer doesn't demonstrate the U.S. is willing to compromise, the goal of reaching a deal at all, let alone by the end of March, feels increasingly unachievable, public- and private-sector sources close to the talks told Megan Cassella.

"We still sit here wondering where the progress is going to be on the poison pills," one U.S. industry source said. "If there is none - even if you go and close another chapter like anti-corruption or small- and medium-size enterprises - is it just window dressing?"

Megan, who will be in Mexico City this week, has a full rundown on the Round 7 dynamic [here](#).

A bad omen for a spirit of compromise? President Donald Trump's planned meeting with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto in Washington was dropped after the two leaders clashed during a phone call last week over Trump sticking by his demand that Mexico will pay for a border wall. That [news](#), from The Washington Post over the weekend, doesn't seem like it would help to make Trump more likely to give Lighthizer a green light to give ground in Mexico City.

"The problem is that President Trump has painted himself, President Peña Nieto and the bilateral relationship into a corner," said Arturo Sarukhan, a former Mexican ambassador to the U.S., told the paper.

BRADY GOING TO MEXICO: House Ways and Means Chairman [Kevin Brady](#), who has a meeting with Trump this afternoon, is heading to Mexico City with a bipartisan congressional delegation later this week. Rep. [Richard Neal](#), top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, is expected to join him, along with other members of the panel. Brady, a longtime advocate of free trade, will be one of the highest-ranking members of Congress to attend the NAFTA talks.

QUEBEC DRAWS LINE ON SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard wrapped up his third visit to the U.S. since the NAFTA renegotiation started and reiterated that his province would stand in the way of any major changes to Canada's supply management program.

"Politically, particularly in Quebec, it has become so entrenched in a rural way of life, I see no possibility of - maybe some changes at the margin - but no substantial change is simply possible," Couillard said in an interview with your host over the weekend on the sidelines of the National Governors Association winter meeting. "People in the U.S.A. should know that the Canadian federation is quite decentralized, and in a subject like supply management, practically speaking, no deal is possible without Quebec's consent."

"If it doesn't pass the test with our farmers, our industry, it will not pass the test, period," he warned.

The U.S. dairy industry, which views supply management as anathema to free trade, is eager to use a NAFTA reboot as a way to take aim at the program, which restricts imports and puts annual limits on production as a way to support farmer incomes in the dairy, poultry and egg sectors. About 40 percent of Quebec's agriculture industry is under supply management. The U.S. has put forward an aggressive proposal aimed at a controversial milk ingredients pricing program that was seen to attack some fundamental supply management principles.

"Nothing will touch the core of the supply management program, I'm sure about that," Couillard said, adding that providing any additional market access to U.S. farmers will be "extremely difficult."

No lumber deal in sight: Couillard, on another issue important to his province, said there was little incentive for Quebec lumber producers to try to get the Canadian and U.S. governments back to the negotiating table on softwood lumber. U.S. lumber producers are already benefiting from combined anti-dumping and countervailing duties of 24 percent on imports from some Canadian companies.

But the higher prices south of the border, which Couillard argued are squeezing American consumers more than anyone else, are having little impact on Canadian lumber mills.

"Since the tariffs came into place, as I predicted when I was talking to my counterparts a couple of years ago, not a single job has been lost in our sawmills, not a single one has closed. What we see is the price of lumber going up and up and up," he said.

"They are taking advantage of high prices now and no job losses have occurred. There's no pressure," he added. "Business is good. The same is with the U.S. [industry] coalition. Why should they settle? Business is good."

- Canada isn't optimistic as NAFTA talks go into the seventh round, the [Washington Post reports](#).

- A new study finds that bolstering NAFTA could add 63,000 jobs in Arizona, the [Arizona Republic reports](#).

- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says a breakdown in NAFTA talks could hinder new tax cuts, [POLITICO reports](#).

- The chief of the Royal Bank of Canada says some commercial clients are anxious about NAFTA, [Bloomberg reports](#).

- WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo warns of increased risks of "trade wars," [Deutsche Welle reports](#).

U.S., AUSTRALIA AGREE ON DIGITAL TRADE PUSH: Thirteen months after Trump withdrew from the TPP, the U.S. and Australia have agreed to "intensify cooperation" on a groundbreaking part of the pact - digital trade. Lighthizer and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo met Friday and issued a statement pledging to "support the growth of digital trade between our countries, ensure an open, free and secure internet, and advocate the liberalization and facilitation of global digital trade."

The two trade officials, in another promise reminiscent of TPP, said they would seek to ensure "workers and small and medium-sized enterprises can succeed in the digital economy." Australia and the remaining 11 TPP members are scheduled to sign a revised deal without the U.S. in two weeks' time.

Building off Buenos Aires: Lighthizer and Ciobo said they seek to build on the momentum from the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December, where 70 WTO members accounting for more than 75 percent of global trade - Australia and the U.S. included - agreed to work toward future negotiations on e-commerce.

"This initiative provides an opportunity to create ambitious, commercially meaningful international trade rules that address key trade barriers and will keep pace with technological change," the duo said in the statement.

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RELATED: GOOD JOBS FOR GOOD FOLKS DEPT...

Ways and Means Democrats Hire New Trade Counsel

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Julia Friedman joins the Ways and Means Committee Democrats' trade staff as a counsel. Previously, Julia served as Director for Innovation and Intellectual Property at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), where she played a central role in drafting the United States' NAFTA IP proposal and in the ongoing renegotiation. Prior to her role in the Office of Innovation and Intellectual Property, Julia worked in USTR's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

and Public Engagement. Julia earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and earned her Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School.

Politico

Promotion would give Navarro deeper influence over trade policy

By ANDREW RESTUCCIA 02/25/2018 01:54 PM EST

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who was sidelined last year after repeatedly clashing with President Donald Trump's more moderate advisers, could soon be granted a title change that would give him more direct influence over the administration's trade agenda, according to three people familiar with the issue.

White House chief of staff John Kelly in September folded Navarro's Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy into the National Economic Council, mandating that Navarro report to NEC Director Gary Cohn. The move kept Navarro out of some high-level meetings of principles on trade, and forced him to work under Cohn, with whom he has loudly disagreed in closed-door trade discussions at the White House in recent months.

Now, White House aides are strongly considering promoting Navarro to assistant to the president for trade policy, according to the people. The new title would ensure that he has a seat at the table at a pivotal moment for trade, and it would grant him access to the daily senior staff meeting.

One administration official said Trump, who likes Navarro and regularly inquires why he isn't in key meetings, ordered the change. Another person familiar with the issue said the move hasn't yet been finalized, but that Kelly has agreed to implement it. Navarro did not respond to requests for comment, and a White House spokeswoman declined to comment. Inside U.S. Trade, a trade publication, first reported the news of Navarro's title change.

The pending change comes as the administration is preparing to impose new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports after a pair of Commerce Department reports found that the imports threaten U.S. national security. Among the recommendations in the Commerce reports: a 24 percent tariff on all steel imports and a blanket 7.7 percent tariff on aluminum imports.

The White House is expected to announce its decision soon, and Trump himself is said to favor the steep tariffs recommended by the Commerce Department. But administration officials said no final decisions have been made.

Navarro is perhaps the most vocal trade hawk in the Trump administration. A fierce critic of China, he has encouraged the president to carry out his campaign promises and take aggressive action on trade. "The change in [Navarro's] stature is a sign that the promises the president made on trade and manufacturing are more likely to be implemented," said Mike Wessel, who knows Navarro and is a longtime commissioner on the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a watchdog panel set up by Congress in 2000.

Trade has been one of the most divisive policy issues within the administration. For months, senior Trump aides and Cabinet secretaries have been meeting behind closed doors to reach a consensus on everything from China's alleged intellectual property theft to tariffs on solar panels.

The departure of White House staff secretary Rob Porter, who was the administration's lead trade policy coordinator, amid domestic abuse allegations has further complicated the trade debate. Porter organized weekly trade meetings at the White House, and his absence has given advisers more opportunities to make their case directly to the president.

Administration officials remain deeply divided over exactly what Trump should decide on the aluminum and steel tariffs. Cohn, national security adviser H.R. McMaster and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have all expressed concerns about steep tariffs, according to an administration official.

Defense Secretary James Mattis has also raised red flags about some of the Commerce Department's recommendations. "DOD continues to be concerned about the negative impact on our key allies regarding the recommended options within the report," Mattis said in a memo released Thursday night.

WHAT THIS MEANS? We believe Loyal Reader and valued Trade Guru Ted Alden, Council on Foreign Relations, has broken the code:

Politico

The Real Game Trump Is Playing on NAFTA

He isn't negotiating. He's stalling for time.

By EDWARD ALDEN

As the United States, Canada and Mexico head into the seventh round of the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, there is a question increasingly looming over the talks: Why hasn't Donald Trump pulled the plug already?

The president has made no secret of his loathing for NAFTA, calling it during the campaign "the worst trade deal in history." He came very close to ending it nearly a year ago, in April 2017, but was reportedly talked down at the last minute by personal calls from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. Throughout the year, as the negotiations dragged past their original end-of-2017 deadline with no progress in sight, Trump continued to threaten withdrawal. As recently as the last round in Montreal in January, Canadian officials were telling reporters in advance that they were certain Trump was on the verge of pulling the U.S. out of NAFTA.

And yet, even with the president's top trade negotiator acknowledging last month after the Montreal round that the talks are "progressing very slowly," Trump now looks increasingly unlikely to leave the table. He told the *Wall Street Journal* that he was "leaving it a little bit flexible," and acknowledged that it would be hard to conclude a new NAFTA prior to the July 1 Mexican general election. "There's no rush," he added. That could mean the talks will now drag on until 2019, since the new Mexican president would not even take office until December.

Is Trump getting cold feet, then, on NAFTA? That is certainly possible - pressure from pro-trade Republican members of Congress and from Republican governors from export-dependent states has been growing. Pulling out of NAFTA would generate a backlash within his own party, and would probably upset financial markets as well.

But there is another explanation. Whether by design or by luck, Trump is already winning the NAFTA renegotiation. It turns out the uncertainty over NAFTA's fate is Trump's friend. It is part of what appears to be a systematic - U.S. trading partners might say predatory - strategy to shift investment dollars to the United States.

I have had conversations with business leaders in recent weeks in which they all quietly acknowledge the same thing: Until they know what the new rules will be under NAFTA, they are likely to hedge their bets by locating new investments in the United States rather than in Canada or Mexico, just in case the rules change and they are frozen out of the largest North American market.

The most explicit move was the decision by Fiat Chrysler last month to move production of some Ram heavy duty pick-up trucks from Saltillo, Mexico, to Warren, Michigan, creating about 2,500 new jobs in the U.S. If NAFTA disappears, or the rules for automobile content are changed significantly as the Trump administration wants, a Mexican-made Ram truck could have faced a 25 percent import duty in the United States. Moving production to Michigan takes that risk off the table. Trump has taken credit for other decisions, like Toyota's announcement of a new \$1.6 billion car plant in Huntsville, Alabama, although that decision appears to have been in the works before Trump's election.

Trade uncertainty might not be enough on its own to shift investment flows significantly. But the

administration and congressional Republicans have been piling on the sweeteners. The Republican tax bill Trump signed into law in December cut the headline U.S. corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, moving the United States overnight from having the highest marginal corporate tax rate among the advanced economies to one of the lower rates. The tax bill included numerous other incentives, including immediate expensing of capital investments, which will make the United States a far more attractive location for new or expanded manufacturing plants.

The administration has also been pursuing an aggressive deregulation agenda, moving to roll back or eliminate regulations that are costly for many businesses, including elements of the Clean Power Plan, new overtime pay rules, workplace safety rules and fuel economy standards.

Perhaps most striking has been the Trump administration's dollar policy. With occasional deviations, the United States has favored a strong dollar since at least the early years of the Reagan administration, with officials believing a strong currency was important for international financial stability and served as a bulwark against inflation. But at Davos last month, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin explicitly abandoned that policy. "Obviously a weaker dollar is good for us as it relates to trade and opportunities," he said in a press conference aimed at pitching the United States as an attractive investment location.

The statement was indeed obvious - all other things being equal, a weaker dollar makes the United States a more competitive place to do business for globally traded goods, and should increase investment and boost exports. And the markets seem to be listening. In the year since Trump took office, the dollar has fallen more than 10 percent against the other major currencies despite interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve, which normally drive the dollar up.

All of these add up to an aggressively pro-investment set of policies. The message to business is clear: There are dangers and risks to investing outside the United States and enormous incentives to get with the administration's program.

Trump has, in fact, been quite explicit about his intentions all along. In his major campaign speech on U.S. trade policy in June 2016, in the once-thriving and now depopulated steel town of Monessen, Pennsylvania, he said that new trade policies were only one facet of his larger goal, to "make America the best place in the world to start a business, hire workers, and open a factory."

Politically as well, uncertainty is the president's friend. If he pulls the plug on NAFTA, he angers Republican allies and roils the markets. But if he does a deal, then he will have to pivot from being NAFTA's biggest critic to being a cheerleader for the new agreement in Congress, which Democrats are all but certain to denounce as inadequate. A long negotiation in which he can continue to claim he is fighting for a better deal looks by far the best bet.

So what's not to like? First, the strategy risks retaliation as Canada, Mexico and other U.S. trading partners catch on. Already, the United States is facing a flurry of complaints over its increasingly aggressive use of antidumping and countervailing duty laws to impose new tariffs on imports. The United States turned away from these "beggar thy neighbor" policies for a reason in the 1930s - while they might generate short-run gains, in the longer run U.S. leaders realized the country was better served by policies that enriched both the United States *and* its trading partners.

Secondly, the administration's own protectionist impulses could undermine the strategy. The Commerce Department earlier this month recommended significant new, across-the-board tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, resurrecting an obscure 1962 law to claim that imports are damaging the U.S. industrial base and threatening national security. But steel is still the material of choice for automakers, and aluminum is increasingly popular. New trade restrictions that drive up domestic costs for manufacturers could more than offset the inducements the Trump administration has offered; other big losers would be construction equipment makers like Caterpillar, shipbuilders and the oil industry.

Finally, the administration will need to find an off-ramp. The NAFTA renegotiation cannot go on indefinitely; at some point the president will either have to bite the bullet and pay the political and economic cost of withdrawal, or accept some compromise deal that will be all but impossible to sell on the campaign trail if he seeks re-election. Neither option will be appealing for Trump.

But for the moment, the president has got a good game going. Expect him to keep playing it as long

as he can.

*Edward Alden is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and author of the new book **Failure to Adjust: How Americans Got Left Behind in the Global Economy.***

Related: AXIOS ANALYSIS ON THE 24% TARIFF...

Bloombergscooped on Friday that Trump wants the Commerce Department to seek the harshest maximum tariffs on global steel imports: 24 percent. I'm told that's accurate, but with one small tweak: Sources tell me the president has told confidants he actually wants a *25* percent global tariff on steel because it's a round number and sounds better.

The big picture: Also, an official with knowledge of the trade discussions told me the White House is preparing to impose tariffs on a "shit ton" - meaning, potentially hundreds - of Chinese products. They'll avoid going through the World Trade Organization - which Trump doesn't trust - and instead use *Section 301* of the Trade Act of 1974 to unilaterally retaliate against China for stealing Americans' intellectual property.

--Timing: Two sources told me Trump has been impatient and wanted these 301 tariffs done yesterday, but the team still hasn't settled on which Chinese products to attack. The team hasn't presented its recommendations to Trump.

--The free traders - think Steven Mnuchin, Gary Cohn, Kevin Hassett, and Everett Eissenstat - only want tariffs on Chinese products that many other countries also produce (including uranium, consumer electronics and LED light bulbs.) They're trying to blunt any impact on American consumers.

--However, a former top government trade official told me: "This is how trade wars start. There is zero chance China does not retaliate against us in painful ways..."

What's next: The much bigger fight inside the Trump administration concerns whether they'll put massive tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, as Wilbur Ross' Commerce Department "found that the quantities and circumstances of steel and aluminum imports 'threaten to impair the national security'." That was part of what's called a Section 232 investigation.

--Sources with knowledge of the discussions tell me James Mattis, Gary Cohn, Rex Tillerson, and Kevin Hassett all think Wilbur Ross did a terrible job on Commerce's 232 investigation and strongly disagree with his recommendations. (This is the continuation of an ideological battle that's played out throughout the Trump administration between the free-traders and the protectionists.)

--One official told me Ross' report doesn't properly account for the negative impact of these tariffs on downstream jobs - for example, auto suppliers and other U.S. businesses that import steel and aluminum to make their products.

--Mattis' Defense Department pushed back **officially** against Ross' recommendations: "DoD continues to be concerned about negative impact on our key allies regarding the recommended options within the reports."

--The same report conceded that "imports of foreign steel and aluminum based on unfair trading practices impair the national security." But the phrase "unfair trading practices" - and Mattis' subsequent singling out of China - is a clear indication that the Defense Department doesn't support broad tariffs.

The pushback: When I shared these harsh criticisms with the White House and agencies, only Rex Tillerson's team would go on the record to deny our reporting:

--From Tillerson's team, a **State Department** official said: "Secretary Tillerson has not expressed this sentiment and wouldn't speak negatively about another cabinet member." From the White House, Raj Shah said: "We are not responding to rumors and will not get ahead of the President. The process is

ongoing, the President is reviewing the report and nothing is confirmed until he's made a decision... The President's team at the White House is leading a process that will ensure the President has all the information necessary for him to make a decision in the best interests of the American people."

From the **Pentagon**, spokesman Adrian Rankine-Galloway emailed: "The Department of Defense provides its best military advice to the President. Ultimately, it is the President who decides how his policies will be implemented."

Finally, a **Commerce** Department official pushed backed against the assertion that Ross didn't properly analyze the impact on the overall economy.

"DOC modeling has not shown any substantial impact on the overall economy as a result of the proposed steel tariffs," the official said. "This is consistent with the finding of the International Trade Commission that the Section 201 (in 2002) had negligible effects on the overall economy...While these were different products than those covered in the 232, they are all steel, and the ITC is an empirical source."

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RELATED: the White House staffing situation and clearances...this is joined at the hip to Russiagate, especially the "presidential powers" point, should Trump decide he can get away with firings and pardons (or has to, to save himself):

Kelly and Kushner stuck at an impasse after Trump's punt on clearance

The chief of staff is unlikely to grant the president's son-in-law a permanent clearance, but isn't likely to quit over the issue, either.

By ELIANA JOHNSON

President Donald Trump's decision to punt the issue of whether Jared Kushner can keep his access to sensitive government secrets without a full security clearance to his chief of staff, John Kelly, has put him in a tricky position, stuck between the rules on one side and the president's family on the other.

Trump's ad hoc decision not to intervene in the clearance process on behalf of his son-in-law and senior adviser in effect left Kelly and Kushner in limbo, prolonging an uncomfortable situation that White House aides say is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon.

Kelly does not plan to recommend to the president that he grant Kushner a waiver, but he is unlikely to resign if Trump ultimately decides to do so, according to a person familiar with his thinking.

There have been times in the past year when the president, still a relative newcomer to politics, has not fully understood the scope of his powers. During the course of discussions over whether to pardon former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, for example, he was not aware that he could pardon somebody during the course of a criminal proceeding, according to one White House aide.

But Trump has a better understanding of the wide-ranging extent of his power over the clearance process, aides say, which is virtually absolute. Through his executive power, he could solve Kushner's clearance headache with the stroke of a pen.

The president is hesitant to intervene in the process due to the potential blowback he would suffer in the news media if he were to give Kushner a pass, according to one White House aide, and on Friday, he officially passed the baton to Kelly.

"That'll be up to Gen. Kelly. Gen. Kelly respects Jared a lot and Gen. Kelly will make that call," Trump said at a news conference last week. "I won't make that call. I will let the general ... make that call."

The issues surrounding Kushner's security clearance ratcheted up when Kelly learned in the fall that

the White House security officer was unlikely to green light a permanent security clearance for Kushner any time soon as a result of information received from the FBI.

Since then, Kelly had grappled with how to handle the dozens of White House aides not operating on permanent clearances precisely because Kushner was among them, as The Washington Post first reported, even telling his closest confidants at one point that he planned to dismiss all of them - including Kushner, according to one of those confidants, who is also a senior administration official.

The chief of staff, who previously served as secretary of Homeland Security, was warmly welcomed by Kushner and Ivanka Trump last July after the ouster of Reince Priebus, but one of Kelly's most obvious challenges when he arrived in the White House last summer was to crack down on the freelancing that dozens of White House aides were doing, including Kushner.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has complained more than once about the perceived encroachment on his turf by Kushner, who is responsible for Israeli-Palestinian issues but also deals, at times, with the U.S. relationship with Mexico and China, as well as by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster. "We can't have four secretaries of state," Tillerson has said.

It's a complaint and a criticism Kelly has repeated in the same terms - one that landed wrong with Kushner, who, when discussing a controversial matter with the chief of staff, responded tartly, "No, but we need a secretary of state who is supportive of the president."

Though the White House has repeatedly declined to discuss the security clearance status of any of its employees, Kelly took the rare step last week of issuing a statement voicing his confidence in Kushner.

Days earlier, he sent a memo overhauling the clearance process asking the FBI to hand deliver its background investigations on White House aides to the office of the White House counsel, and to verbally brief the White House counsel on any major red flags that emerged during the course of the investigation.

"As I told Jared days ago, I have full confidence in his ability to continue performing his duties in his foreign policy portfolio including overseeing our Israeli-Palestinian peace effort and serving as an integral part of our relationship with Mexico," Kelly said in the statement.

While some in the White House noted that Kelly seemed to have circumscribed Kushner's duties - Kelly, for example, made no mention of Kushner's role as head of the Office of American Innovation, established last year to modernize the federal government - others were skeptical that statement or the new guidelines would have any material impact.

"If it starts preventing him from doing what he wants to do, he'll figure out a workaround," a senior administration official said of Kushner's security clearance troubles. "All of this stuff is basically just cosmetic talk."

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MANAGING N. KOREA...first, VOA's full report on Trump today, valued colleague Steve Herman was part of our weekend colloquies...

VOA Excerpt:

U.S. President Donald Trump is expressing a willingness to talk with North Korea, but "only under the right conditions," while warning that if Pyongyang doesn't abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs there could be a potentially tremendous "loss of lives, numbers that nobody's ever contemplated, never thought of."

Trump, speaking Monday to U.S. state governors at the White House, noted North Korea's offer in recent days, relayed through South Korea's President Moon Jae-in that "they want to talk" to the

United States.

"We'll see what happens," said the president, declaring that something has to be done to eliminate the threat to the United States and its allies from North Korea's weapons of mass destruction.

At Monday's White House briefing Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said "denuclearization must be the result of any dialogue with North Korea."

Talk about talks

"Both Trump and (North Korean General and intelligence chief) Kim Yong-Chul have now indicated a willingness to talk. But there is not yet agreement on what the two sides are willing to talk about," notes Scott Snyder, senior fellow for Korea studies at the Council on Foreign Relations...

Picking up from the Summary...this is in two parts, based on two separate Loyal Reader Taskings from Your Editor over the weekend:

Morning Defense

'WE WILL SEE,' WHITE HOUSE SAYS OF NORTH KOREA TALKS: "We will see" if North Korea's message that is willing to hold talks leads to denuclearization, the White House said in a statement Sunday. "The maximum pressure campaign must continue until North Korea denuclearizes," the White House said. "In the meantime, the United States and the world must continue to make clear that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs are a dead end."

North Korea is willing to talk with the U.S., South Korea's Moon Jae-in says, [via](#) The New York Times. And the U.S. should lower the threshold for talks with North Korea, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in says, [via](#) The Associated Press.

Reuters

U.S., North Korea should lower threshold for talks, says South

Christine Kim

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Monday the United States and North Korea should both give ground so they can sit down to talks to try to resolve a nuclear standoff, a day after Pyongyang expressed willingness for dialogue.

South Korea has engaged in a flurry of talks with North Korean officials since January, hoping to improve relations with the South's just concluded Winter Olympics as a catalyst for rapprochement.

North Korea is developing nuclear-tipped missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland and U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchanged increasingly bellicose taunts before a sudden puncturing of tensions coinciding with the Games, with the North sending athletes and delegates.

"Recently, North Korea has shown it is open to actively engaging the United States in talks and the United States is talking about the importance of dialogue," Moon said during a meeting in Seoul with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong.

"There is a need for the United States to lower the threshold for talks with North Korea and North Korea should show it is willing to denuclearize. It's important the United States and North Korea sit down together quickly," he said, according to a statement from his office.

In August, Trump threatened to go beyond sanctions by bringing "fire and fury like the world has never seen", although his administration has repeatedly said it prefers a diplomatic solution. North

Korea has vowed never to give up its nuclear program, which it pursues in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions, calling it "powerful treasured sword for defending peace" against U.S. aggression.

The United States, which stations 28,500 troops in South Korea, says any talks with North Korea must lead to an end to its nuclear program. Washington on Friday announced its largest package of sanctions yet. North Korea condemned the move, accusing the United States of trying to undermine the improvement in inter-Korean relations.

A high-level delegation from North Korea has been visiting Seoul and meeting South Korean officials, including Moon, after attending the Olympics' closing ceremony in Pyeongchang on Sunday. The delegation told Moon during a meeting in Pyeongchang that North Korea was open to talks with Washington. The North Koreans attended a dinner hosted by Unification Minister Cho Myong-gyon, where participants agreed to keep working to boost inter-Korean ties, the ministry said.

Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said he hoped constructive talks between North Korea and the United States could begin when "an appropriate opportunity" arises.

PROTESTS GO ON

The North Korean delegation, led by former military intelligence chief Kim Yong Chol, met Chung Eui-yong, security adviser for the presidential Blue House, and other South Korean government officials for lunch on Monday.

Kim Yong Chol was accused by the South of being behind the sinking of a South Korean warship in 2010 that killed 46 sailors and has been the subject of protests since his visit was announced. North Korea has denied the allegations.

"Both sides agreed to work together for permanent peace on the Korean peninsula, sustainable relations between North and South Korea and balanced cooperation with the international society," the South's presidential office said in a statement.

Kim Yong Chol and his delegation will leave on Tuesday, just as North and South Korean officials gather on the North's side of the Panmunjom truce village to discuss Pyongyang's attendance at the Pyeongchang Winter Paralympics.

Impoverished North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The North regards regular military drills between the South and its main ally, the United States, as preparations for war.

Hundreds of right-wing protesters gathered in central Seoul on Monday to criticize Moon and his administration for hosting the North Koreans, Kim Yong Chol in particular. His visit has enraged families of the sailors who were killed in the torpedo attack. The South Korean government said it had approved the delegation as it pursues peace on the peninsula.

A total of 299 North Koreans who were in South Korea for the Winter Games, including a cheering squad, returned to the North on Monday.

- **INHOFE LEADS GOP DELEGATION TO SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN:** Oklahoma Sen. [Jim Inhofe](#), the second-most senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, led a Republican delegation to South Korea and Japan over last week's congressional recess. Inhofe - joined by Republican Sens. [Joni Ernst](#) of Iowa and [Dan Sullivan](#) of Alaska, as well as Republican Rep. [Trent Kelly](#) of Mississippi - visited the DMZ and met with South Korea's Defense Minister Song Young-moo and Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces-Korea. In Japan, the lawmakers met with U.S. Forces Japan and 7th Fleet leadership. The lawmakers discussed countering North Korea, missile defense and China's growing influence in the region, according to a [statement](#) from Inhofe's office.

YOUR EDITOR TASKED THE DPRK POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP:

OK...so where are we now? Comments needed. Here's Abe Denmark's this morning...#3 is something we've all worried about since Moon was elected. So #2 is the key, right? SO long as Moon doesn't undercut sanctions, he can push us on "talks", right?

ABE DENMARK

Three implications here. First, this is a test of statements by the @VP that the U.S. is willing to talk to North Korea. [bbc.com/news/world-asi...](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56111111)

Second, this is a test of the ability of the U.S. and ROK to engage Pyongyang while maintaining pressure. The fact that this announcement came just after more sanctions were announced suggests that things are holding together so far.

Third, this statement from Seoul carries with it some ominous signs. Clearly, Seoul is positioning itself as a go-between for Washington and Pyongyang. Not great for the Alliance. But Seoul publicly pressuring Washington like this suggests a significant break between the two.

JIM PRZYSTUP, NDU

Sanctions are starting to bite; agree with Abe that the timing of the North's offer is not coincidental. Earlier in the month senior Blue House aides explained that Moon wanted to use South-North dialogue to encourage the North to talk to the US. Not sure that Moon's intervention has had any significant impact on the North's decision to talk. The "bridging" concept is not new to Korean diplomacy and Trump must make clear to Moon that the U.S. does not need a bridge to Pyongyang, will continue to take the lead on denuclearization, and that the alliance/exercises are not up for discussion in South-North dialogue, which should be focused on creating "an environment" for further progress. This should start with implementation of the 1991 Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression and Exchange.

JIM SCHOFF, Carnegie

This seems like a no-brainer to me. We should welcome the opportunity to talk to see what kind of negotiation might be possible and keep the alliance united. A key request for us should be inclusion on the NK side of a person close to Kim Jong Un. It's no use just talking to the Foreign Ministry folks. In return we have NSC involved. I don't expect these talks to go very far, but at least we can get NK's demands for denuclearization on the record. Moon seems willing to continue with April military exercises as we pursue talks, which important. We can tone them down a bit but we should not postpone further just for these exploratory talks. If Moon can back this approach then I don't see a problem. Best, Jim

MIKE McDEVITT, C N A:

Chris-

We have to at least go ahead and meet to see if it is worth going forward. BUT, we have to avoid the pitfall's of the past...primarily becoming so invested in the process we give the NORK's leverage, e.g., if you don't do such and such we will walk away. It will take a firm back bone to be able to say "be my guest" because there is a strong possibility that the ROK will whine that we are messing up their engagement and ruin a potential Korean summit and so on.

So the key point we must drive home to Seoul is " don't be surprised if we don't responds to demands from Pyongyang to show good faith by doing something to lessen the pressure." The classic example I am thinking about is Chris Hill's decision to give-in on lifting Banco-Delta Asia sanctions. In short resist the "catnip" of keeping the negotiations going in order to gain, in the end, vague NORK "commitments."

Mike

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DAVE MAXWELL:

The real question is what kind of talking and coordination is occurring between the Blue House and the White House behind the scenes. If they are coordinating as closely as I heard they were to get the sanctions waiver for Kim Ho Jong and Kim Yong Chol to travel to South Korea for the Olympics why can't they coordinate these actions behind the scenes as well?

Surely the ROK and US are not conducting diplomacy through media messaging. We should not be judging ROK/US diplomacy by media reports and spokes-peoples' statements to the press. Surely the ROK is not trying to pressure the US in public through public statements. I think we have to believe our diplomats are working these alliance issues hard behind the scenes.

BOB MANNING, Atlantic Council

I wouldn't over-analyze. Not sure why it's a problem if the ROK want to play intermediary role. Not sure why it is a "test" to talk while we are maintaining pressure. Isn't that the point of pressure - to inflict enough pain (and we're starting to - otherwise NK wouldn't be doing this stuff) to get them to reconsider their goals and open diplomacy designed to lead to denuclearization?

Seoul is pressuring because for one thing, the Trumpkins have been so unpredictable they have even confused themselves. They have been all over the map and incoherent on preconditions/no preconditions, give up nukes and then we can talk, etc. And if they actually have strategy for diplomacy, it is a well-kept secret. I don't see any. They are like the dog chasing the car. Now what?

BRUCE KLINGNER, Heritage, semi-tongue-in cheek:

How about this? The US agrees to a meeting, then cancels two hours before it because of something objectionable that the regime said. Then the media will criticize Pyongyang for a "missed opportunity." ;-)

Scroll down for a bit of a Loyal Reader argument on whether S. Korea is being bullied by Nork nukes, but first...

THE ALLIANCE FACTOR...keeping in mind the Loyal Reader comments...

Japan wants U.S. and South Korea to help surveil Pyongyang-linked sanctions evaders in East China Sea

KYODO/Japan is asking the United States and South Korea to help watch for ship-to-ship transfers of fuel and other goods in the East China Sea that violate U.N. sanctions against North Korea, government sources said.

Japan is the only country watching over ship-to-ship transfers extensively involving North Korean vessels in the waters, the sources said Sunday. The Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Japan Coast Guard are engaged in the mission but want other countries to participate as well.

"If Japan, the United States and South Korea will lead efforts to crack down on ship-to-ship transfers, it will be easier to seek cooperation" from the entire global community, a senior Foreign Ministry official said in Tokyo. But the South Korean government may be reluctant to work with the Self-Defense Forces, whose existence remains controversial in light of its experience with the Japanese military occupation from 1910 to 1945.

South Korea's monitoring activities have been limited to waters near its shores, and the United States relies heavily on ally Japan when it comes to patrolling ship-to-ship transfers in the East China Sea, the sources said. "It's hard to say if we'll be able to gain support as South Korean President Moon Jae-in is placing emphasis on seeking dialogue with North Korea," a high-level

Japanese government official said of its outreach to Seoul.

From late January, the Japanese government has exposed three suspicious transfers in the waters involving North Korean and other tankers. The activities have been banned by a U.N. Security Council resolution adopted last September to condemn North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile tests.

As a way to share the monitoring burden, Tokyo is considering designating three sections in the East China Sea for the three countries to monitor. There is also a plan to decide a time period in which each country should engage in the mission, instead of assigning a certain section, the sources said.

FOOTNOTE:

N.K. unveils list of its delegates for talks with South on Paralympics

Yonhap News Agency | February 26

SEOUL, Feb. 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Monday unveiled a list of its three-member delegation for South and North Korea's talks on the North's participation in next month's Paralympics, Seoul officials said. Hwang Chung-song, an official at the North's state agency in charge of inter-Korean affairs, will be the chief delegate for working-level talks scheduled for Tuesday, according to Seoul's unification ministry.

The delegation also includes Jong Hyon, a vice chairman of the central committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD) and Yun Chol, an official at North Korea's body for disabled athletes. The two Koreas will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday at the northern part of the demilitarized zone to discuss details about the North's participation in the March 9-18 Paralympics.

At last month's inter-Korean talks, the North agreed to send a 150-member delegation, including athletes, an art troupe and cheerleaders, to the Paralympics. Seoul will send a three-member delegation led by Lee Joo-tae, a director-general in charge of inter-Korean exchanges at the ministry, to the upcoming talks, the ministry said.

South Korea and North Korea are expected to discuss details, such as which events the North's athletes will compete in. Details about the North's participation will be decided by the International Paralympic Committee. They will also exchange views about a travel route for the North's delegation and Seoul's provision of accommodations and logistical support.

The two Koreas have engaged in a flurry of sports diplomacy since North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expressed a willingness to send a delegation to the Feb. 9-25 PyeongChang Winter Olympics in his New Year's message. The North dispatched nearly 500 people, including athletes, musicians and cheerleaders to the Olympics.

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THE "BLOODY NOSE" ARGUMENT...and the role of bullying...let's begin with remarks last week by the always colorful John Bolton, once again rumored in line to replace Gen. McMaster as National Security Advisor, the good general to be sent off to Korea to command USFK/UN...a likely "signal" for sure, given McMaster's repeated association with harder-line remarks about North Nukes...

The Hill

John Bolton: North Korea nuclear weapons program top US national security threat

BY ALEXANDRA OLIVEIRA - 02/23/18 02:04 PM EST

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said Friday that North Korea's quickly expanding nuclear weapons program is the top national security threat to the United States.

"I think [the national security threat is] escalating every day the North continues with its nuclear weapons program," Bolton told The Hill at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) held just outside Washington, D.C.

Bolton spoke at CPAC on Friday, during which he shared his growing concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. "Once they get the capability to hit targets in the United States with nuclear weapons, it is entirely possible the next thing North Korea does is say withdraw all American troops from South Korea or we will use these weapons," he said.

YOUR EDITOR will confess to kind of starting a fight with some of the Discussion Group over the weekend, since we decided to take Bolton's tough talk literally, and in that spirit, we think his concluding remark is nonsense. Specifically, that it's "entirely possible" that a Kim threat to use his nukes can break the US-ROK alliance.

Naïve soul that we are, Your Editor doesn't believe that a threat which, if carried out, would be suicidal, has weight. Especially since the DPRK has had usable short-range nukes for many years now, so if Seoul and/or Washington are to be bluffed out of the alliance by a "threatened" use, how come the alliance isn't long gone? Here's our impertinent phrasing:

"Entirely possible?" OK OK, we all agree the "coercion threat" is the most likely "use" of his nukes, but why should that work on either Seoul or Tokyo? What's the difference between Kim, Putin and Xi in terms of actual (explosive) use being nuclear suicide? Bolton as a Cold Warrior should know all about "containment".

I know this gets us into the sticky "Norks as Pakistan" debate, but isn't what Bolton really saying is we have to bring down Kim now, before he gets an ICBM? Sure, a lot of us have that thought, and not just in the middle of the night. But if that's the real message here, why not say so? Oh, right...we're not going for Regime Change. All the sanctions are aimed at is "changing regime behavior". Right.

An idea: get everyone in S. Korea to carry a gun. That'll keep Kim away! Sigh...

Well, several LR's we totally respect respectfully disagreed with Your Editor. We'll quote a couple, and you can decide for yourself:

NICK EBERSTADT, AEI:

OK Chris, let's get our Two Minute Hate on Bolton, then get back to being analysts...

The difference between a nuclear DPRK and other regimes, including Pakistan, has to do with the nature of the regime in question. DPRK is a radically revisionist regime.

The same cannot be said of Russia or China or even Pakistan--in fact of any other current nuke states, no matter how distasteful the Kremlin's/Beijing's/Pakistan's current international policies may be.

Of course Pyongyang will use its nuke capabilities to try to push the US out of the peninsula.

Of course it will use these to further its aim of unconditional reunification.

What do we think they are going to do with a credible nuclear capability: offer the South cheap

electricity under their own "atoms for peace" program?

FWIW I have shared my own scenarios with our esteemed colleagues for how DPRK might leverage nuclear capabilities in pursuit of unconditional reunification. I have also made the case for using economic pressure to try to cripple the DPRK military economy.

If economic pressure doesn't prevent the DPRK from completing its plan to mass produce nukes and missiles, Pyongyang will be using these to press for an end to the US alliance and for unconditional reunification on its own terms.

And until North Korea is ruled by a better class of dictator, I'm afraid this is the prospect we are facing...

Best to all, Nick

UNDAUNTED, YOUR EDITOR TRIED AGAIN:

GRANTED TO ALL POINTS, including the recreational value of Bolton Bashing! But to repeat my QUESTION, please...why would Seoul or Tokyo be blackmailed by weapons the Norks CANNOT use w/o committing suicide?

ANSWER, I suppose, is because Trump has so undermined faith in America and the validity of the alliance. But even there...really? Anyhow, isn't THAT what we need to talk about, not silly Bolton remarks?

SEVERAL PRIVATE COMMENTS LIST ALL THE WAYS MOON HAS ALREADY BEEN COERCED. AGAIN, NO ARGUMENTS FROM ME!! BUT THAT'S NOT NUKES, AND THAT'S WHAT I WAS/AM TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO SERIOUSLY ENGAGE ON, DAMMIT!!

ANON:

Chris, yes, "really" the blackmail is working. The nuclear problem is severely exacerbating the underlying problems, including the divisions within South Korea and between South Korea and United States, and creating new ones.

Moreover, North Korea with nuclear weapons will, over the mid to long-term, almost certainly be considerably emboldened. North Korea will eventually raise tensions far more, they will continue and increase sneak attacks, cyber attacks, illicit activities, proliferation, etc.

They have sacrificed too much and run too many risks to build up their nuclear and missile programs to be satisfied with not getting a huge return on them. You are really underestimating the North Koreans...

HUMMM...OK...we promise to re-think. But in talking it over for tonight's Report, we emerge with a sense that it may have been the North Koreans who were desperate for summit, not Moon, and that the whole Olympic play was weakness not strength, even if well-orchestrated. Now still more sanctions are coming and the situation looks only to be getting worse for Pyongyang.

And so far...Moon is actually playing hardball on nuclear, exercises and sanctions. So it may be him, not Norks, who pull plug on summit. But even if it goes ahead, the message from South unlikely to be cozy no matter what Moon says in public.

THE YANG OF THAT YIN...and bearing in mind the possible resumption of DPRK testing in March, per the Summary....

The Washington Post

The White House's 'bloody nose' strategy on North Korea sounds Trumpian. So why do his aides hate it?

By David Nakamura and Greg Jaffe February 26 at 12:15 PM

No phrase is more closely associated with the Trump administration's North Korea strategy than "bloody nose."

The two words, captured in news articles and cited by people close to the administration, have quickly become shorthand for all manner of preemptive strikes designed to demonstrate American resolve and prevent Pyongyang from developing nuclear weapons that can hit the United States.

There's just one problem: Trump administration officials have insisted repeatedly - in classified briefings to Congress and in public testimony - that they've never said it, don't like it and would never support it.

"The phrase has never, ever been uttered by anyone in the White House," said a senior administration official involved in Asia policy. Sen. James E. Risch (R-Idaho) echoed those sentiments last week at an international security conference in Munich: "There is no bloody nose policy. Nobody knows where it came from."

And yet the White House can't shake it. The evocative phrase echoes the punchy, macho language President Trump has employed to threaten to "totally destroy" North Korea and taunt its leader Kim Jong Un as "Little Rocket Man" on Twitter.

The president has made clear from his first days in office that neutralizing the North Korea threat is his top national security priority. More recently the idea of a "bloody nose strike" has sparked worries in Washington and Seoul that a war may be imminent - even as the North Koreans on Sunday indicated that they were open to talks with the Trump administration. Foreign diplomats and Beltway analysts are comparing notes from meetings with senior Trump officials to figure out how serious the White House is about an attack.

On Friday, Trump probably added to their fears. "If the sanctions don't work, we'll have to go to phase 2," the president said ominously at a news conference with Australia's prime minister. "Phase 2 may be a very rough thing. It may be very, very unfortunate for the world."

In a sign of the White House's conflicting opinions on North Korea, White House aides privately express frustration that the bloody nose phrase has caught on so widely and so quickly. Such talk "should have petered out," the administration official said. The White House, he cautioned, does "not want to give the impression of a gathering snowball toward [military] conflict."

Theories abound to explain the phrase's staying power. Some foreign policy experts insist that the White House denials are simply disingenuous. "They are playing semantics here," said Thomas Wright, a foreign relations analyst at the Brookings Institution. Even as the Trump administration denies a pinprick strike designed to bloody North Korea's nose, Wright said, it still seems to view preventive military strikes on the country's nuclear program - and the catastrophic response from Pyongyang that might ensue - as a legitimate option.

Others said that the Trump administration's strategy, which it describes as "maximum pressure and engagement," is so murky that it is barely distinguishable from those of previous presidents. "The administration is trying to pretend that it's different," said Jeffrey Lewis, an arms control expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. "If you take them at their word ... [all] you are left with is this bellicose language stuff."

"Bloody nose" seems to better capture what's going on in Trump's head than the actual words of senior administration officials. The phrase is on its way to joining the pantheon of other memorable foreign policy idioms that have set expectations for military action and - for better or worse - come to define presidential policies.

The Obama administration was never able to part company with "leading from behind," which a

senior White House official used to describe the president's approach to Libya and then became a catchall for critics who disliked the president's cautious approach to using military force.

During George W. Bush's presidency, "shock and awe" served as an unfortunate shorthand to describe plans for a quick victory in Baghdad. Instead, Bush and the Iraqis were stuck with the bog of an insurgency.

The nearest analogy to "bloody nose" may be to the Kennedy administration's secret plans to destroy China's nuclear program in the early 1960s. In classified documents, senior Pentagon and White House officials talked about "strangling the baby in the cradle." Ultimately, they decided that the risks of a big war with China were too high.

Senior Trump administration officials were so bothered by the "bloody nose" phrase earlier this year that they set out to trace its origins. The first usage seems to have been in the headline of a Dec. 20 article in the Daily Telegraph.

The idea, according to one former U.S. official cited in the Telegraph article, was to "punch the North Koreans in the nose" to get Kim's attention. Around the same time foreign policy experts in Washington were growing increasingly alarmed at the prospect of a preventive U.S. strike.

In a scathing two-page memo to colleagues, John J. Hamre, a former top Pentagon official and president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, reported that a senior Trump administration official told him, "We are running out of time on North Korea."

Hamre, who had worked on the North Korea problem during the Clinton administration, insisted that such talk was reckless. "We are talking like frightened little rabbits, afraid of the lone wolf in the forest," he wrote. "Everyone in Washington should just calm down."

Six days later, H.R. McMaster, the president's national security adviser, warned publicly that new sanctions imposed on the North "might be our last best chance to avoid military conflict."

Confusion about the Trump administration's precise policy and exactly what constitutes a "bloody nose strike" added to the uncertainty. In Washington, the phrase initially referred to a discrete and targeted attack designed to send a message that the United States was serious, rather than destroy North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

By contrast, a much larger "preventive strike" would seek to set back or cripple the program. Either option could provoke a war, anger Beijing or shred the United States' relationships with its closest allies in Seoul and Tokyo, who have made it clear that they view the risk of a North Korean counterattack as too great.

"If they are going to use force, then they really need to explain what they are going to do and why they think it will work," Wright said. "It's really weird that they are not discussing it."

The lack of public discussion could be a sign that the administration's talk of military action is a bluff. Those who think the administration is seriously considering a "bloody nose" or preventive strike point to the dropping in January of Victor Cha, a former George W. Bush administration official, as the presumptive nominee to be U.S. ambassador to South Korea.

Cha had reportedly expressed private opposition to White House officials over the idea of a strike. Writing in The Washington Post after his nomination was derailed, Cha disparaged the idea that the United States could demonstrate its seriousness by giving "the mercurial Kim a bloody nose." "There is a point at which hope must give in to logic," Cha wrote. "If we believe that Kim is undeterrable without such a strike, how can we also believe that a strike will deter him from responding in kind?"

Unable to shake the "bloody nose" label, a frustrated McMaster has jokingly told aides to get to work on a "stubbed toe" strategy to complement existing plans.

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RUSSIAGATE...NBC First Read has been keeping score:

***** Collusion or not, Russia investigation is already the biggest political scandal in decades: After tallying the guilty pleas and indictments by special counsel Robert Mueller, as well as digesting the dueling Republican and Democratic memos from the House Intelligence Committee, here is what we know - so far - about the Russia probe:**

- **19 individuals have been charged with crimes, including President Trump's former campaign chairman (Paul Manafort), as well as 13 Russians.**
- **Five have pleaded guilty, including Trump's former national security adviser (Michael Flynn), a former top Trump campaign and transition official (Rick Gates) and a former campaign adviser (George Papadopoulos).**
- **Both Republicans (the Nunes memo) and Democrats (the Schiff memo) have confirmed that the FBI's Russia probe originated with Papadopoulos' claim to Australia's top diplomat that Russia had dirt on Hillary Clinton.**
- **The Schiff memo reveals that, by mid-September 2016, the FBI had opened "sub-inquiries" into MULTIPLE individuals connected with the Trump campaign - beyond former adviser Carter Page.**

Whether or not Mueller ever finds a smoking gun that Trump and his campaign colluded with Russia, this is already the biggest political scandal in decades. And we are just a year-plus into Trump's presidency and nine months into Mueller's probe. "Clearly the worst presidential scandal since at least Iran-Contra, but probably since Watergate," said political scientist Jonathan Bernstein.

And this does NOT include other moving parts of the Russia inquiry, including that June 2016 Trump Tower meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer, Donald Trump Jr.'s direct messages with WikiLeaks, Trump constantly invoking the WikiLeaks revelations during the final month of the 2016 race, and Jared Kushner's inability to obtain a permanent security clearance.

As the New York Times' Peter Baker wrote over the weekend, nothing produced by Mueller's probe has indicated wrongdoing by President Trump or illegal collaboration with Russians or Russian intermediaries. But Gates' guilty plea on Friday is getting closer to the president.

"The presumption in Mr. Trump's circle is that Mr. Gates may not have any incriminating information about the president but could be a dangerous witness against Mr. Manafort, who in turn could threaten Mr. Trump," Baker reported.

***** Trump's (slight) bump in the polls is over: Over the weekend, CNN and USA Today released new polls showing Trump's job rating below 40 percent - 35 percent in CNN, 38 percent in USA Today/Suffolk. And with those polls, Trump's average in the FiveThirtyEight tracker is below 40 percent for the first time in nearly a month.**

Political pollster Charles Franklin makes an important point: Trump's numbers in live-caller/cell phone polls (like CNN's, Suffolk's and NBC/WSJ's) have been worse than in robo/no-cell polls like Rasmussen. And with Gallup's live-caller moving from a daily to weekly tracking, Franklin adds, that means that polling averages aren't represented as much by liver-caller polls. Instead, they're represented more by robo polls like Rasmussen.

Klobuchar: Tech companies should face fines if they don't get rid of "bots

": Also on "Meet" yesterday, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said "she believes tech giants like Facebook and Twitter should face fines if they fail to get rid of 'bots' after they are discovered by the government. 'I think that would be a great idea,' she said when asked on Sunday's 'Meet The Press.' 'But then you need a Congress to act and there are too many people who are afraid of doing something about this because we know these sites are popular.'"

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GUN POLITICS...

The Hill

Washington governor confronts Trump at White House

BY JORDAN FABIAN

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) confronted President Trump on Monday over his proposal to arm educators in order to prevent future school shootings. Inslee stood and objected to the controversial idea during a meeting with the nation's governors at the White House, telling Trump that law enforcement agencies and instructors are both alarmed by the idea of teachers "packing heat" around young children.

"So I just suggest we need a little less tweeting here, a little more listening," said Inslee, who has been rumored as a possible Democratic challenger to Trump in 2020. "Let's just take that off the table and move forward."

The president stood with his arms folded but did not directly respond to the Washington governor's comment. He did call on Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) to explain how teachers and coaches are trained to carry firearms in his state. The surprising confrontation came during an hourlong appearance by Trump, during which he spoke about issues ranging from immigration and North Korea to trade and the economy.

But the central focus of the meeting was the nation's gun laws, which have come under increasing scrutiny following this month's deadly school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

The president has come under pressure from Democrats, and some Republicans, to approve stricter laws cracking down on the type of rifle that was used in the shooting, which left 17 dead. But many Republicans and the National Rifle Association have resisted new restrictions on guns, arguing that stronger mental health programs and turning schools into "hard targets" could prevent future massacres.

Trump said he ate lunch last weekend with top NRA executives Wayne LaPierre and Chris Cox, even as he said he is willing to take on the powerful gun-rights group. "If they're not with you, we have to fight them once in a while, that's OK," the president said. "But sometimes we're going to have to be very tough and we're going to have to fight them."

Trump has floated a wide-range of proposals, from bolstering the gun background check system and raising the age limit to buy certain high-powered rifles to giving guns to trained teachers and staff. Trump expressed doubt the NRA would oppose his response. "Don't worry about the NRA," the president told the governors. "They're on our side. Half of you are so afraid of the NRA - there's nothing to be afraid of."

Trump, however, has placed the greatest emphasis on arming teachers, a proposal that has run into opposition from Democrats and many Republicans, including Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R).

The president dismissed criticism of the idea, saying that educators would have to have a "natural talent" for handling firearms, "like hitting a baseball or hitting a golf ball." "The headline was Trump wants all teachers to have guns. Trump wants teachers to have guns. I don't want teachers to have guns. I want highly trained people," he said.

Trump also said law enforcement officers must act to stop shooters given the chance, saying that sheriff's deputies outside the Florida high school "weren't exactly Medal of Honor winners." "I really believe I'd run in there even if I didn't have a weapon and I think most of the people in this room would have done that, too," Trump said.

Trump did single out one area where he said he would take on the NRA: bump stocks. "I'm writing that out myself. I don't care if Congress doesn't," Trump said.

Bump stocks are attachments that allow certain semi-automatic rifles, like the type used in the Florida shooting, to fire much more rapidly. The device was used in last year's massacre at a Las Vegas outdoor concert, which left 58 people dead.

Over the past week, Trump has sought to demonstrate he is ready to take action to prevent future incidents of mass gun violence. He held an emotional listening session with children and parents affected by school shootings last week at the White House, which was shown on national television.

The Hill

Eric Trump: 'I don't think it's a big deal if you raise the age to 21' for guns

BY REBECCA SAVRANSKY

Eric Trump on Monday offered support for raising the federal age limit for purchasing assault weapons to 21. "I'm a big Second Amendment person. I don't think it's a big deal if you raise the age to 21," he said during an interview on "Fox & Friends."

The president's son also said that he thinks everybody would welcome more comprehensive background checks. "At least personally, I don't want to see a whack job get any kind of dangerous object of any kind," he said. "I don't want them buying a chainsaw. I don't want them buying a hammer. I probably don't want them buying a car because they can be just as deadly. I surely don't want them buying an assault rifle."

Support for raising the age limit for purchasing an assault weapon among Republicans has been growing since the mass shooting at a Florida high school earlier this month. It's one of several changes to law that President Trump is now advocating. Raising the age limit is opposed, however, by the National Rifle Association, which argues people aged 18 to 20 should not have their constitutional right to buy a gun infringed upon.

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THAT'S IT FOR TONIGHT...

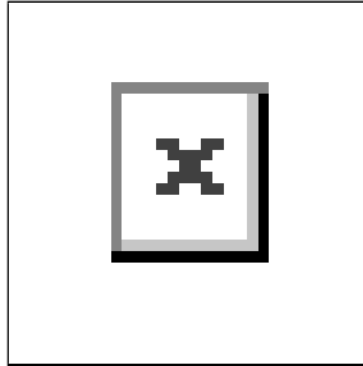
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CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Press Summary
Date:	Sun, 5 Feb 2017 20:16:18 -0500

Good morning Sir,

Today's top headlines continue to include broad, if increasingly more critical, coverage of the Executive Order on Immigration with outlets highlighting the opposition that resulted in protests outside of the US Embassy here in Jakarta and in Manila over the weekend. Foreign Minister Retno gave an exclusive interview to *Komas* while Hary Tanoesoedibjo spoke about his partnership with the Trump Organization to *Koran Tempo*. Additionally, the joint prayer organized by Ahok and NU's Jakarta chapter was covered with contrasting reports of NU denying their involvement and saying members who participated will be sanctioned. The licensing issue of Freeport also continued to be a widely covered issue, especially as it relates to the potential for "near term" cuts to production and staff for the company.

Indonesians, Filipinos Protest Trump's Immigration Policy (AP 1/4)

Indonesian and Filipino students on Saturday protested President Donald Trump's immigration policy outside the U.S. Embassies in their capitals. In Jakarta, dozens of students and activists from several rights groups called on the Indonesian government and the international community to help stop Trump's order that temporarily banned travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries. They do not include Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, and the Philippines, a key U.S. ally. However, Indonesia is home to nearly 14,000 refugees seeking resettlement in third countries, and Trump's ban will significantly impact their chances of going to the U.S., said rights activist Veronica Koman, who organized the protest. US judge on Friday imposed a nationwide hold on Trump's ban on travelers and immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen, siding with two states that had challenged the executive order that has launched legal battles across the country. "We are here to protest Trump's xenophobic and Islamophobia policies," Koman said. Protesters waved banners such as "I'm angry with Trump" and "No ban, no wall." "Actually this is not only for Muslims but this is war against humanity because the immigrants or refugees around the world, not only from Muslim countries, don't have to be treated like this," said activist Filza Inanuma. "Everybody should have rights to go everywhere they want for their protection, for their life."

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_ASIA_TRUMP_PROTESTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-02-04-01-17-43

No Country Can Live Alone (Kompas 2/4, p.1)

Exclusive interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi

Related to President Trump's immigration policy, what steps the Indonesian government have taken for Indonesian citizens in the US?

We have been communicating intensively with Indonesian government representatives in the US. We have mapped the locations of citizens. There are 146,000 and we have issued alert messages.

Indonesia has built a relationship with the US for a long time. How does Indonesia respond to this policy?

This decision comes from a sovereign country. However, since it does not fulfill international principles, other countries would likely give comments. If the policy aimed to fight against terrorism it would not work, since we could win in the fight against terrorism only through international cooperation. Thus, it is important to maintain good relationships with as many countries as possible.

Will the cooperation between Indonesia-US be the same or is there any new expectation?

I took the basic of what US Ambassador Joseph R. Donovan Jr. has said that the US has a high commitment to continue comprehensive partnership with Indonesia. Indonesia is always committed to improve mutual relationships with all countries, especially the United States as one of the most important partners.

In relation to the Palestine's issues, how does Indonesia respond to the US attitude?

Indonesia will continue the efforts to obtain support from countries in the world to support Palestine.

Hary Tanoesoedibjo: Boycotting Trump Will Not Work (Koran Tempo 2/6, p.13)

Hary Tanoesoedibjo gave an exclusive interview for *Koran Tempo*. Here is an excerpt.

Will Trump's election as U.S. President affect the Lido and Bali projects?

Trump is not involved in business anymore ever since he got elected. He has said that firmly. In fact, he said he would not start a new business. There is no conflict of interest. But, his children will carry the businesses forward and follow our agreements.

What's the business arrangement like between you and Trump?

They manage our investment, all but the residential and theme park projects.

We heard reports about MNC paying 20 billion IDR to Trump. Is that part of the license?

No comment. In any form of cooperation, you will find commercial transactions. I cannot confirm that 20 billion IDR.

A number of Americans are boycotting Trump hotels as a reaction to his policies.

I am sure those boycotts will not work. People will come for cheap but good quality, especially if there is a discount.

Ahok Joins NU Mass Prayer (liputan6.com 2/5)

Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama joined a mass prayer organized on Sunday evening by the Jakarta chapter of Nahdlatul Ulama in support of the Jakarta gubernatorial candidate. Ahok was joined on stage by NU clerics including Noor Muhammad Iskandar, Nusron Wahid, and Gus Nuril.

- **Jakarta NU Committee Denies Involvement in Mass Prayer with Ahok** (viva.co.id 2/6)

Jakarta NU committee denied involvement in the mass prayer. Mahfudz Asirun said that the committee was not made aware of the event and was still insulted by statements made by Ahok during his hearing last week, deemed to have disrespected NU supreme leader. Mahfudz also said that they would take firm action against Jakarta NU committee members involved in organizing the mass prayer.

Government Asked to Follow the Rules (Kompas 2/6, p. 17)

Vice Chairman of Commission VII of the House of Representatives (DPR) Satya Widya Yudha said the government should implement the regulation number 1 Year 2017 on the requirements of mineral concentrate export. He said if Freeport could not fulfil the requirements, government should not give permit for Freeport to export. The company should follow the regulation by building the smelter. Meanwhile, in an official statement on Freeport McMoran Inc website, Freeport CEO Richard Adkerson said Freeport actively involved with Indonesian government to get full operation. Freeport also expressed disappointment due to no concrete deal with Indonesian government. Employee and production cuts and investment plan become a concern.

Freeport to Cut Indonesia Operations If Export Approval Delayed (Reuters 2/3)

Freeport-McMoRan Inc, the world's biggest publicly-listed copper miner, said on Friday it will cut costs, staff, and spending in Indonesia in the "near-term" if there is continued delay in government approval to export copper concentrates. Freeport's exports of copper concentrate from Indonesia have been halted since Jan. 12 when a ban on shipping semi-processed ore out of the Southeast Asian country came into effect to boost the local smelter industry.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-freeport-mcmoran-idUSL1N1FO0SV?rpc=401&>

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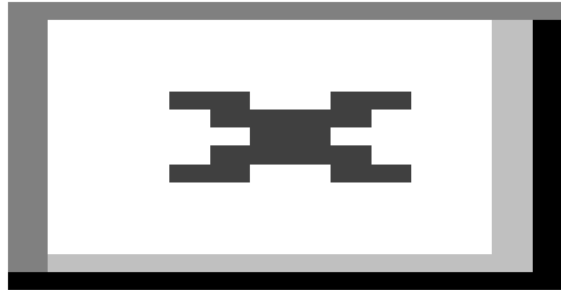
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- **Finance Minister Cleared of Ethical Violation Accusations**
- **Canadian Stores Pressured to Dump Trump Products**
- **Carbon Tax Could Be the Defining Issue of the Autumn 2019 Federal Election**
- **Ottawa Resists Pressure to Terminate Safe Third Country Agreement over Treatment of Minors**
- **Recreational Cannabis Use Faces Final Senate Vote, on Cusp of Becoming Legal**
- **Halifax Next Home of World's Largest Offshore Earthquake Research Center**

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Finance Minister Cleared of Ethical Violation Accusations

1. (U) The Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner cleared Finance Minister Bill Morneau over his October 2016 sponsorship of pension legislation, Bill C-27. Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion ruled on June 18 that Morneau “did not place himself in a conflict of interest in making decisions leading to the introduction of Bill C-27” because the legislation is “of general application.” Outcry over Morneau’s sponsorship of the legislation emerged in November 2017 following news that he had not divested his shares in Morneau Shepell nor placed them in a blind trust. Ms. Dawson initiated the investigation after she received separate requests from NDP MP Nathan Cullen and Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre, asking her to look into the finance minister’s conduct. Both raised concerns that . Morneau was violating conflict-of-interest rules because the bill could advance his private interests as a shareholder of Morneau Shepell. Bill C-27 proposes changes to private pensions, something that would fall under the company's purview. "I found that he did not place himself in a conflict of interest in making decisions leading to the introduction of Bill C-27, therefore he did not contravene the Conflict of Interest Act," Dion said. The finance minister has weathered a series of blows to his credibility over the course of the year. Last fall, he was fined \$200 for failing to disclose ownership of

a villa in France. He was also accused of using insider information in the sale of shares of Morneau Shepell, but was cleared of those allegations. Bill C-27 remains in second reading in the House.

Canadian Stores Pressured to Dump Trump Products

2. (U) Amid the calls to boycott American goods following the recent U.S. tariffs levied against Canada, some Canadian stores are facing pressure to stop carrying "Trump products," namely apparel and accessories from Ivanka Trump's fashion line. Scott Gilmore, a writer for Maclean's, a popular Canadian national current affairs and news magazine, compiled a list of companies that either are owned by a member of the Trump family or sell Trump goods. Gilmore called on Canadians to boycott businesses on this list, contact the company to explain why, use social media to engage to address the companies publically, and encourage friends to boycott as well. The list includes Hudson's Bay, Trump Hotel: Vancouver, Winners, Walmart, and Amazon as well as a number of other U.S. companies with locations in Canada. The Maclean's list has been widely circulated on social media with many Canadians pledging to take part. Hudson's Bay in particular is being targeted because, even though it is now U.S.-owned, Canadians still see it as an iconic Canadian company. As of June 19, Hudson's Bay gave no direct indication if it would drop Ivanka Trump products. "We respect our customers' right to choose the brands that work for them. In turn, our customers' choices inform our decisions on which merchandise we offer," spokesperson Tiffany Bourré said on June 18. According to Toronto-based strategy adviser Mark Satov, boycotts generally do not work. "If the Bay has reduced Ivanka Trump's merchandise, it's because consumers simply aren't buying it," Satov said.

Carbon Tax Could Be the Defining Issue of the Autumn 2019 Federal Election

3. (U) Observers suggest the federal Conservatives are attempting to make the Pan Canadian Framework on Carbon Pricing (PCF or simply "carbon tax") the central focus of the 2019 federal election campaign. An overnight filibuster in parliament on June 14 by the Conservatives demanding the government turn over documents that purportedly reveal the "true cost to the average family" of the federal government's carbon tax is the latest example of the Conservatives giving prominence to the issue. Earlier in the week Conservative leader Andrew Scheer committed to meeting Canada's Paris climate targets, but without employing a carbon tax; Scheer has yet to reveal the plan. A number of analysts have drawn comparisons to the 1988 federal election when the dominant theme of the election was the Canada – United States Free Trade Agreement (the Conservatives were for, Liberals and NDP against.) The federal focus on carbon-pricing as an election issue is amplified by the fraying consensus of provincial support for the Trudeau government's Pan-Canadian Framework on Carbon-Pricing. Ontario premier-designate Doug Ford has promised to end that province's cap-and-trade system with California and Quebec and will be joining Saskatchewan's legal fight over the federal government's right to impose a federal carbon tax where provinces have not levied their own. Manitoba's Conservative government has said it will only go part way in meeting the federal carbon pricing plan and Alberta's NDP government is facing stiff opposition from the provincial Conservatives in a spring 2019 election, in which Alberta Conservative leader Jason Kenney has vowed to scrap the Alberta carbon tax program.

Ottawa Resists Pressure to Terminate Safe Third Country Agreement with the US over Treatment of

Minors

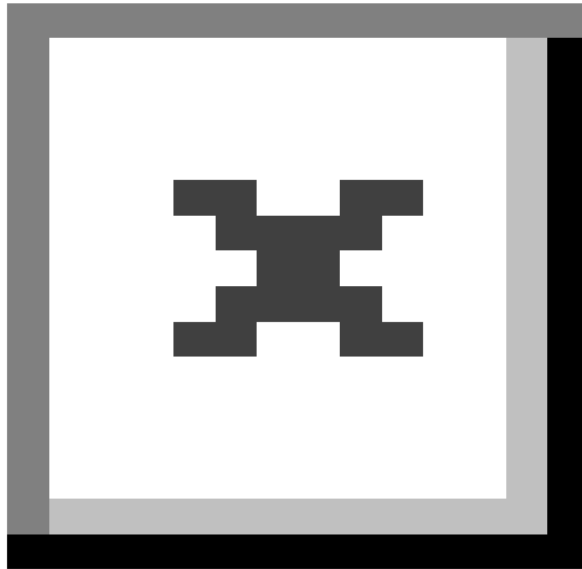
4. (U) A wide cross-section of Canadian media carried negative reports on the U.S. "zero tolerance" immigration policy, highlighting the purported 2,000 children who had been separated from their detained illegal immigrant parents. PM Trudeau sought to stay above the fray, declining press requests to opine on the policy, stating his role as Prime Minister is to stand up for Canadian values while maintaining a constructive relationship with the United States. Refugee advocates and the New Democratic Party called on Ottawa to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) with the United States on the basis that the United States is no longer safe for refugees. One long-serving Liberal MP called the Embassy to express "displeasure" with the policy. Asked to comment on whether Canada can still consider the United States a safe third country, Transport Minister Garneau responded: "Of course we can." Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen, however, would only confirm the government is monitoring the situation to determine whether the United States is meeting its obligations under the STCA. In November 2017, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale issued a directive on the treatment of minors in Canada's immigration detention system, with instructions to keep children out of detention and with their parents "as much as humanly possible." Nevertheless, statistics from the Canada Border Services Agency show between 150 and 180 minors held at immigration detention centers each of the previous three years.

Recreational Cannabis Use Faces Final Senate Vote, on Cusp of Becoming Legal

5. (U) The House of Commons voted 205 to 82 to return the Cannabis Act (Bill C-45) to the Senate June 18 with a message accepting 27 (mostly technical and semantic) Senate amendments, and rejecting 14 substantive changes, including the Senate proposal to prohibit home-cultivation. The Senate may vote on the House's version as early as June 19. The caucus of 32 Conservative senators is opposed to Bill C-45, but would need the support of independent Liberals (11 members) and seven unaffiliated senators to reinstate some or all of the amendments, or to defeat the bill. The largest caucus - the government-leaning Independent Senators Group (ISG, 46 members) - is likely to defer to the government to prevent a second round of legislative ping-pong between the two chambers. Independent senator Andre Pratte, who proposed the amendment on home cultivation, has stated there would be nothing to gain from a prolonged confrontation with the government. If Bill C-45 is adopted this week by the Senate, Bill Blair, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Health and the PM's point man on cannabis legalization, suggested publicly the legal market for cannabis will likely open up in early to mid-September.

Halifax Next Home of World's Largest Offshore Earthquake Research Center

6. (U) Within two years, Canadian scientists hope to open the world's largest offshore earthquake research center in Halifax to evaluate data from more than 100 offshore sensors. Local seismologists indicate 90% of quakes that affect Canadians happen offshore, and the new center will help scientists better prepare Canadians for seismic events. The center, currently under construction, will be based at Halifax's Dalhousie University and will be a collaborative effort with a number of Canadian universities, federal government departments, and private companies.



Source: Toronto Sun

7. (SBU) Upcoming Visits/Events:

June

19-20	HSI Assistant Director Alysa Erichs, Ottawa ON (Five Eyes Law Enforcement Group Meeting)
22	FPOTUS Clinton, Toronto ON
25-26	FFLOTUS Laura Bush, Toronto ON
29-	FPOTUS Clinton, Vancouver BC and Quebec City QC

July
1

September

19-21	G7 Climate, Oceans, and Energy Ministerial, Halifax NS
-------	--

8. (U) Host Country Leader Travel

June

20-21	François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade will lead a delegation to the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council National Conference and Business Fair in Detroit
-------	--

Signature: CRAFT

Drafted By: (b)(6)

Cleared By: ECON:(b)(6)

POL:(b)(6)

Approved By: ECON:Dwyer, Stuart A

Released By: OTTAWA(b)(6)

Info: (b)(6)

(b)(6) ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; MEXICO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; CIA
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; TOKYO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE;

(b)(6)

DCMA, Americas ROUTINE;(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) ALL CANADIAN POSTS
COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; NATO EU COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; WESTERN
HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS *ROUTINE*

Dissemination Rule: Released Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

SBU

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Ottawa - Country Team <Ottawa-CountryTeam@state.gov>; WHA-CAN-Internal <WHACANInternal@state.gov>; (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
Subject: Departing Trump Hotel !
Date: Tue, 26 Jun 2018 21:05:21 +0000

Oh, no (b)(6) You will be sorely missed – I know how deeply Ambassador and (b)(6) have appreciated your assistance.

Thank you for the thoughtfulness of sending your email, as well as for providing (b)(6) name and email address.

Best wishes to you in your continuing life’s adventure!

(b)(6)
 Office Manager to (b)(6)
 U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
 Tel: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:59 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Thank You

Good afternoon (b)(6)

I wanted to write this email and say thank you for the trust you put in me and the hotel.

Today is my last day working for Trump DC and I wanted to properly inform you.

By the end of the day, I will not have access to this email. My personal email is (b)(6) (b)(6) our Managing Director has advised that he will be happy to oversee any inquiries or reservations for the Ambassador or (b)(6) moving forward, he may be reached at (b)(6)

It has been a pleasure working with you!

Best regards,

(b)(6)
 Director of Attache

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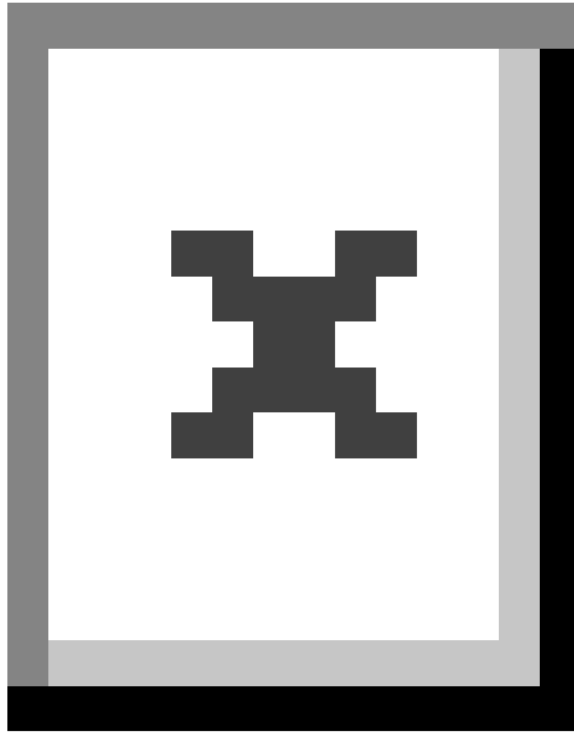
Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) @trumphotels.com>

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft
CC:	Kristen Branscum (b)(6)
Subject:	CHANGED: Trump Hotel for 1 Night only, Aug 28
Date:	Mon, 26 Aug 2019 19:23:53 +0000

Ambassador,
Per Kristen's instructions, reservations at the Trump Intl Hotel were changed to **one night only** – Aug 28, checking out Aug 29.

You both have standard King rooms, confirmation letters are attached: CONF# 22563975-1 and 24894483-1.



Unclassified

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
	Kelly Craft
	Kristen Branscum (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
Subject: CHANGED RESV at TRUMP HOTEL / Dec 12-14
Date: Fri, 7 Dec 2018 17:43:57 +0000

Deborah,
 FYI, I changed the reservations at the Trump Intl Hotel in Washington. AMB & (b)(6) now arriving December 12, checking out Dec 14. Two nights in a Premier 1-bedroom suite, CONF# remains the same # 42043758-1. The person assisting this time seemed sharper and said she would email the new confirmation to me – but I’m informing you in case it comes your way nevertheless!

Have a great day... great weekend as well!

(b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 4:37 PM
To: 'Deborah Lackey' (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RESV at TRUMP HOTEL / Dec 11-13

I don't always receive Trump's confirmation right away – sometimes next day. I received the confirmation # over the phone, so all should be well.

Yep, I cancelled Ritz Dallas and sent you their cancellation # by separate email. All good!

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 4:33 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RESV at TRUMP HOTEL / Dec 11-13

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Do you normally receive an immediate notification from Trump Intl.? Neither (b)(6) or I has received anything, but I will forward you the confirmation if I receive it.

Did you cancel the Ritz Dallas reservation that was scheduled for tonight/tomorrow?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Deborah Lackey (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RESV at TRUMP HOTEL / Dec 11-13

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

Deborah,

I just reserved a one-bedroom premier suite at the Trump Intl Hotel in Washington, D.C., for AMB & (b)(6) (b)(6) for two nights beginning December 11 (check out December 13).

The manager was away for a couple of days, so I spoke with a reservations clerk who did not seem to be the sharpest. When it became clear that your contact details/email were on record, I told him to keep it that way and to send the confirmation to you – so you will receive the confirmation email for this reservation # 42043758-1.

(b)(6) confirmed that he credited their Trump Membership # (b)(6) I guaranteed the reservation against AMB Craft's American Express ending in (b)(6) Cost is \$1970/night + tax.

Thanks,
Linda

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Deborah Lackey (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 28, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated January 31, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified two additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)
Date:	Sun, 18 Feb 2018 14:11:13 -0500

Confirming we are staying in the junior suite at Trump.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Subject: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

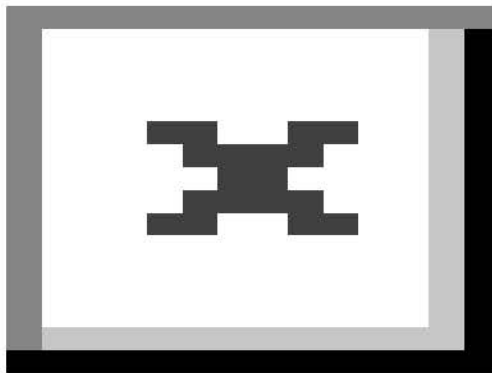
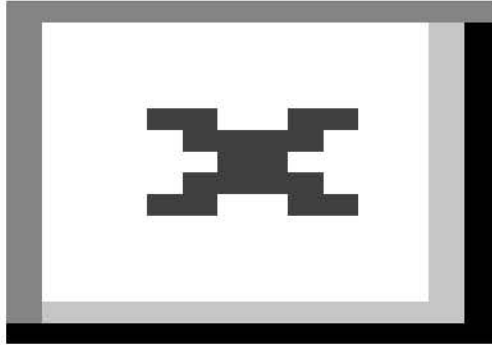
Ambassador,
See below that your normal suite it not available. (b)(6) offers two options: junior suite at \$1500/night or Post Master Suite at \$3500/night. You'll be staying two nights. Your preference?

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 8:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: RESV for Ambassador & (b)(6) / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

Good evening (b)(6)

Thank you for your patience, I was able to get the best rate for Mr. & Ambassador Craft as follows:

Executive Junior Suite at \$1,500 - this is not their normal suite, this is a bachelor type of suite that they have stayed in the past or the Post Master Suite at \$3,500 which is a signature suite, larger than their usual suite. It is 1600 square feet, this luxurious suite has separate living, dining and bedroom areas. he suite features a king size bed, custom luxurious bed and bath linens including plush robes, 55" high definition television with enhanced sound system, complimentary VoIP phone calls, and other similar amenities as their usual suite. .I have attached some photos below:



We have one of each room left, kindly let me know how the Ambassador wishes to proceed.

Best regards,

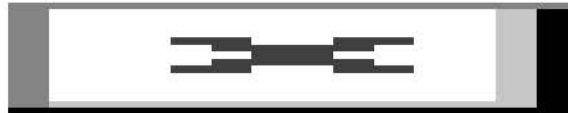
(b)(6)

Director of Attache

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✕ ✕ ✕



Forbes Travel Guide Most Anticipated Hotel Openings Of 2016

On Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 6:56 PM, (b)(6) wrote:
No worries, (b)(6) I appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you tomorrow!

Have a great evening,

(b)(6)
Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 6:54 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: RESV for Ambassador & (b)(6) / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

Good afternoon (b)(6)

It is so nice to hear from you!

I am working on some rates for them as their usual suite is booked until March.

Kindly allow me until tomorrow to have something to present for Mr. & Ambassador Craft.

Best regards,
(b)(6)
Director of Attache

NOW OPEN

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1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
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Forbes Travel Guide Most Anticipated Hotel Openings Of 2016

On Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 4:59 PM, (b)(6) wrote:
Dear (b)(6)

Ambassador Kelly Craft and (b)(6) would like to stay at Trump International Hotel for two nights, arriving approximately 9:00 pm on Thursday, February 22, and checking out Saturday morning, February 24. As they have enjoyed in the past, they request a one-bedroom suite please.

I believe you already have their necessary information on record, in order to finalize the reservation. Should you need anything further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for emailing me confirmation of the reservation.

With my thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

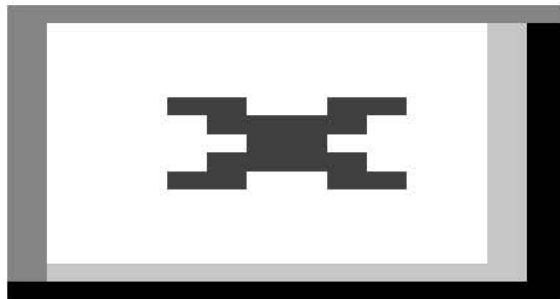
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From: Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C. [mailto:reservations@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) - 45009086-1

[View this email in your browser](#)



THANK YOU (b)(6) FOR BOOKING AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER	45009086
GUEST NAME	(b)(6)
TRUMP CARD	(b)(6)
ARRIVAL DATE	THURSDAY JANUARY 20
DEPARTURE DATE	FRIDAY JANUARY 19 20
NO. OF NIGHTS	1 NIGE

NO. OF PERSONS

1 ADUL

ROOM DESCRIPTION

1 PREMIER ON
BEDROOM SUITE, ON
KING BE

RATE NAME

DISYB

RATE BY DAY

USD 1,195.00 PER NIGE

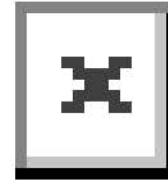
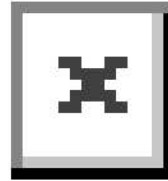
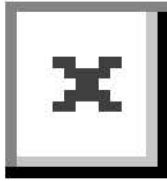
RATE INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION ONL

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 PHONE: 202.695.1100
 TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426
 EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COM
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Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.





TRUMP WELLNESS

We want to help you maintain your healthy lifestyle when traveling. With our Trump Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The SPA BY
IVANKA TRUMP™

We welcome you to unwind and enjoy refreshing customized level of service in a haven of relaxation and well-being. The Spa by IVANKA TRUMP™ seeks to create pathways for you through inner health and external beauty.

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Helmed by celebrated chef David Burke, we invite you to indulge in our Five Star Diamond awarded signature steakhouse, renowned for the highest-quality, dry-aged steaks and seafood dishes complemented by savory sides.

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POLICIES

***100% Smoke-Free
Check-in Time: 4:00 PM
Check-out Time: 12:00 PM***

ADDITIONAL TAX & SERVICES

Rates are subject to the following:

14.8% Room Tax

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.



Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Amb & (b)(6) invitation to Vice President Pence's Retreat
Date: Wed, 24 Jan 2018 18:49:00 -0500

Ambassador,

I received a call tonight from Jaelyn Schwingamer (b)(6) to provide more information regarding the Vice President's invitation for January 29-30. You and (b)(6) are invited to attend a Leadership PAC Retreat, anticipating 100-150 attendees, at Trump Hotel in Washington. Monday includes breakfast, lunch and dinner with panel sessions in between. Tuesday includes panels, followed by brunch, and a State of the Union Watch Party at 7:30pm.

VP Pence will be at Monday's lunch and dinner, but he is not participating on Tuesday.

Because of the political nature of this event, I am certain there would be ethical issues with you as an Ambassador participating. I am happy to ask (b)(6) to weigh in, if you wish?

From: Samantha Menh (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 5:28 PM
To: (b)(6) Jaelyn Schwingamer; Marty Obst
Subject: Amb. and (b)(6) invitation to attend Vice President's Pence's Retreat

(b)(6)

Circling back on our retreat invitation for the Crafts to attend the *2018 Great America Committee MAGA Leadership Summit*. **Great America Committee** supports candidates and elected officials who fight alongside the President in making America great again, and is led by our Chairman, Vice President Mike Pence.

It will be hosted in Washington, DC beginning on Monday, January 29th, 2018 at 8:00 am through Tuesday morning. There is an optional State of the Union Watch Party on the evening of Tuesday, January 30th, 2018.

If you would like to RSVP the Crafts and haven't submitted vitals via our secure portal or registered for a hotel room, please do so immediately.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER A SECURE REGISTRATION LINK \(AMB KELLY CRAFT\)](#)

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER A SECURE REGISTRATION LINK \(JOE CRAFT\)](#)

We are holding a limited number of rooms at the Trump Hotel available at a rate of \$299 on a first come, first serve basis. To book your room, please go to: **[Great America Committee Room Block at the Trump Hotel](#)**

This is a **closed** event and everyone will be required to submit their vitals to the United States Secret Service. **Credentials will be handed out at registration and must be displayed at ALL times.**

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

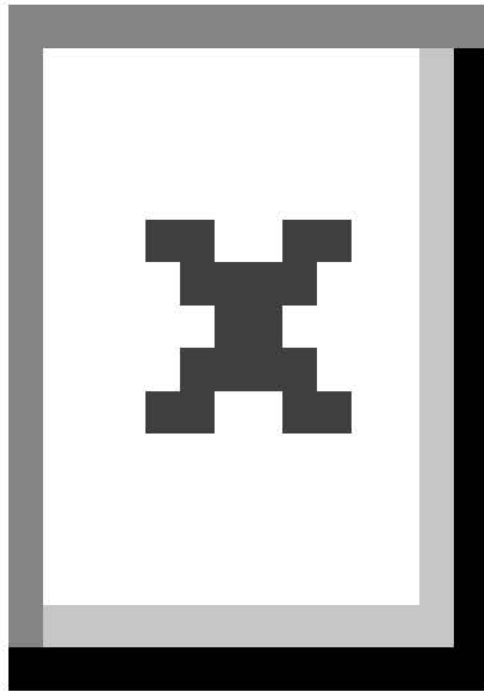
Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,



SAMANTHA MENH
Great America Committee

(b)(6)



Official - Transitory

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)



2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Shirley Pence

**2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AGENDA
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018**

Trump International Hotel
1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20004

High: 49° / Low: 32°

Showers, 50% chance of rain

Attire: Events require business attire.

THIS IS A DRAFT AGENDA as of 1/24/18 AND TIMES AND SPEAKERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

5:00pm	EVENT	GUEST REGISTRATION
	LOCATION:	Ballroom Foyer
	NOTE:	Registration closes at 7:00pm Bring proper ID and allow time to get through security

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

7:30am	EVENT	GUEST REGISTRATION
	LOCATION:	Ballroom Foyer
	NOTE:	Doors for breakfast open at 8:00am Bring proper ID and allow time to get through security Please have proper credentials displayed

8:30am	EVENT	BREAKFAST WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	LOCATION:	Salon A
	EMCEE:	MATTHEW LIGHT <i>NFL Pro-Bowler, New England Patriots Player (2001-2011), The Light Foundation</i>
	SPEAKER:	MARTY OBST <i>Senior Political Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence and Executive Director, Great America Committee</i>

9:30am	EVENT	STATE OF THE RACE: 2018 POLITICAL BRIEFING
	LOCATION:	Salon A
	MODERATOR:	HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY <i>Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives</i>
	PARTICIPANTS:	PAUL BENNECKE <i>Executive Director of Republican Governor's Association</i> CHRIS HANSEN <i>Executive Director of National Republican Senatorial Committee</i> JOHN ROGERS <i>Executive Director of National Republican Congressional Committee</i>

10:45am	EVENT	MESSAGING IN THE MIDTERMS
	LOCATION:	Salon A
	MODERATOR:	MARC LOTTER <i>President, Lotter Communications, Former Press Secretary to Vice President Mike Pence</i>
	PARTICIPANTS:	JOHN BRABENDER <i>Chief Strategist, Brabender Cox</i> CHARLIE KIRK <i>Executive Director, Turning Point USA</i> JASON MILLER <i>Managing Director, Teneo Strategies</i> BRAD PARSCALE <i>President, Parscale Digital, Trump Campaign Data Guru</i>

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2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

12:00pm	EVENT	AFTERNOON RECEPTION
	LOCATION:	Salon C
	SPECIAL GUEST:	HON. MIKE PENCE <i>Vice President of the United States</i>
	NOTE:	Doors close at 11:50am Please have proper credentials displayed
12:30pm	EVENT	LUNCH WITH MAJORITY WHIP STEVE SCALISE
	LOCATION:	Salon A
	EMCEE:	MATTHEW LIGHT <i>NFL Pro-Bowler, New England Patriots Player (2001-2011), The Light Foundation</i>
	SPEAKERS:	HON. MIKE PENCE <i>Vice President of the United States</i> HON. STEVE SCALISE <i>Majority Whip of the United States House of Representatives</i>
	NOTE:	Doors close at 12:30pm
2:00pm	EVENT	A CONVERSATION WITH LEADERSHIP
	LOCATION:	Lincoln Library
	MODERATOR:	HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY <i>Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives</i>
	PARTICIPANTS:	HON. PAUL RYAN <i>Speaker of the United States House of Representatives</i> HON. JOHN CORNYN <i>Majority Whip of the United States Senate</i> HON. MATT BEVIN <i>Governor of Kentucky</i>
	NOTE:	Doors close at 1:50pm Please have proper credentials displayed Bring proper ID and allow time to get through security Please note new location
3:15pm	EVENT	INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
	LOCATION:	Lincoln Library
	MODERATOR:	MORGAN ORTAGUS <i>Global Executive Director, Ernst and Young</i>
	PARTICIPANTS:	HON. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS <i>Conference Chair of the United States House of Representatives</i> SEEMA VERMA <i>Former Health Care Policy Advisor to Trump Presidential Campaign</i>
6:30pm	EVENT	EVENING RECEPTION
	LOCATION:	Salon C
	SPECIAL GUEST:	DONALD TRUMP, JR.
	NOTE:	Doors open at 6:15pm Please have proper credentials displayed Bring proper ID and allow time to get through security

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2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Mike Pence

7:30pm **EVENT** DINNER
 LOCATION: Salon A
 EMCEE: **MATTHEW LIGHT** NFL Pro-Bowler, New England Patriots Player (2001-2011), The Light Foundation
 SPEAKERS: **HON. MIKE PENCE** Vice President of the United States
DONALD TRUMP, JR.
HON. TOM COTTON United States Senator
TIFFANY SMILEY President & Co-Founder, Hope Unseen
SCOTTY SMILEY Partner, Drexel Hamilton and Co-Founder, Hope Unseen, Army's First Blind Active-Duty Military Officer, Retired Major with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Airborne Wings and Combat Diver Qualification Badge
 NOTE: Doors close at 7:15pm
 Please have proper credentials displayed
 Bring proper ID and allow time to get through security

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

9:00am **EVENT** DIGITAL DISRUPTION
 LOCATION: Lincoln Library
 MODERATOR: **BRAD PARSCALE** President, Parscale Digital, Trump Campaign Data Guru
 PARTICIPANTS: **JONATHAN MARKS** Cofounder, Quorum Analytics
 NOTE: Please have proper credentials displayed

10:00am **EVENT** LET TRUMP BE TRUMP: A CONVERSATION FT. COREY & DAVID
 LOCATION: Lincoln Library
 MODERATOR: **MARTY OBST** Senior Political Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence and Executive Director, Great America Committee
 PARTICIPANTS: **COREY LEWANDOWSKI** Former Campaign Manager for Trump Presidential Campaign
DAVID BOSSIE Former Deputy Campaign Manager for Trump Presidential Campaign

11:15am **EVENT** BRUNCH WITH LUNTZ: IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY. IT'S WHAT THEY HEAR.
 LOCATION: Lincoln Library
 MODERATOR: **MARTY OBST** Senior Political Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence, Executive Director, Great America Committee
 SPEAKER: **FRANK LUNTZ** Founder and Chairman, Luntz Global

7:30pm **EVENT** STATE OF THE UNION WATCH PARTY
 LOCATION: Trump Townhouse
 TYPE: Cocktail Reception
 NOTE: Closed Event: Invite is NON-Transferable

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Shirley Pence

STAFF POC			
GAC Director	Samantha Menh	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
GAC Staff & Operations	Jaelyn Schwinghamer		
GAC Member Services	Kelsey Gorman		
GAC Press Lead	Marc Lotter		

REGISTRATION:

For questions or further information regarding registration, please contact our operations director, Jaelyn Schwinghamer, at

(b)(6) or call (b)(6)

CREDENTIALS:

Please bring proper form of ID to the registration to pick up your credentials. Every guest is required to submit security information and must display credentials at all times. Name must match ID and vitals submitted via secure link.

ACCOMODATIONS:

Guests are responsible for their own accommodations and transportation. All events will be held at the Trump Hotel. GAC has a limited number of rooms held on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a standard room at the discounted rate of \$299 per night (does not include valet/taxes/incidentals, etc.), please email (b)(6) to hold your room. The cut-off date for reserving rooms at the discounted rate is: 1/22/18.

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2018 MAGA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Shirley Pence

CONFIRMED SPECIAL GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

HONORABLE	MIKE	PENCE	<i>Vice President of the United States</i>
	DONALD	TRUMP, JR.	<i>Trump Organization</i>
HONORABLE	JOHN	BARASSO	<i>United States Senate</i>
	PAUL	BENNECKE	<i>Republican Governor's Association</i>
HONORABLE	MATT	BEVIN	<i>Governor of Kentucky</i>
HONORABLE	MARSHA	BLACKBURN	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	DAVID	BOSSIE	<i>Former Deputy Campaign Manager for Trump Presidential Campaign</i>
	JOHN	BRABENDER	<i>Brabender Cox</i>
HONORABLE	KEVIN	BRADY	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	STEVE	CHABOT	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	JOHN	CORNYN	<i>Majority Whip of the United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	TOM	COTTON	<i>United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	VIRGINIA	FOXX	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	CHRIS	HANSEN	<i>National Republican Senatorial Committee</i>
HONORABLE	JEB	HENSARLING	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	RON	JOHNSON	<i>United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	JIM	JORDAN	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	CHARLIE	KIRK	<i>Turning Point USA</i>
	COREY	LEWANDOWSKI	<i>Former Campaign Manager for Trump Presidential Campaign</i>
	MATTHEW	LIGHT	<i>NFL Pro-Bowler, New England Patriots Player (2001-2011), Light Foundation</i>
	MARC	LOTTER	<i>Lotter Communications, Former Press Secretary to Vice President Mike Pence</i>
	FRANK	LUNTZ	<i>Luntz Global</i>
	JONATHAN	MARKS	<i>Quorum Analytics</i>
HONORABLE	BRIAN	MAST	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	KEVIN	MCCARTHY	<i>Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	MITCH	MCCONNELL	<i>Majority Leader of the United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	CATHY	MCMORRIS RODGERS	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	LUKE	MESSER	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	JASON	MILLER	<i>Teneo Strategies</i>
	MARTY	OBST	<i>Senior Political Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence</i>
	MORGAN	ORTAGUS	<i>Ernst & Young</i>
	BRAD	PARSCALE	<i>Parscale Digital, Trump Campaign Data Guru</i>
HONORABLE	DAVID	PERDUE	<i>United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	JOHN	RATCLIFFE	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	JOHN	ROGERS	<i>National Republican Congressional Committee</i>
HONORABLE	FRANCIS	ROONEY	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	PAUL	RYAN	<i>Speaker of the United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	STEVE	SCALISE	<i>Majority Whip of United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	TIM	SCOTT	<i>United States Senate</i>
HONORABLE	PETE	SESSIONS	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	BILL	SHUSTER	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	SCOTTY	SMILEY	<i>Hope Unseen</i>
	TIFFANY	SMILEY	<i>Hope Unseen</i>
	LAMAR	SMITH	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
	SEEMA	VERMA	<i>Former Health Care Policy Advisor to Trump Presidential Campaign</i>
HONORABLE	GREG	WALDEN	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>
HONORABLE	STEVE	WOMACK	<i>United States House of Representatives</i>

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2018 MAGA Leadership Summit

Featuring

The Honorable Mike Pence, Chairman

January 29, 2018 to January 30, 2018

Washington, D.C.

(Location/Details Provided Upon RSVP)

Suggested Contribution:

\$5,000 per Individual / PAC

\$10,000 per Couple

****Limited Space Available****

For more information or to RSVP,
please email Samantha Menh at (b)(6)

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Contributions to Great America Committee will be used for political purposes, including making contributions to candidates for Congress. Contributions are subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Great America Committee is required by law to make its best efforts to collect and report to the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each person who donates more than \$200 to Great America Committee in a calendar year. The FEC makes this information and the amount of the contributions publicly available on its website. Great America Committee may not solicit or accept donations from persons who are not U.S. citizens or green card holders.



Great America Committee supports candidates and elected officials who fight alongside the President in making America great again, and is led by our Chairman, Vice President Mike Pence. Contributions to Great America Committee are limited to \$5,000 annually, personal/PAC funds only.

Yes, I will attend the Washington, D.C. Summit. \$5,000

No, I cannot attend, but would like to contribute: \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Great America Committee

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Great America Committee

Note: The maximum annual contribution is \$5,000.

P.O. Box 28022
Washington, DC 20038

Great America Committee cannot accept contributions from corporations, unions, federal government contractors or foreign nationals.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME OF DONOR

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

OCCUPATION

EMPLOYER

EMAIL

PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER

Please email form to (b)(6) to confirm your RSVP.

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated February 28, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified two additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Salazar, Joseph E (Panama)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: A Panama tower carries Trump's name and ties to organized crime
Date:	Sat, 18 Nov 2017 09:30:26 -0500

Picked up by La Prensa here; maybe others. Paco says no press inquiries yet. (b)(6) says D.C. wants us to forward them to the White House.

From: (b)(6)
Date: November 17, 2017 at 8:18:58 PM EST
To: Salazar, Joseph E (Panama) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: A Panama tower carries Trump's name and ties to organized crime

Global witness report getting broader coverage...

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/panama-tower-carries-trump-s-name-ties-organized-crime-n821706>

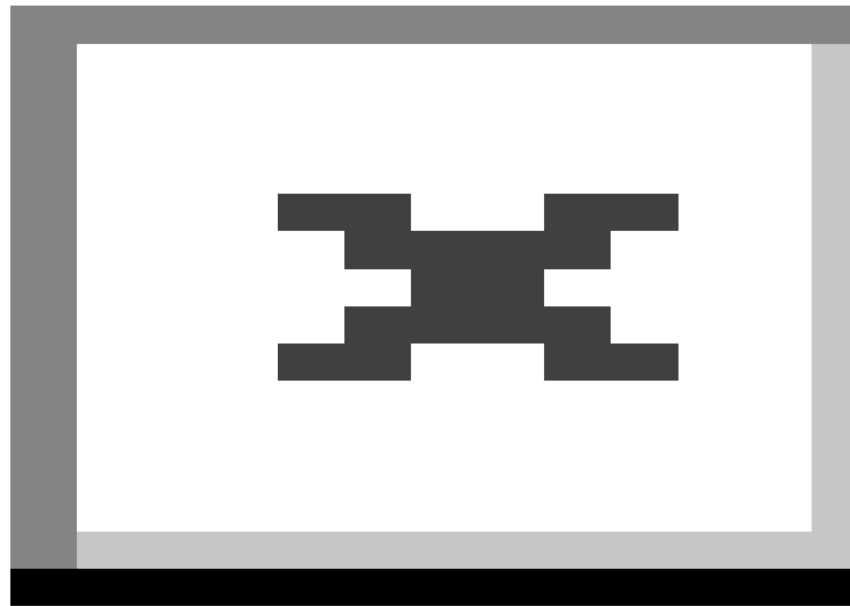
A Panama tower carries Trump's name and ties to organized crime

PANAMA CITY — When Ivanka Trump flew here in 2006 to push her family's latest business project — an oceanfront steel and glass tower called the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel and Tower, shaped like a sail and designed to be one of the tallest buildings in Latin America —

a Brazilian real estate salesman named Alexandre Ventura Nogueira says he was ready with a sales pitch.

Ventura, who said he only had a small real estate company at the time, said he told Ivanka Trump that he could sell condos in the proposed skyscraper for three times the price of similar units in Panama City. The reason: the Trump name, which would go on the building in a licensing deal even though the Trump Organization was not the building's real developer.

Ventura says he and Ivanka agreed to a kind of challenge. If Ventura could sell apartments as easily as he claimed, and for those high prices, he'd become the main sales representative for the project.



- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Embed](#)

Is Trump Ocean Club in Panama a magnet for dirty money? 3:34

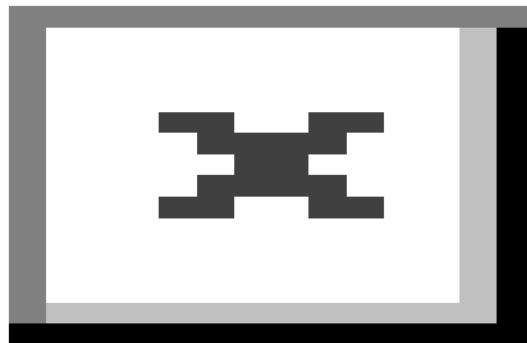
“The agreement was, I had a week to sell 100 units,” Ventura said in a recent interview with NBC News. “I said, ‘I’m going to do better, I’m going to sell without telling (the buyers) the price.’”

Ventura did sell the initial units, and later hundreds more. He is now a fugitive. In May 2009, Ventura was arrested in Panama for real estate fraud, unrelated to the Trump project. Mauricio Ceballos, a former financial crimes prosecutor in Panama who investigated Ventura, said that dozens of complaints against Ventura crossed his desk accusing him of double- and triple-selling apartments, both at the Trump Ocean Club and other developments.

Ventura eventually fled Panama while out on bail. He denied having defrauded his clients but admitted to NBC News that he has participated in money laundering on behalf of corrupt Panamanian politicians, unrelated to the building project.

Ventura isn’t the only person associated with the building who has had run-ins with the law. An NBC News investigation into the Trump Ocean Club, in conjunction with Reuters, shows that the project was riddled with brokers, customers and investors who have been linked to drug trafficking and international crime. Ceballos, who investigated the project, went as far as to call the skyscraper “a vehicle for money laundering.”

The investigation revealed no indication that the Trump Organization or members of the Trump family engaged in any illegal activity, or knew of the criminal backgrounds of some of the project’s associates. But Ventura said that the Trumps never asked any questions about the buyers or where the money was coming from.



Alexandre Ventura during an NBC interview NBC News

Legal experts contacted by Reuters said the Trumps should have asked those questions. Because Panama is “perceived to be highly corrupt,” said Arthur Middlemiss, a former assistant district attorney in Manhattan and a former head of JPMorgan’s global anti-corruption program, those who do business there should perform due diligence on others involved in their ventures. If they fail to do so, he told Reuters, they risk being liable under U.S. law of turning a blind eye to wrongdoing.

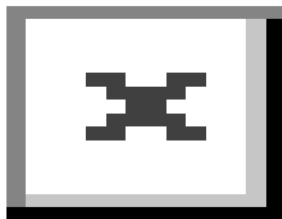
No one asked about the money

In the interview, Ventura admitted that some of his brokers and clients who bought and sold units in the Trump Ocean Club were connected to the Russian mafia and other organized-crime groups, including a convicted money launderer who moved cash for drug cartels.

“I had some customers with questionable backgrounds,” he said. “Nobody ever asked me. Banks never asked. Developer didn’t ask and (the) Trump Organization didn’t ask. Nobody ask, ‘Who are the customers, where did the money come from?’ No, nobody ask.”

The Trump Organization was not the actual developer of the Panama tower. Thanks in large part to the hit NBC television show “The Apprentice,” the Trump name was recognized all over the world and the Panama deal was structured to capitalize on that brand. For this deal, the Trump Organization would license its brand, operate the hotel and sell its expertise in managing the building, receiving a cut of every condo sale. The actual development, along with all of the risks involved, would be left to a local businessman with almost no real estate experience, Roger Khafif and other partners. Ventura said he was invited to the meeting as Khafif’s sales representative.

The interview with Ventura took place in a European city; Ventura agreed to meet NBC News along with Reuters, but asked that the specific location remain undisclosed and that he wear a disguise when appearing on camera.



Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump, and Donald Trump Jr. attend a launch event for the Trump Ocean Club in 2006 at Trump Tower in New York. Patrick McMullan / Getty Images

Ivanka Trump, now senior adviser to President Donald Trump, did not respond to requests for comment about her involvement in the project, instead referring questions to the Trump

Organization. In a statement, the company distanced itself from both Ventura and the Panama project.

“The Trump Organization was not the owner, developer or seller of the Trump Ocean Club Panama project,” the statement said. “Because of its limited role, the company was not responsible for the financing of the project and had no involvement in the sale of units or the retention of any real estate brokers.”

The statement went on to say that the company has no relationship with Ventura, nor any knowledge of any allegations against him.

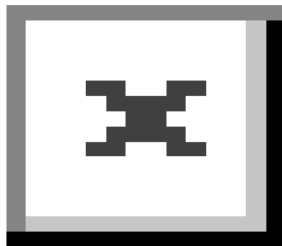
'Ivanka Trump's Baby'

But Ventura says that the Trump family, and Ivanka Trump in particular, was involved in the details of the Trump Ocean Club, and that she interacted with him extensively.

Ivanka Trump is featured in [a promotional video](#) for the Trump Ocean Club, made in 2011, in which she praises “the beautiful pool decks” and “our 10,000-square-foot spa.”

“Buenos días,” she says in the video. “Hello, I'm Ivanka Trump. Welcome to Trump Ocean Club International Hotel and Tower, Panama, rising 70 stories above the glistening Panama Bay. We've taken inspiration from the beauty that surrounds us to create a new landmark for Panama.” She goes on to discuss such details as the “tropical color palette” and the carvings on the guestroom headboards.

“The Trump Organization has to approve everything because of his name on the project,” Ventura said, describing the project as Ivanka Trump’s “baby.”



Donald Trump and Alexandre Ventura at Mar-a-Lago in 2008. Courtesy Alexandre Ventura

According to the Trump Ocean Club’s [bondholder prospectus](#), Donald Trump was projected to make \$74.2 million from the project by the end of 2010. The [disclosure forms](#) Trump filed with the Office of Government Ethics show that he continues to earn management fees and

royalties from the Trump Ocean Club. In the last three years, the documents show, he was paid as much as \$13.9 million.

Global Witness, a nonprofit anti-corruption watchdog that is often critical of businesses and their connections to government officials, said Panama offered Donald Trump a new way to make money at a time when his businesses were struggling. (The Trump casino empire filed for bankruptcy in 2004.) The group is publishing [the findings of its investigation](#) into the Trump Ocean Club on Friday.

“In the mid-2000s Panama was known as a money laundering hotspot,” said Patrick Alley, co-founder of Global Witness. “At that time the Trump companies were in dire trouble. He changed his business model to license his name and his brand to other people’s developments, and very often they would be inexperienced developers, low-profile people who needed a name to sell their developments. So Trump would go into a licensing deal, which meant he invested nothing, but could make a profit from it.”

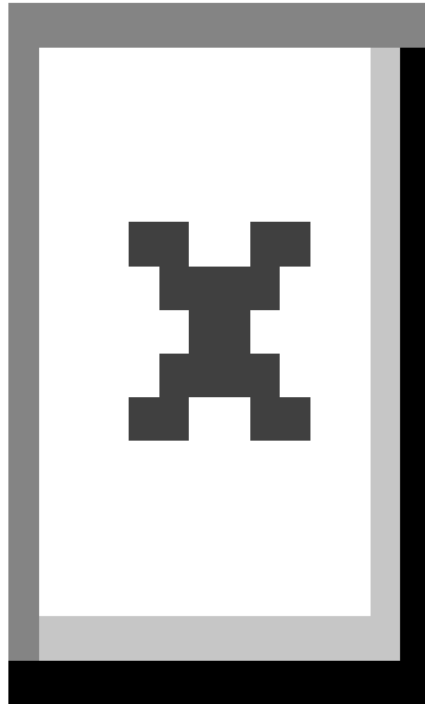
Ventura estimates his company, Homes Real Estate Investment & Services, sold 350 to 400 units, about \$100 million worth of property. Ventura says he was such an effective salesman that he was invited to a 2008 celebration at Trump’s Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago. Ventura provided photographs of himself with Donald Trump at the event, and other photographs of him with Ivanka, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr.

Links to drug trafficking

Ventura said the Trumps never asked about his clients, the people who were buying the condo units, and he never told them. To cite one example, he said that he sold seven to 10 units in the Trump Ocean Club to a man named David Murcia Guzmán, founder of a large Colombian marketing company.

Guzmán is now in U.S. custody, awaiting extradition to Colombia after being convicted by a U.S. federal court of [laundering money for drug cartels](#), including through real estate. According to a Colombian [news report](#), citing the police, Guzmán also had financial ties to the FARC, a paramilitary organization listed by the State Department as a terrorist group.

Guzmán isn’t the only link connecting drug trafficking to the Trump Ocean Club. One of the early investors in the project was a man named Louis Pargiolas. In 2009, he pleaded guilty in a federal court in Miami to conspiracy to import cocaine.



Ivanka Trump and Alexandre Ventura at Trump Tower in New York in June 2006. Courtesy Alexandre Ventura

Ventura says about half of the units he sold at the Trump Ocean Club were to Russians. To help handle them, Ventura went into business with several Russian-speaking real estate brokers, who he admits have had checkered pasts, including one named Stanislav Kavalenka. According to [Ontario court documents](#), Kavalenka was charged in Canada with a number of offenses, including “compelling” and “procuring” women to engage in prostitution. The case was withdrawn when the two women failed to appear in court to give evidence against him.

Another investor in Ventura's firm was Arkady Vodovozov. According to court files cited by Reuters, he was convicted of kidnapping in Israel. A third representative of the brokerage firm, described by Ventura as an occasional buyer at the Trump Ocean Club, was Igor Anapolskiy, according to Ukrainian court documents. He was convicted in September 2014 by a court in Ukraine of forging travel documents, according to Global Witness.

The identities of all of the buyers and sellers of the building's units is difficult to discover, however, because many of the units were bought and sold through anonymous shell companies, according to documents from the Panamanian office of public records. Ventura says he set up hundreds of those corporations, charging roughly \$1,000 each.

Ceballos, who says he investigated transactions related to the Trump Ocean Club during his stint as an anti-corruption prosecutor in Panama, describes the building as a magnet for international organized crime, particularly from Russia.

"The majority of sales of this building were not to local residents, but rather to foreigners," he said. "They bought initially as an investment, knowing that once the building was constructed you could legalize your money."

He added: "We were able to find out that people with some kind of criminal history acquired apartments there."

Ceballos said lax law enforcement in Panama made money laundering easy. To launder money, he said, buyers using anonymous corporations would bring dirty money to Panama, often in cash, use it to buy real estate with no questions asked, sell it, and deposit the proceeds into local banks, which would accept the funds, also without asking questions. The real estate purchases, Ceballos says, were solely a way to get the money into banks and into the global financial system; few buyers intended to live in the condos.

Lights off and hallways empty

During a recent visit by NBC News, the Trump Ocean Club appeared to be largely empty, with virtually no one in the restaurants at night. The hallways were consistently empty. The lights were off in many of the units after dark. Ventura said most of his clients never intended to live in the Trump Ocean Club.

Miguel Antonio Bernal, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Panama and a campaigner against corruption, said many buildings in Panama City were built specifically to be vehicles for money laundering; the Trump Ocean Club fits the mold.

"There are more than 500 buildings like this," he said. "But this – the difference of this – is that this has the name of the actual president of the United States. And he keeps the name here."

Ventura now lives under a new name, as do two other brokers who used to sell the building's condos. He said he admires President Trump and doesn't consider himself to be a detractor or

accuser. Ventura said his job was simply to sell and not ask questions. As for Trump, he said: "It could be that he didn't want to know... I believe that he didn't know."

Sarah Chayes, a corruption expert working with a group of lawyers trying to bring an unrelated case against the president for violating the Emoluments clause of the Constitution, said it was troubling that the Trump Organization seemed to pay no attention to the shady backgrounds of its partners and clients.

"Anyone who thinks that members of FARC, that drug dealers, Russian oligarchs who have been looting their own country, represent normal business partners," she said, "doesn't quite understand the free enterprise system that I think is central to a healthy America."

(b)(6)
Panama & Costa Rica Desk Officer
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile
(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Salazar, Joseph E (Panama)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Wed, 23 Oct 2019 08:23:10 +0000

How's this for today? Would something like 'MIL' make a appropriate tag for the submarine story?

Scotland's economy takes £3bn hit from Brexit fears (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON/POL

The uncertainty caused by Brexit has cost the Scottish economy £3 billion so far, according to independent analysis. The Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University made the estimate as it downgraded expectations of future economic growth. It said the size of the Scottish economy was 2 per cent, or about £3 billion, smaller than forecast before the vote on EU membership. In a study published today, the Fraser of Allander, an economic forecaster, said business investment was particularly affected with many companies delaying or cancelling spending decisions. It looked at a range of scenarios suggesting that £100 million to £550 million of investment had been lost since the middle of 2016. Mairi Spowage, deputy director of the institute, said: "Investment remains well below trend and as a result growth continues to be sluggish."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scotland-s-economy-takes-3bn-hit-from-brexit-fears-99qvg523s>

Independence support falling according to poll for group backing Yes (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is greater strength of support among Scots for staying in the UK than leaving, according to a poll commissioned by a pro-independence organisation. The Progress Scotland survey found 37 per cent of voters "completely support Scotland staying part of the UK", compared with 26 per cent who "completely support Scotland becoming independent". SNP deputy leader Keith Brown insisted a growing number of Scots are ready to listen to the "progressive case" for independence, but pro-union leaders say the Yes campaign is losing support. The Survation poll was commissioned by Progress Scotland, headed by former SNP Westminster leader Angus Robertson, and surveyed 2,000 Scots at the start of the month. It sought answers on a spectrum of 0-10 to identify strength of opinion on the issue, with 0 marking "complete" support for staying in the UK, while 10 "complete" support for independence. A narrow majority (51 per cent) were more supportive of the Union, with 6 per cent in the middle and 40 per cent more supportive of independence.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/poll-scottish-independence-voters-switching-to-support-the-union-1-5030614>

Glitch scuppers HMS Audacious delivery date (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Technical problems have caused a delay to the completion of British nuclear-powered attack submarines, the Ministry of Defence has admitted. HMS Audacious, the fourth of seven vessels due to be delivered under the £11 billion Astute-class programme, was supposed to have entered service in summer but its final handover is likely to be delayed by 17 months. The postponement has had a knock-on effect on production of HMS Anson, the fifth boat, and is likely to affect the timetable of the final two vessels. The Astute-class submarines are due to be based at the Faslane naval base near Helensburgh. The MoD declined to disclose details of the engineering problems on the grounds that it could harm the effectiveness and security of the boats.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glitch-scuffers-hms-audacious-delivery-date-hwt560bpz>

Reaction to Nazi salutes is moral panic, says lecturer (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish university has distanced itself from a tutor who dismissed revulsion over Nazi salutes on football terraces as an overblown "moral panic". Stuart Waiton, a lecturer in sociology and criminology at Abertay University in Dundee, claims racism is not on the rise but believes people are simply more sensitive to it. Dr Waiton, who is standing for the Brexit Party in Dundee West at the next general election, said that the sight of 100 Bulgarian football fans giving Nazi salutes and making monkey noises at black England players did not constitute a "mass display of racism".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/reaction-to-nazi-salutes-is-moral-panic-says-lecturer-dlns7kz78>

Op-ed: There is a better way to maintain our population than looking to migrants (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

The latest population trends across the UK prompted a predictable ministerial warning from the Scottish government. Fiona Hyslop, acknowledging that inward migration would be the only driver of population growth over the next quarter of a century, said that "the damaging potential impact of Brexit" had not even been taken into account. Quite why Ms Hyslop, whose formal remit is culture, tourism and external affairs, is lead minister on the worrying state of Scotland's demographics has never been clear to me. It's such a core determinant of Scotland's future economic vibrancy that one might have imagined it would feature prominently in that brief. Then again, Derek Mackay, the cabinet secretary for finance, economy and fair work, has plenty of other awkward challenges right now.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/there-is-a-better-way-to-maintain-our-population-than-looking-to-migrants-qsrcdjt7h>

Unite pushes for de-selection of Labour MP Ian Murray (BBC News) POL

The Unite union is pushing to de-select Scottish Labour's Ian Murray as a candidate in the next general election. The MP for Edinburgh South was Labour's only Scottish MP between 2015 and 2017 and has been a consistent critic of Jeremy Corbyn. Under party rules, a contest to replace a sitting MP is triggered if a third of local members or affiliated unions back it. Mr Murray said he was "disappointed" that this was Unite's priority. "It is disappointing that in the week where I'm leading the People's Vote campaign in Scotland...that this is Unite's priority," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50146805>

Holyrood will not be recalled for Brexit debate (BBC News) POL

Plans to recall the Scottish Parliament to debate the UK government's Brexit deal have been put on hold. Holyrood's presiding officer said he was "not minded" to bring MSPs back from recess following developments at Westminster on Tuesday evening. Ministers wanted the chamber to sit on Thursday so that MSPs could reject the deal and call for a new referendum instead. But MPs voted to approve the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Boris Johnson.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50139400>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:34 AM

To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine, thanks!

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, I didn't get a chance to get this away yesterday. (b)(5)

November court date set for Alex Salmond case (BBC News) POL

A court date has been set in the case against former first minister Alex Salmond, who faces charges including attempted rape and sexual assault. A preliminary hearing will go ahead at the High Court in Edinburgh on 21 November, before a full trial, which is expected to take place early next year. Mr Salmond was charged with a total of 14 offences on 24 January this year. They include two charges of attempted rape, nine of sexual assault and two of indecent assault. He strongly denies all of the allegations against him.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50122740>

Brexit worth letting Scots go, say 75% of Tory Leave voters in England (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

More than three quarters of Tory Leave voters in England would sacrifice the Union to see Britain exit the EU, a poll has found. Research by Lord Ashcroft, the Conservative donor, found that 76 per cent of English Conservatives who voted Leave in 2016 would prioritise Brexit even if it meant Scotland gained independence. Of the same demographic, 74 per cent would choose leaving the EU over Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK. The figures are a marked increase compared with a YouGov poll in June, which found that 63 per cent of party members would be willing to pay for Brexit with an independent Scotland and 59 per cent would be happy to see Ireland reunite if Britain left the EU.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-worth-letting-scots-go-say-three-quarters-of-tory-leave-voters-in-england-7c5zpcmr>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The first minister has been out of step with voters in Scotland, including her supporters, by pressing for a general election rather than a fresh Brexit referendum as a way out of the EU withdrawal impasse, according to a survey of Scottish voters carried out for The Sunday Times. A Panelbase survey of 1,003 adults resident in Scotland on October 9-11 found that only 26% supported Nicola Sturgeon's stance, while 46% would prefer another referendum, and 27% said they did not know. Among the first minister's own party supporters, six out of 10 would prefer the priority to be to put Brexit to a new referendum. However, almost five years since becoming first minister, Sturgeon remains far more popular than the leaders of Britain's other big parties, the poll found.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8djjq>

Gove claims SNP want UK to leave EU with no deal (BBC News) POL

Michael Gove has claimed the refusal of the SNP to back the new Brexit Bill could suggest they want the UK to leave the EU without a deal. The cabinet minister said he could understand why people accused the party of quietly supporting no deal. Mr Gove made the comments while speaking via video link to Holyrood's finance and constitution committee. Speaking after the meeting, SNP MSP Tom Arthur branded the claims "self-evidently ludicrous".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50131090>

Services threatened by fall in working-age population (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland faces skill shortages and more pressure on public services that are already "buckling under the strain" as the number of working-age people is poised to shrink, business leaders said. Figures released yesterday predicted that the working-age population would fall by 7,000, or 0.2 per cent, over the next 25 years without changes to immigration rules. The reduction would be exacerbated if immigration controls are tightened once Britain leaves the EU. If migration from Europe reduced by 50 per cent then the working-age population would drop by 1.9 per cent. The fall would be 3.7 per cent if inward movement stopped altogether. The total number of people in the UK is projected to increase under all the scenarios and it is predicted that Britain's population will rise to just under 70 million within nine years.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/services-threatened-by-fall-in-working-age-population-k35tl98hd>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Scottish-farmed salmon, worth £2bn to Scotland's economy, could be banned from America unless ministers table urgent anti-cruelty legislation to protect marine life. The US is one of the largest purchasers of the fish cultivated in our lochs and coastal waters, with exports worth up to £200m a year. Time is running out, however, for the Scottish government to prove that new higher standards of aquaculture welfare are on the statute book and being enforced by March 2021. Experts claim failure to meet the US deadline could see the door shut on Scottish salmon as early as January 2022. The warning comes only days after America imposed swingeing 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky and cashmere as part of an ongoing trade war with the European Union, potentially imperilling hundreds of jobs.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxgk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 11:04 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

That the one?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:50 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I think there was also articles about how Scottish voters prefer another referendum instead of indyref2 (I think from over the weekend). Can you add that as well?

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:35 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Court asked to consider if PM's Brexit delay tactic is lawful (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's highest court is to consider whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson has fully complied with a law requiring him to ask for a Brexit delay. He sent an unsigned letter to Brussels asking for an extension along with a signed letter saying he believed a further delay would be a mistake. The Court of Session

will be asked to decide whether this broke a promise not to "frustrate" the so-called Benn Act. The government maintains it has fulfilled its legal obligations.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50117164>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8djjq>

Nicola Sturgeon accused of 'scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering' by Labour over Brexit claims (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of peddling "scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering" after she claimed the Labour leadership had encouraged its MPs to back Boris Johnson's Brexit deal. The First Minister made her inflammatory suggestion ahead of Saturday's debate and vote in the House of Commons. The main motion on the Prime Minister's Brexit deal was not put to a vote because an amendment, tabled by Sir Oliver Letwin, was passed.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981566.nicola-sturgeon-accused-scurrilous-malicious-rumour-mongering-labour-brexit-claims/>

Row over BBC Laura Kuenssberg 'biased' anti-Sturgeon tweet (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Two of Scotland's leading female commentators have come to blows on Twitter in a row over claims of bias by BBC political editor, Laura Kuenssberg. Bestselling crime writer and Yes supporter Val McDermid said her respect for the journalist had been cut "to shreds" over the way she responded to a tweet from Nicola Sturgeon on Saturday.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981679.row-bbc-laura-kuenssberg-biased-anti-sturgeon-tweet/>

Priti Patel plan to send migrants to north England must not stop at border, says Stuart McDonald (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Priti Patel has been accused of ignoring Scotland's need for new residents despite proposing a tailored immigration plan for northern England. The British government floated plans this month under which migrants seeking to come to the United Kingdom after Brexit would be given extra points if they agreed to move to the north of England rather than London and the southeast. For the first time the home secretary is considering taking steps to ensure that skilled immigrants are spread around the country. However, the Home Office has failed to give an assurance that similar incentives would be extended to Scotland. Studies suggest that Scotland's falling birthrate will damage economic growth and worsen skill shortages if people cannot be recruited from overseas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/priti-patel-plan-to-send-migrants-to-north-england-must-not-stop-at-border-says-stuart-mcdonald-d52bk292l>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxgk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:47 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I'm on the run between things so go ahead. Can you also (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From

(b)(6)

Date: 17 October 2019 at 09:25:44 BST

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Legal bid at Court of Session to stop MPs debating Brexit deal planned (BBC NEWS) POL

Anti-Brexit campaigners are considering launching a legal bid to stop the UK government from putting its proposed withdrawal agreement before Parliament. They believe it contravenes legislation preventing Northern Ireland forming part of a separate customs territory to Great Britain. MPs are due to debate the agreement at a special Commons sitting on Saturday. Campaigner Jo Maugham QC initially announced plans to petition Scotland's highest civil court on Thursday. He later tweeted to say he would "pause and reflect and take soundings from those I trust" before going to court at 12:00. If Mr Maugham goes ahead with the legal challenge, he expects it to be heard at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50076186>

Tony Blair met Ruth Davidson to question her on risk of Scottish referendum (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson and Tony Blair have met to discuss the prospect of Brexit causing a second referendum on Scottish independence. The talks between the former Scottish Conservative leader and Labour's longest-serving prime minister took place in a hotel in Edinburgh. Much of the 45-minute conversation, held over a coffee and Diet Coke, was dominated by Mr Blair questioning Ms Davidson about a vote on secession. Mr Blair, 66, whose team approached the Tory MSP, did not meet Richard Leonard, the Scottish Labour leader, during his trip.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tony-blair-met-ruth-davidson-to-question-her-on-risk-of-scottish-referendum-p8znb66wm>

SNP spent more on by-election than Brexit (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP has been criticised for spending more on a by-election in Shetland than on the Brexit referendum. New figures from the Electoral Commission show the party spent £99,000 on the Holyrood by-election in August, compared with £90,000 on the referendum on leaving the European Union in 2016. The SNP's Shetland candidate came second to Liberal Democrat Beatrice Wishart in the poll. The Scottish Liberal Democrats have hit out at the SNP over the election spending figures, which show the party spent 12.8 per cent of the total allowed on the Brexit poll.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-spent-more-on-shetland-by-election-battle-than-brexit-referendum-1-5024899>

MSPs turn to data watchdog over Sturgeon's private emails (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's information commissioner has been urged help MSPs who want to investigate Nicola Sturgeon for using a private email account for state business. Labour wrote to the first minister and

Daren Fitzhenry, the independent official responsible for enforcing freedom of information law, after The Times reported that civil servants had been ordered in 2015 to contact Ms Sturgeon on her SNP account for "urgent" business outside office hours. Elaine Smith, the Labour MSP, and Donald Cameron of the Conservatives urged Ms Sturgeon to publish all emails related to her role as first minister.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/msps-turn-to-data-watchdog-over-sturgeons-private-emails-twxqfnwqt>

Scots firms lag behind FTSE index (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

FTSE-listed Scottish companies performed worse than the overall UK index in the third quarter. Shares in Scottish companies fell after profit warnings from Irn-Bru's maker, AG Barr, and the aviation services company John Menzies. An unexpectedly high number of PPI claims at Clydesdale Bank hurt the shares of its owner, CYBG. The FTSE all-share index rose 0.3 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but shares of Scottish-headquartered companies fell by an average of 2.6 per cent over the same period, research from Brewin Dolphin showed. Over the first nine months of 2019, shares of Scottish FTSE-listed companies climbed 6.8 per cent compared with a 10.4 per cent rise in the broader index.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-firms-lag-behind-ftse-index-zcxtb9pvv>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Liddle, Andrew B (Edinburgh)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:44 AM
To: Wong, Ellen Y (Edinburgh)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP conference: Nicola Sturgeon says indyref2 'must happen next year' (BBC NEWS) POL

A second referendum on Scottish independence "must happen next year", Nicola Sturgeon has told the SNP conference. Ms Sturgeon confirmed that she will ask the UK government for formal consent by the end of this year. She said Westminster had "no right" to block the request, and its opposition to indyref2 is "not sustainable". But she stressed any referendum had to be legal if the result was to be recognised internationally. She said this was because her aim was not merely to deliver a referendum - but to deliver independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50036176>

Union 'at breaking point' if UK crashes out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The United Kingdom would be pushed to breaking point by a no-deal Brexit, a think tank has said as a poll found that most Scottish voters would then back independence. The Institute for Government said that since Boris Johnson became prime minister there had been a decline in engagement with the devolved governments. In a report called No-deal Brexit and the Union the IFG said: "A no-deal Brexit would be a high stakes gamble with the future of the Union." Short-term planning for a no-deal departure from the European Union had diverted attention from longer-term questions about the relationship between Westminster and devolved governments, it said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/union-at-breaking-point-if-uk-crashes-out-l76qhlwrm>

Op-ed: Sturgeon cautious but party wants to gamble on independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is a restlessness about the SNP just now. The party's annual conference in Aberdeen felt like the bedroom of a teenager grounded by their mum: tetchy and irritable, kicking its heels, killing time, wishing it was elsewhere. The Nationalists have been denied agency. This is not a good place for any party to be. Progress is contingent. They are unable to move forward on their own terms. And that rankles. Nicola Sturgeon tried to deny this inertia. In her big speech closing the conference she insisted, contrary to all evidence, that there were cracks in the Tory government's refusal to agree to a new referendum on independence. Really? I see none, and her aides later struggled to justify her belief that the enemies of a referendum were preparing to throw in the towel.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conference-sturgeon-cautious-but-party-wants-to-gamble-on-independence-0vprrvlmq>

Alex Salmond was SNP's greatest leader, says MP tipped to succeed Nicola Sturgeon (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

One of the frontrunners to lead the SNP after Nicola Sturgeon has praised Alex Salmond as the "greatest leader the party's ever had". Joanna Cherry admitted that she barely knew the first minister and had only sat down with her on one occasion. Ms Cherry, the MP who successfully challenged the five-week prorogation of parliament by Boris Johnson, refused to rule out a leadership bid when the vacancy arises. "I don't know her very well," Ms Cherry told Holyrood magazine. "She's running the country; I'm down in Westminster. And Ian Blackford [the SNP leader at Westminster] has been very supportive of me and I'm really glad about that. "But if you think about how big the parliamentary party is in London, and at Holyrood, it would be difficult for Nicola to meet us all and be friends with all of us, she's got the country to run. So, I'm not complaining that I'm not Nicola's best mate."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/salmond-our-ever-greatest-leader-says-mp-tipped-to-succeed-sturgeon-62w078zn2>

Brexit uncertainty blamed for sales slowdown in Scotland (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scots have pulled back on buying non-essential items, according to the latest survey of retailers. The Scottish Retail Consortium said food sales continue to rise, and at a faster rate than the UK as a whole. But non-food purchases saw a steep drop last month, down by more than 5% when compared with September 2018. Political and economic uncertainty ahead of the planned Brexit date on 31 October is being blamed for caution among shoppers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50064186>

Ruth Davidson leads mental health group after Jeremy Kyle and Love Island reality show deaths (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Former Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson is to chair ITV's new mental health advisory Group, created following the deaths of participants of the Jeremy Kyle Show and Love Island. Ms Davidson, who is still an MSP after quitting as leader partly due to Brexit, has taken up the unpaid role designed to protect the mental wellbeing of participants and audiences on ITV shows. A former BBC journalist, Ms Davidson said she is "excited" to chair the mental health group which will advise both ITV and STV about the production of shows and which will "have a huge role in setting the broadcaster's overall mental health strategy".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-leads-mental-health-group-after-jeremy-kyle-and-love-island-reality-show-deaths-2rcr0x7xs>

US soldiers 'must be held accountable' for Black Watch captain's death (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The widow of an army captain killed by a forklift truck on a military base in Iraq said the US soldiers responsible must be "held accountable". Dean Sprouting, who served with the Black Watch, was hit by the vehicle while out jogging in January 2018. The soldiers faced three charges including negligent homicide but an American Brigadier General ruled these be dropped. Capt Sprouting's wife said it was as if her husband's life "didn't matter." Linda Sprouting spoke following a military inquest into her husband's death in Oxford last week.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-50054685>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Got it, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:22 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I recall seeing something about Sturgeon making comments about POTUS and the Syria situation. If you can add that as well, that would be great.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:11 AM

To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? I included Massie (b)(5)

Nicola Sturgeon: 'No shortcut route to Scottish independence' (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's first minister has insisted that a legal referendum is the only way for the country to win independence. Nicola Sturgeon dismissed claims that the SNP winning a majority of Scottish seats in a general election would be enough for independence to be declared. She said there was "no easy or shortcut route to independence" and that a future referendum had to be "beyond any doubt in terms of its legitimacy". But she insisted that independence was now closer than ever. The SNP leader was speaking to BBC Scotland's political editor Brian Taylor ahead of her party's three-day conference, which opens in Aberdeen on Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002776>

Kezia Dugdale quits Scottish Labour over Brexit (BBC NEWS) POL

Former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has quit the party over its stance on Brexit, the BBC has learned. Ms Dugdale terminated her party membership in July, shortly after she stood down as an MSP. She has told friends she did not vote for the party in May's European election, while still a Labour MSP. Political correspondent Nick Eardley told BBC Scotland's Podlitical podcast that it is not known who, if anyone, Ms Dugdale did vote for. Ms Dugdale led Scottish Labour for two years before quitting the post in August 2017. She continued to sit as an MSP until June of this year, when she left politics to take a job with the John Smith Centre at Glasgow University.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002775>

Brexiteer tycoon John Mills fears voters will ignore cost of independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Brexiteer businessman who donated £1.65 million to the Labour Party fears that Scots are prepared to vote for independence even if it leads to economic hardship. John Mills, founder of the retail giant JML, said the party had lost its way under Jeremy Corbyn by appealing to a narrow section of the electorate. Its hard-left stance was driving voters to the SNP, he said, where they were being enticed by independence regardless of the potential economic shock. In his book *Left Behind: Why Voters Deserted Social Democracy and How to Win Them Back* he said that Labour faced an "existential threat" from populist parties. Mr Mills, a former chairman of Vote Leave, said Brexit and support for Scottish independence were driven by "revulsion against the ruling elite in London".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexiteer-tycoon-john-mills-fears-voters-will-ignore-cost-of-independence-sjrjw3bzt>

First Minister 'ignoring' Prestwick scandal (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "ignoring" the "growing scandal" of the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial relationship with the US military, amid allegations it is waiving service fees for US Armed Forces aircraft at a cost to taxpayers in excess of £1m. Patrick Harvie MSP, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, said the airport was effectively being used as a "cut price petrol station" for the US Air Force. He added that Holyrood should not have to be "reliant on investigative journalists uncovering the facts of what's going on" at Prestwick.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-accused-of-ignoring-prestwick-us-military-scandal-1-5021355>

Op-ed: Patrick Harvie flies to the moral high ground – Alex Massie (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Despite formidable competition, Patrick Harvie might just be Holyrood's leading grandstander. No ground is high enough for the Green co-leader's righteousness. Yesterday he asked that "the whole chamber" join him "in expressing solidarity with the Kurdish people, who have been betrayed and abandoned by the US and are now enduring an assault by Turkey, a Nato member". Watch out President Erdogan, Patrick Harvie has his eye on you. Mr Harvie can see links unseen by others, however. Prestwick airport is owned by the Scottish government and counts the US Air Force amongst its few customers. So, Mr Harvie wanted to know: "If the first minister is against Scotland being used as a nuclear submarine base for the United Kingdom, why should we be any happier about being used as a cut-price petrol station for the US Air Force?"

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/patrick-harvie-flies-to-the-moral-high-ground-h7z3215jz>

Standard Life Aberdeen axes roles in Edinburgh (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's biggest financial services company is to axe up to 70 jobs in its IT department – with most of the cuts coming north of the Border. Workers at Standard Life Aberdeen – which was created from the merger of Aberdeen Investment and Standard Life two years ago, were summoned into a meeting yesterday afternoon and told that IT services would be outsourced to Us-headquartered IT services company Cognizant. The majority of the department's staff – 42 contractors and five permanent staff – will lose their jobs by the end of the year. Staff were told about 25 people will be retained in their current roles, while a further 27 could be moved over to work for Cognizant.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/standard-life-aberdeen-to-axe-scottish-jobs-days-before-christmas-as-it-services-outsourced-1-5021687>

School trips to Mossmorran chemical plant need risk review (BBC NEWS) ECON

Risk assessments for school trips to a Fife chemical plant need to be "improved" after "weaknesses" were found, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said. ExxonMobil's pond dipping classes at Mossmorran need to be "appropriately managed", the regulator said. It is a top-tier Comah site, which means it stores hazardous substances. Fife Council said it would "implement any HSE recommendations that could improve future risk assessments". More than 20,000 pupils from local schools have taken part in wildlife classes at a pond created on the Cowdenbeath site over the past 15 years. Risk assessments used for the school trips were obtained from Fife Council under the Freedom of Information Act.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50000353>

Good Brexit could bring investment 'wall of cash' (BBC NEWS) ECON

Scottish firms could release a "wall of cash" for investment if Brexit is "done well", a business leader has said. Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) president Tim Allan said investment had been "stymied" by uncertainty over the UK's departure from the EU. But he added that money that been held back could be released once Brexit was completed. His comments came as an SCC economic study found a decline in overall business performance in the last year. Mr Allan said this had happened "as companies take on board extra uncertainties caused by the tortuous progress of the Brexit process".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50007802>

Doctor revokes help with vaginal mesh removal after 'delays' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An American surgeon due to travel to Scotland to try to help women suffering after vaginal mesh operations says he has rescinded his offer after "delays and disrespectful behaviours". Dionysios Veronikis said Scottish doctors missed an "obvious opportunity" to meet him to discuss the planned trip

when he was in the UK last month. He also claimed that Catherine Calderwood, the chief medical officer for Scotland, failed to make contact with him because she had forgotten to use an international dialling code. Dr Veronikis, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who has pioneered mesh removal surgery, made the allegations in a letter to Neil Findlay, a Scottish Labour MSP who has campaigned with affected women. He said that if there had been no delays “three patients who made the journey to St Louis could have been operated on Scottish soil”.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/doctor-revokes-help-with-vaginal-mesh-removal-after-delays-znrqb96t0>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good, thanks!

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

UK Brexit plan not shown to SNP Govt (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Mike Russell has accused the UK government of leaving Edinburgh in the dark over its Brexit plans ahead of a cross-border meeting today. The Brexit Secretary will chair the first Joint Ministerial Council on EU Negotiations to be held in Edinburgh with UK and Welsh ministers. The gathering comes as relations between the UK and devolved governments hit a new low after Boris Johnson submitted his Brexit deal plans to the EU without consultation. Mr Russell yesterday told MSPs there had been “no correspondence” between the UK and Scottish governments in advance of the proposals.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17957867.uk-brexit-plan-not-shown-snp-govt/>

More politicians and less politics ‘would make Holyrood better’ (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland could benefit from having more MSPs, the group that set up the devolved parliament has said. The steering group, which includes Henry McLeish, a former first minister, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, a former deputy, and Sir George Reid, a former presiding officer, said that “immense” pressure on MSPs may make it necessary to increase their number. They admitted it was unlikely to be popular. “If we are serious about looking to our parliament to lead on the big issues of the day and to do so in a collaborative, mature, cross-party way, this should not be automatically discounted from discussions,” the group said. Two decades after the establishment of the Scottish parliament, the group considered whether parliament had lived up to expectations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/more-politicians-and-less-politics-would-make-holyrood-better-tlcl8t5rt>

Ruth Davidson looks to aid work after life as MSP (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson is “hugely interested” in taking on aid and development work when she leaves politics. The former leader of the Scottish Conservatives has said she is unlikely to stand for re-election as an MSP. She resigned as the party’s leader in August. Yesterday Ms Davidson visited Erskine Stewart’s Melville Junior School in her Edinburgh constituency for the launch of the Halo Trust’s Breaking Boundaries initiative, a landmine clearing programme. Last year Ms Davidson spent four days in Kabul with the charity, which is based in Dumfriesshire. “I’ve got another 18 months to finish at the Scottish parliament so I’ll be working as the MSP here in Edinburgh Central where we stand today,” she said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-looks-to-aid-work-after-life-as-msp-xxmx88cvq>

Arts and academia unite to publish manifesto for independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Dozens of influential figures from Scottish culture and academia have drawn up a prospectus of “guiding principles” for independence including the introduction of a written constitution. The 50 signatories — mostly avowed independence supporters such as the actor Brian Cox, the historian Sir Tom Devine, the crime novelist Val McDermid and the poet and playwright Liz Lochhead — say that failing to achieve separation from the UK would mean the population “relinquish their right to decide their own destiny”. The “declaration of independence” comes as Brexit negotiations appear to be collapsing, with Downing Street sources suggesting that a deal with the European Union is now impossible. About 62 per cent of Scots voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/arts-and-academia-unite-to-publish-manifesto-for-independence-8qhgqhtdd>

Loganair inks United Airlines deal for Scots to travel 'seamlessly' to US (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Loganair has reached a deal with one of the world’s biggest airlines which will allow passengers “seamless” travel from Scotland to the US. The Glasgow-headquartered carrier has secured an “interline agreement” with US group United Airlines which will enable customers to travel via Glasgow and Edinburgh onwards to the United States with through-check in service and protection in case of delay. The US airline operates direct flights from Scotland to its hubs at New York’s Newark Airport, O’Hare Airport in Chicago and Dulles Airport outside Washington DC. Loganair’s agreement also applies to customers travelling via Manchester and Dublin.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/loganair-inks-united-airlines-deal-for-scots-to-travel-seamlessly-to-us-1-5020650>

Bethany Haines scours Syria for father beheaded by Isis (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The daughter of a Scottish aid worker beheaded by Islamic State has vowed to return to Syria “100 times” to find her father’s body. During a ten-day trip to the Middle East Bethany Haines, 22, visited the site where it is believed that David Haines was executed. Mr Haines, 44, a humanitarian aid worker from Perth, was captured in March 2013 and held for 18 months before being beheaded by Mohammed Emwazi in September 2014. Images of the killing were turned into Isis propaganda. Emwazi, otherwise known as Jihadi John, also killed Alan Henning, another British aid worker; James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American journalists; and Peter Kassig, a US aid worker.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/bethany-haines-scours-syria-for-father-beheaded-by-isis-2gc9bwnh3>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Scottish judges to rule on Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Three Scottish judges are due to announce later whether a court can sign a Brexit extension letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. Lord Carloway said the judges will give their decision at 11:00 BST. The court also heard an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49975066>

PM's Brexit tactics are inspired by Trump, leading Scots judges told (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A senior lawyer has told Scotland's highest civil court that the prime minister's Brexit strategy is inspired by the tactics of President Trump. Aidan O'Neill, QC, said that Boris Johnson was telling the Scottish courts one thing and the media another. Addressing the Inner House of the Court of Session, he urged judges to forbid Mr Johnson from leaving the European Union without a deal. He said that government lawyers had indicated to the courts that Mr Johnson would seek an extension to remain in the EU if he could not agree an exit deal, then briefed journalists through his aides that he was ready to defy parliament and leave without agreement. "One shouldn't be taken in by any kind of schtick that the prime minister is simply an overgrown schoolboy playing at being prime minister, as if he was Just William leading his cabinet band of outlaws," Mr O'Neill said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/pms-brexit-tactics-are-inspired-by-trump-leading-scots-judges-told-srb5prmzx>

Warning of sectarian tensions in Scotland under no-deal Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Sectarian troubles in Northern Ireland caused by a no-deal Brexit could be mirrored in Scotland's Catholic and Protestant communities, the Scottish Government has warned. The potential for violent disorder was highlighted in civil contingency plans published by the Scottish Government, which also said the old port at Stranraer may have to be turned into emergency parking for 300 lorries. It also said some container goods may have to be moved through Grangemouth and Greenock Ocean Terminal if there are blockages at Dover, with a Northern Isles freight ferry earmarked "as a last resort for importing critical supplies in the event UK measures fail". Deputy First Minister John Swinney told MSPS he had also set up a special group to monitor shortages of medicines and there would be a £7 million

fund for councils to alleviate financial hardship. He said the economic shock of a no-deal Brexit on October 31 could push Scotland into recession, with a 5 per cent rise in prices, principally food, tipping 130,000 people into poverty.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17955286.warning-sectarian-tensions-scotland-no-deal-brexit/>

Inverclyde eviction threat facing retail giant Amazon (BBC NEWS) ECON

Amazon has said it will fight a court's decision to uphold an eviction notice from its landlord at a distribution warehouse in Inverclyde. The site is owned by the M7 property investment firm which gave the online giant six months' notice to quit in February. Amazon challenged the move at the Court of Session, arguing it was entitled to a year's notice. But the courts backed M7, though the US firm has said it will appeal again. About 300 people work at the Gourrock site and Amazon says it remains "business as usual" for them and customers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49980400>

Op-ed: Whisky tariff war gives a flavour of life after Brexit under WTO rules (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Producers of Scotch whisky are used to taking the long view. The spirit they distil can take a very long time, maturing in casks, before a bottle can be sold. Single malts that command the most elevated prices can be decades in the making. That long view, however, has endured periods of intense shorter-term turbulence. I witnessed at first hand the great Scotch whisky takeover battles of the 1980s: Guinness's hostile capture of Arthur Bell in Perth in 1984, led by Ernest Saunders, quickly followed by his rout of the industry leader, the multi-brand Distillers Company, still reeling from its earlier involvement in the thalidomide scandal. An inevitable wave of distillery closures and capacity rationalisation followed. More recently, Scotch has been enjoying a renaissance.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/whisky-tariff-war-gives-a-flavour-of-life-after-brexit-under-wto-trading-rules-cv98zhjgg>

Matheson pressed on Prestwick ties (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Transport secretary Michael Matheson has stressed the Scottish Government is "not hiding behind anything" amid growing scrutiny of Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial dealings with the US military. Scottish Liberal Democrats MSP Mike Rumbles asked Mr Matheson how much was allegedly waived in service fees for US armed forces aircraft on stopovers at the hub, and when he knew of the allegations, but the cabinet secretary did not directly address the questions. In a heated exchange at Holyrood, Mr Matheson said the state-owned airport was run at arms-length from the government, and that Prestwick decided on "specific commercial deals".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-not-hiding-from-prestwick-airport-allegations-1-5019917>

American woman who killed North Berwick pensioner after driving on wrong side of road spared jail sentence (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

An American woman who killed a pensioner after driving on the wrong side of the road has been spared a jail sentence. Caroline Bourgois Emmet – the granddaughter of composer Irving Berlin – emerged on to a main road from an estate in East Lothian and drove for more than half a kilometre on the opposing carriageway before a fatal collision with another car. She crashed into the other vehicle in which Elizabeth Henderson was a back seat passenger, on the A198 between North Berwick and Tranent on July 19 in 2017, after leaving the Archerfield Estate. Mrs Henderson, 83, of North Berwick, died two days later in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after she suffered multiple pelvis and limb fractures and internal bleeding.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/american-woman-who-killed-north-berwick-pensioner-after-driving-on-wrong-side-of-road-spared-jail-sentence-1-5020163>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 9:31 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court asked to consider Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Judges are to consider whether a court can sign a Brexit extension request letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. The court will also hear an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law. Lord Pentland said following an earlier hearing that there could be "no doubt" that the prime minister had agreed to abide by the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49959172>

Time for some 'panic' over Scottish independence referendum says Whitehall official (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Downing Street is too complacent about the danger of a second independence referendum a senior Whitehall official has said, with a lack of "panic" at the most senior levels about the strengthening trend in polling on Scottish independence. The last three polls on Scottish independence voting intention have put support for leaving the UK at between 49 per cent and 52 per cent, when the don't knows are removed. An online poll at the start of August conducted by Lord Ashcroft also put independence in the lead for the first time in two and a half years, while polling expert Professor Sir John Curtice has said that "it can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote 'no' again in an independence ballot".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/time-for-some-panic-over-scottish-independence-referendum-says-whitehall-official-1-5018708>

Edinburgh council cannot verify All Under One Banner's claim about nationalist rally turnout (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Council officials have been accused of suppressing attendance figures for a Scottish independence rally amid claims that a crowd of 200,000 paraded down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. All Under One Banner, the organiser of Saturday's event, said that 200,000 marched, which would put attendance on a par with the Glastonbury Festival. The claim was published by some news outlets and shared by senior nationalist politicians on social media. A Force For Good, a unionist organisation, filmed the march and said that it counted 11,286 heads. It has published the footage online to allow observers to verify its figures. Last year the organisation counted 12,789 people when All Under One Banner said that 100,000 people had marched.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-council-cannot-verify-all-under-one-banners-claim-about-nationalist-rally-turnout-jtngm6bq2>

Ditching pound after Scottish independence 'would be a gamble with livelihoods' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Proposals to stop using the pound and adopt a new currency after Scottish independence would "be a gamble with people's livelihoods", it has been claimed. Pamela Nash, the chief executive of Scotland in Union, said that a vote in favour of independence in a second referendum would put financial exports with the rest of Britain at risk. The SNP has maintained that a new currency would only be adopted when it was in the interests of the country. Analysis by Scotland in Union suggests that the export of financial services to the rest of the UK was valued at £9.1 billion in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ditching-pound-after-scottish-independence-would-be-a-gamble-with-livelihoods-5ttxcnt8>

Boris Johnson 'must convince Donald Trump to save 3,000 Scottish jobs by dumping malt whisky tariff' (The Telegraph) ECON

Boris Johnson must use his friendship with Donald Trump to save thousands of Scottish jobs by convincing the US President to scrap tariffs on single malt whisky, a former Scottish Secretary has argued. David Mundell warned 3,000 jobs and £228 million of revenue could be lost if the Trump administration presses ahead with the introduction next week of a 25 per cent trade tariff on Scotch, following a dispute with the EU over aircraft subsidies. Asking an urgent question in the Commons, he cited the figures as industry estimates of the losses that could be incurred and said Mr Johnson must "intervene directly" with Mr Trump.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/07/boris-johnson-must-convince-donald-trump-save-3000-scottish/>

Scottish Tory leadership race may start within weeks (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are likely to begin a leadership contest to find Ruth Davidson's successor within weeks if a general election is pushed back to the spring. At an awayday in North Queensferry yesterday Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, sided with those who were pushing for a snap leadership vote. The Times revealed last week that some Tory MSPs believed that a spring election would allow time to install a permanent leader. Jackson Carlaw had been due to remain interim leader until Britain left the EU but angered much of his front bench by reversing the party's position to support a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Murdo Fraser, the party's finance spokesman, spoke out about his opposition to a no-deal Brexit yesterday. It is understood that Mr Fraser, seen as a leadership frontrunner, said on the awayday that ties should be loosened between the Scottish and UK parties.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tory-leadership-race-may-start-within-weeks-7bncqsgbq>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:25 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Sturgeon's EU experts warn of disastrous slump after no-deal (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Britain is facing years of economic pain and poisonous debate if Boris Johnson drags the country out of the European Union without a deal, advisers to Scotland's first minister have warned. Nicola Sturgeon's advisory council said the prime minister's latest Brexit proposals were not credible and had no realistic prospect of success. The first minister stepped up plans for a second Scottish independence referendum yesterday as the SNP said it "will never consent to this extreme Tory Brexit". Sir Anton Muscatelli, principal of Glasgow University and chairman of the Standing Council on Europe, warned in an open letter that no-deal would not be a clean break but would signal the start of a prolonged and potentially fractious trade negotiation with acrimonious EU member states.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-rejects-extreme-brexit-deal-7zg2n223s>

Op-ed: Open letter on Brexit - Sir Anton Muscatelli (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

I am writing this open letter on behalf of members of the Standing Council on Europe, which I chair. At our latest meeting we were able to look at the UK government's proposals to the EU and unfortunately our assessment was very far from positive. The EU has signalled its willingness to give the proposals a fair hearing but in our view it is already clear they do not offer any realistic prospect of helping secure a compromise. They go back on commitments made by the UK government in December 2017 and are far removed from what is known to be the EU's position. In particular it is deeply concerning that these proposals appear not to honour the Good Friday agreement and therefore risk jeopardising the fragile peace on the island of Ireland, the importance of which is obvious to all. The proposals also seem to show a worrying move away from the commitment to maintain high and equivalent levels of environmental and labour standards, and competition policy that benefits consumers.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/open-letter-on-brexit-sir-anton-muscatelli-jbgbwwnd>

Sturgeon savages Carlaw over his conversion to hard Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has launched a withering attack on her likely opponent at the next Holyrood election, accusing Jackson Carlaw of putting his personal ambitions before his country and party in order to suck up to Boris Johnson. The First Minister said the Eastwood MSP had changed from enthusiastic Remainer to no-deal Brexiter in "a heartbeat" as he tried to become his party's full-time leader. "Shame on him for that," she said. Mr Carlaw, who represents one of the most Remain constituencies in the UK, has previously warned against a no-deal in case it imperilled the Union. It was a position he shared with previous Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson, who quit in August citing a "conflict" over Brexit after Mr Johnson said he was ready for a no-deal Brexit. However at the Tory conference in Manchester this week, Mr Carlaw flipped his position and swung the Scottish Tories behind accepting no-deal, despite only being an interim leader.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17945806.sturgeon-savages-carlaw-conversion-no-deal-brexit/>

'Everyone a loser' from US tariff on malt whisky (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Plans for a major tariff on Scottish malt whisky by the US as part of a trade war with Europe have been condemned as damaging to business and "profoundly worrying" for the industry. Nicola Sturgeon led the criticism, saying that the 25 per cent tariff due to come into force later this month was "in no one's interests". The World Trade Organisation has given the US the green light to impose charges on up to £6.1 billion of goods from the EU, including malt whisky, as retaliation for illegal subsidies the bloc gave to Airbus.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/everyone-a-loser-from-us-tariff-on-malt-whisky-v05gclqtp>

Op-ed: Tit-for-tat trade (BBC News) ECON

Why pick Scotch? Isn't Donald Trump half Scottish, with a love for its golf courses, or at least the ones that belong to him? The selection of premium end whisky from the president's late mother's homeland as retaliation for UK subsidies to Airbus may not have registered as one of the details crossing the Oval Office desk. But it came as no surprise to the Scotch whisky industry. It saw the risk that came with the European Commission's choice, in 2017, of American whiskey in its retaliation in another trade dispute. That one was about steel, with President Trump putting up trade barriers against Chinese imports of subsidised steel, and doing a lot of damage to trading relations with others by imposing import levies on them as well.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49927808>

Investigation: How the US military is using Prestwick Airport 'for free' (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is waiving service fees for inbound US military aircraft as part of an alleged practice designed to increase traffic at the beleaguered airport and safeguard its lucrative commercial relationship with the US Defence Department, multiple sources familiar with its operations have told The Scotsman. The heavily-indebted airport, at the centre of a US Congressional investigation over the US military's financial ties with Prestwick and US president Donald Trump's nearby Turnberry resort, is alleged to have waived the so-called service fees for several hundred flights by branches of the US Armed Forces. Sources with direct knowledge of US military business at Prestwick said the cost to the airport and, as a result, Scottish taxpayers, runs into seven figures. The airport, a publicly owned asset operated on a fully commercial basis, has repeatedly declined to answer a series of questions put to it by The Scotsman regarding the allegations it is waiving the service fees.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/prestwick-airport-waiving-fees-for-us-military-aircraft-1-5017211>

Brewers tap into huge Chinese tourism boost (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

The international marketing was carefully targeted to portray Scotland as a country of rugged castles and breathtaking scenery but Chinese visitors, it seems, would rather go to the pub. Visit Scotland has published a study of Chinese tourists after the number of visitors rocketed in recent years. An estimated 200,000 went through the gates of Edinburgh Castle last year compared with fewer than 1,000 two decades ago. Sampling Scottish delicacies, including whisky, craft beer, haggis, seafood, gin and ale, was the top attraction, ahead of historical sites and shopping. Hazel Sellar, Visit Scotland's market manager for China, said that visitors were clamouring to try quality food and drink in surroundings that were quintessentially Scottish.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brewers-tap-into-huge-chinese-tourism-boost-hzf3r7wgc>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:59 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Great, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:48 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I think take the ex-MP one out otherwise good to go.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 3 October 2019 at 09:30:01 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Single malt Scotch whisky targeted by United States tariffs (BBC News) ECON

Single malt Scotch whisky exported to the United States is to face a tariff of 25% from 18 October. The new duty is part of a raft of measures being imposed by the US in retaliation against EU subsidies given to aircraft maker Airbus. Other goods being targeted include cashmere sweaters, dairy products, pork, olives, biscuits, books, and some machinery. Scotch whisky exports to the US last year were worth \$1.3bn (£1bn). The US was given the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5bn (£6.1bn) of goods it imports from the EU following a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling on Wednesday. It is the latest chapter in a 15-year battle between the US and the EU over illegal subsidies for planemakers Airbus and rival Boeing.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49915034>

Scottish Tories round on Jackson Carlaw to install leader before election (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Conservatives will move to oust Jackson Carlaw as interim leader of the party next week and hold a snap contest to replace Ruth Davidson. There will be an away day for Tory MSPs in North Queensferry on Monday where Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, is expected to give an update on the process for selecting a new leader. It is understood that a group of senior politicians is likely to argue that the process should be sped up as the chances of a general election by the end of the year have fallen. Three new contenders are considering bids for the top job. Jamie Greene, 39, the transport spokesman, is understood to have used the UK party conference in Manchester to sound out members. He allegedly asked Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, for support. Sources close to Mr Greene said that he had not decided whether to run.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-round-on-jackson-carlaw-to-install-leader-before-election-qdsgztwzv>

Michael Gove 'ignored Scottish plea to see Brexit policing plan' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's justice secretary is angry that police were "blindsided" by ministers at Westminster who refused to share sensitive Brexit planning. Humza Yousaf wrote a month ago to Michael Gove, minister for no-deal planning, seeking clarity on public order preparations but had no reply. Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing, said on Tuesday that Police Scotland had been denied access to plans

to handle civil disruption. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's position, he said. Mr Yousaf said: "It is imperative that Scottish ministers have the opportunity to discuss the impact of leaving the EU on devolved operational law enforcement issues."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/michael-gove-ignored-scottish-plea-to-see-brexit-policing-plan-qmx0xcpdv>

Turn 'left-wing' bank holiday into Union celebration, urges Alister Jack (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish secretary has suggested that Britain should turn an existing bank holiday into a day for celebrating the Union. Alister Jack said that one of the "left-wing" days off work could be replaced with a "Union Day". He was responding to a question at an event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. "We could get rid of one of the left-wing [bank holidays]. Bring in a Union Day. It is popular," Mr Jack said to laughter from the crowd. He argued that Westminster had "retreated" from Scotland too much during the 12 years of SNP government at Holyrood and urged British ministers to spend more time north of the border.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-left-wing-bank-holiday-into-union-celebration-says-alister-jack-mmh6dqst8>

Scottish welfare state is thriving, says UN (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland is on "a very different trajectory" to the rest of the UK when it comes to social security, according to a UN poverty expert. Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, said that the spirit of the welfare state was "alive and humming" north of the border, but was waning elsewhere. Mr Alston, 69, an Australian international human rights law professor, visited Britain last year to produce a report which said that austerity policies introduced in 2010 were continuing to have tragic social consequences. It also claimed that the Scottish government's attempts to reduce the impact of social security cuts, such as the two-child benefit cap, were not sustainable. However, he told an event at the University of Edinburgh: "Scotland is spending a lot of money on mitigating what they see as the least humane policies that come from London. All of this indicates that Scotland is, at least for now, on a very different trajectory than England when it comes to the social protection of its population."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-welfare-state-is-thriving-says-un-mhq8gmpfk>

Ex-MP Michelle Thomson nominated for East Lothian seat (BBC News) POL

A former SNP MP who quit the party following an investigation into alleged mortgage fraud has been nominated as a candidate for the East Lothian seat. Michelle Thomson was reported to prosecutors regarding the alleged fraud after being elected as an MP in 2015. But in August 2017 the Crown Office confirmed there was insufficient evidence to launch criminal proceedings. Ms Thomson always denied any wrongdoing and rejoined the SNP last October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49911191>

Fracking to be banned in Scotland indefinitely, leak reveals (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Fracking will today finally be banned by the Scottish Government after six years of painstaking deliberations – only to face claims it is still not going far enough. SNP ministers had been due to announce they had finalised their position on the controversial gas extraction technology in a statement to MSPS at Holyrood this afternoon. However, the development was revealed accidentally on a government website yesterday. "On 03 October 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed its final policy position of no support for unconventional oil and gas," it said.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17943929.fracking-banned-scotland-indefinitely-leak-reveals/>

Trump’s bid for Turnberry villas rejected (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

The Trump Organisation’s plans to build swathes of housing and luxury holiday villas at its Turnberry resort have been rejected. The US president’s son, Eric, personally oversaw proposals to rezone vast tracts of farmland surrounding the historic venue for housing. However, planners at South Ayrshire Council have turned down the firm’s attempts to have the prime agricultural land redesignated. The Trump Organisation’s plans for a major expansion of its flagship Scottish resort by building swathes of housing and luxury villas have been thwarted, further jeopardising efforts by the US president’s company to stem multimillion-pound losses at its most prestigious overseas property.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/trump-s-plans-for-major-expansion-of-turnberry-resort-rejected-1-5016324>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5) Otherwise looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:24 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today?

Jack says Scottish Tories have been ‘brought into line’ over no-deal exit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives have been “brought into line” with the UK party following interim leader Jackson Carlaw’s endorsement of a no-deal Brexit, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has said. Mr Carlaw abandoned former leader Ruth Davidson’s opposition to a no-deal Brexit on Sunday, saying the Scottish Tories would back Boris Johnson to take the UK out of the EU on 31 October. There were reports Mr Carlaw’s shadow cabinet were left in a “cold fury” over not being consulted, but Mr Jack claimed MSPs had been told about the move, as had Ms Davidson. “He’s bringing the Scottish Conservatives into line with the rest of the UK party,” Mr Jack told STV.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17939977.nicola-sturgeon-hits-scottish-tories-brought-line-uk-government/>

Jackson Carlaw accused of misleading Scottish Tories over no-deal support (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jackson Carlaw has been accused of misleading his party when he reversed the Scottish Conservatives' opposition to a no-deal Brexit. The interim leader has come in for criticism from opponents and colleagues after taking the decision without consulting his shadow cabinet. It emerged last night that he told an event at the Tory conference in Manchester that he had spoken to his senior MSP group. The Times revealed yesterday that some in his frontbench team were left in a "cold fury" by his move. Mr Carlaw was asked at the event on Sunday what discussions he had held with colleagues and whether his MSP team was "on board".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jackson-carlaw-accused-of-misleading-scottish-tories-over-no-deal-support-qldz379p5>

Scottish police chief Will Kerr alleges Brexit planning snub (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Police Scotland has been denied access to sensitive plans to handle civil disruption after Brexit, a senior officer said as he accused UK ministers of stoking tensions with irresponsible language. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's distinct constitutional and legal position, according to Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing. "We have, frankly, at times struggled to access some of the more sensitive elements, or layers, of those planning assumptions," he told the Holyrood justice committee. "Some of those planning assumptions have tended, at times, to be quite London or south of England-centric, and we've been constantly reinforcing the different legal and constitutional arrangements in Scotland."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-police-chief-will-kerr-alleges-brexit-planning-snub-and-warns-over-language-tqh7h8fcv>

UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle to Scotland was 'a mistake', says Tory MP (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish Tory MP has labelled the UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle over to Scotland as part of the devolution settlement in the 1990s a "mistake". Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, labelled the national landmark one of the "fantastic assets" of the United Kingdom, but lamented the fact it can no longer be used for UK Government functions. On a panel alongside Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, and DUP leader Arlene Foster, the parliamentarian was speaking during the Policy Exchange segment at this year's Conservative Party Conference on Monday about how the union can be strengthened after Brexit.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-handing-control-of-edinburgh-castle-to-scotland-was-a-mistake-says-tory-mp-1-5015478>

Call for elections reform over 'missing' voters (BBC News) POL

Campaigners have warned that a snap UK election could leave hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland unable to vote. It follows research showing that the register of people entitled to vote was out of date. The Electoral Reform Society said the issue could affect up to 745,000 Scots who were either not on the list or were registered at the wrong address. They are calling for an overhaul of the registration system.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49897699>

Burger King milkshake tweet 'encouraged' anti-social conduct (BBC News) POL

A Burger King tweet alerting customers it was "selling milkshakes all weekend" has been banned for condoning and encouraging anti-social behaviour. The fast food firm's post came after a number of European election candidates had milkshakes thrown at them. And a McDonald's in Edinburgh stopped selling the drinks before Nigel Farage addressed a rally in the city. Burger King defended the tweet, calling it a "tongue-in-cheek reaction to recent events".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49895800>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Scots Tories want election in spring after Salmond trial (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nervous Scottish Conservatives are urging Boris Johnson to go for a spring General Election to avoid Scotland's wintry weather and take electoral advantage of 'SNP turmoil' surrounding the forthcoming Alex Salmond trial. The plea to the Prime Minister came as the party's annual conference in Manchester heard another major spending announcement: a plan to raise the National Living Wage to £10.50 an hour by 2024, unveiled by Chancellor Sajid Javid as he sought to move the conference spotlight away from allegations over Mr Johnson's private life. The further sign that an election is on its way has prompted Scottish Tory MPs to urge the PM to rule out a December poll and wait until next year to go to the country, preferably in the spring. Some party insiders argue that, apart from avoiding the effects of a bad winter in Scotland, holding an election in March 2020 could bring electoral benefits for the Conservatives in their battle with Nicola Sturgeon's SNP following the high-profile Salmond court case. One senior Scottish Tory source told *The Herald*: "Irrespective of the outcome of the trial, the Nationalists will be in turmoil."

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17937580.scots-tories-back-spring-election-capitalise-snp-turmoil-following-salmond-trial/>

Sidelined Tory MSPs angered by Jackson Carlaw's reversal on Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The interim leader of the Scottish Conservatives has left his MSPs in a "cold fury" by reversing the party's position and supporting a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Jackson Carlaw, who has been interim leader north of the border since Ruth Davidson stepped down, alienated shadow cabinet colleagues when he announced his support on Sunday for leaving the EU on October 31 whether or not a deal has been agreed. His stance is a significant departure from that of Ms Davidson, who said in July that she would not under any circumstances support Britain leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement. Mr Carlaw, who issued a note to all staff and MSPs after replacing Ms Davidson telling them to drop the word "interim" from his job title, told activists at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that the "endless drift" of failing to agree a deal was more damaging than the potential impact of leaving without an agreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sidelined-tory-msps-angered-by-carlaw-s-reversal-on-brexit-5gv65tlcs>

Major military exercise Joint Warrior set for Scotland (BBC News) POL

Thousands of military personnel are to take part in a major UK-led military exercise starting this week. Joint Warrior is held twice a year, in spring and autumn. Starting on Saturday and continuing until 17 October, the second of this year's exercises will involve warships, submarines and aircraft. Most of the

training takes place around Scotland's north, north west and north east coasts and will include live-firing at ranges such as Cape Wrath.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-49877455>

MI5 spied on Manny Shinwell, the Labour titan feared to be a Communist (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

A Labour cabinet member was spied on by the security services for decades, declassified files have shown. Manny Shinwell, a Scottish MP, was suspected of being a communist sympathiser and had his post and phone calls intercepted by police and MI5. The former Red Clydesider who became chairman of the Labour Party was monitored even while serving as defence minister in Clement Attlee’s government from 1945 to 1951. The files, which have been stored in the National Archives in Kew, London, also show that the US authorities raised concerns about Shinwell, who died in 1986 when he was 101.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mi5-spied-on-manny-shinwell-the-labour-titan-feared-to-be-a-communist-dzksrmd2w>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good – thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:20 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

How’s this?

SNP pushes for a compromise caretaker PM to oust Johnson (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP will warn Labour and the Liberal Democrats they must compromise on a candidate to lead a “government of national unity” as pressure builds to oust Boris Johnson and ensure that Brexit is delayed. Opposition leaders will meet today to discuss how to thwart a no-deal Brexit, with the parties deadlocked over who should lead a caretaker administration after a vote of no-confidence in Mr Johnson’s government. With Conservatives in Manchester for their party conference, opposition MPs are expected to use parliamentary tactics at Westminster to disrupt the gathering and put pressure on the government over its refusal to push back the 31 October Brexit deadline.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-pushes-for-a-compromise-pm-to-oust-boris-johnson-1-5013650>

Davidson era ends as Carlaw declares: ‘We must leave EU, deal or no deal’ (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservative leadership has drawn a line under the Ruth Davidson era and scrapped its opposition to a no-deal Brexit, making clear it is “time for us to go” with or without a European Union withdrawal agreement. And Jackson Carlaw, the interim party leader, who indicated he is set to bid for the top job on a permanent basis, denied Prime Minister Boris Johnson was an English nationalist but was, rather, a “passionate, wholehearted” Unionist. “I stand behind him four-square, as do all my parliamentary colleagues,” said Mr Carlaw at the Scottish fringe event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. Ms Davidson was a staunch Remainer, who, as she left her role as head of the Scottish Tories, made clear they would “not support” a no-deal Brexit.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17935304.jackson-carlaw-breaks-ruth-davidson-line-swings-scots-tories-behind-boris-johnson-no-deal-brexit/>

Boris Johnson throws down gauntlet to SNP (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

Boris Johnson has told Nicola Sturgeon to stay away from a UN climate summit in Glasgow, and united the Scottish Conservatives behind a no-deal Brexit. In a defiant message to critics who accuse him of inflammatory rhetoric the prime minister said he would “stick to his guns” in using military metaphors against them. He told a Scottish reception at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that he would unite the UK after delivering Brexit on October 31. Jackson Carlaw, interim leader of the Scottish Tories, aligned with the UK party and reversed his predecessor Ruth Davidson’s opposition to leaving the EU without an agreement. Mr Johnson promised to drape the Union flag around COP26, a UN climate change conference to be held in Glasgow in November next year.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-throws-down-gauntlet-to-snp-pmtcc6x0f>

Cherry says her critics inside party driven by misogyny (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The woman tipped as the next SNP leader has said she experienced attacks from within the party driven by a “huge streak of misogyny”. Joanna Cherry, QC, a key figure behind Boris Johnson’s defeat in the Supreme Court last week, said some party members resented her for being a “successful, forthright woman”. She also confirmed she would consider a run at the leadership once there is a vacancy. The Edinburgh South West MP’s stock is riding high after she led a Scottish legal challenge to the Prime Minister’s prorogation of Parliament alongside 74 other MPS and peers. That fight, and a similar one by activist Gina Miller south of the Border, led to the Court’s unanimous ruling that the “extreme” five-week suspension was unlawful.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17935017.cherry-says-critics-inside-snp-driven-misogyny/>

Images of new Trump golf resort plans released (BBC News)

The Trump Organisation has released images of its plans for a new housing development at its Aberdeenshire golf resort. Plans for 550 houses at the Menie Estate, as well as shops and food outlets, were approved last week. Dubbed The Trump Estate, it features a range of properties from cottages to larger homes costing more than £1m. It will also have its own town hall. A second golf course at the resort was previously given the go-ahead.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49870020>

(b)(6)

Programs & Engagement Manager

U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:



Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender: (b)(6)
Recipient:



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated March 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified five additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all five records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Miller for".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press - February 19, 2019
Date:	Tue, 19 Feb 2019 10:53:07 +0000

I made a few additional small edits – good to go.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 10:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press - February 19, 2019

Looks good to me. I've just slightly reordered it. Thank you!

As a by the by (b)(6) is my old editor (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 9:59 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Scotland Press - February 19, 2019

Any edits?

Edinburgh MP Ian Murray not joining Labour breakaway (BBC News) POL

Edinburgh South MP Ian Murray does not intend to join colleagues by leaving the Labour Party, BBC Scotland understands. Seven MPs have quit Labour in protest at the party's approach to Brexit and anti-Semitism under Jeremy Corbyn, and will now sit as an "independent group." Mr. Murray said Mr. Corbyn should "listen and learn and decide if he wants to keep the Labour Party together". However, he also said Labour was "the only vehicle" for change in the UK. Seven MPs - Chuka Umunna, Luciana Berger, Chris Leslie, Angela Smith, Mike Gapes, Gavin Shuker and Ann Coffey - announced on Monday morning that they were quitting Labour in protest at Mr. Corbyn's approach to Brexit and anti-Semitism. They will now sit as an "independent group," but have stopped short of forming a new political party - for now. None of Labour's seven Scottish MPs are expected to join the breakaway, despite Mr. Murray's criticism of Mr. Corbyn's leadership. Mr. Murray - who won Edinburgh South in 2017 with the largest majority in Scotland, of more than 32% - said it was "a sad day for Labour and for me personally." He said: "The current Labour leadership is breaking the broad church that this party once built its electoral success upon - a broad church which delivered Labour governments that lifted millions and millions of people out of poverty. The challenge now is for Jeremy Corbyn to listen and learn, and decide if he wants to

keep the Labour Party together or if he will continue to foster a culture of bullying and intolerance where his own MPs feel unwelcome and are being forced out." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47279362>

Labour split sees calls for Scottish independence grow (The National) POL

The "chaos" at Westminster which saw seven Labour MPs quit their party yesterday may "intensify" the independence debate, according to the boss of an influential think tank. Kirsty Hughes, director of the Scottish Centre on European Relations in Edinburgh, said the UK political crisis triggered by Brexit could take a long time to resolve. "The UK's imploding politics could take many years to recover from the current crisis. If Brexit were halted through another referendum that recovery might be faster but even so the deep divisions across the UK and in particular within England would not be overcome in a hurry," she said. Asked what impact the Labour split would have on Scotland's constitutional future, she added: "That will depend whether the split increases political chaos at Westminster or helps to move MPs towards a people's vote. If Brexit goes ahead, then the independence debate in Scotland will surely intensify." Hughes said the situation will also focus attention on "Scottish Labour's failure to oppose Brexit or call for a people's vote" despite some politicians from the party doing so.

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17441833.labour-split-sees-calls-for-scottish-independence-grow/>

UK Government accused of 'feckless and reckless' approach to Brexit (The Evening Express) POL

Michael Gove has faced claims the UK Government is guilty of a "feckless and reckless" approach to Brexit and that a no-deal scenario risks "irreparable" harm to the farming industry. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was urged to take no deal off the table by Fergus Ewing, Scotland's Rural Economy Secretary, as the pair attended a public question-and-answer session in Edinburgh on Monday. Mr. Ewing told an audience at the Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) headquarters: "Unless we take a no deal off the table there will be irreparable harm, particularly to our sheep, our lamb sector that is so reliant on exports to the EU that a collapse in the lamb price would be an inevitable consequence." The event was attended by representatives from NFU Scotland, Quality Meat Scotland, RSPB, Scottish Environment LINK and the Scottish Organic Producers Association, among others. Mr. Ewing highlighted Scottish Government concerns over labour, trade and funding in a post-Brexit UK. He said: "We in the Scottish Government believe very strongly that the UK's Government's approach to Brexit has been feckless and reckless, and has consequences which, foreseeably, will cause substantial damage and harm to the rural economy." He asked Mr. Gove: "If there is to be Brexit will you rule out a no deal? You can do so. That's the most immediate threat facing us all." Mr. Gove said there were "legitimate" concerns among the agricultural sector about leaving the EU without a deal. He said: "It's true – I make no bones about it – if we leave the European Union without a deal we will face tariffs of at least 40% on sheep." He said the impact on the export trade would depend on a variety of factors, including the extent to which sterling would depreciate and therefore make exports more competitive. <https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/uk-government-accused-of-feckless-and-reckless-approach-to-brexit/>

Second independence vote 'blocked by mess of Brexit' (The Times) POL

Uncertainty over the shape of Brexit makes it "very difficult" to start a renewed campaign for Scottish independence, one of the SNP's most prominent MPs has said. Tommy Sheppard, a former contender to be the party's deputy leader, rejected any rush towards a second referendum despite pressure from some within the party to push for a new vote. Nicola Sturgeon has said that she will set out her plans in the coming weeks, but the lack of detail on Britain's departure from the European Union has delayed the process on multiple occasions. "One of the problems for those of us who advocate independence or a different constitutional future for Scotland is that we don't quite know what it's an alternative to at

the moment," said Mr. Sheppard. "So until it's clear what the United Kingdom is and the direction it's going to go and, crucially, whether it's part of the European mainstream or not, it's very difficult to move forward on the question of independence." The Edinburgh East MP said it was his "firm belief" that Britain would vote to remain if a second referendum on EU membership were to be held. He added: "Then we can move forward to discuss the question of Scottish independence."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/second-independence-vote-blocked-by-mess-of-brexit-1015pfzgn>

Brexit: Cross-party group of Scots parliamentarians claim People's Vote will break "logjam" (The Scotsman) POL

A second Brexit referendum is likely to happen as it is the only solution to the current Westminster "logjam", a cross-party group of Scottish parliamentarians said today. Scotland for a People's Vote held a cross-party news conference in Edinburgh, with former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale among the speakers, along with SNP MP Tommy Sheppard, Liberal Democrat MP Christine Jardine and Andy Wightman, the Greens' Lothians MSP. The group has stepped up campaigning with just over five weeks before the March 29 Brexit deadline and are adamant a second vote will win the backing of the Commons. EU leaders have indicated they would be prepared to delay the UK's departure from the EU to allow such a Peoples' Vote to take place. Mr. Sheppard said: "Of all the options still on the table, this is the one that probably has the most support in terms of Parliament. Not yet expressed in a majority but in my reckoning a lot closer to a majority than either No deal or Theresa May's Withdrawal agreement. I think putting that together will involve some members of the Conservative party, some of whom have already put their heads above the parapet, others of whom are hedging their bets and waiting until the clock runs down a little more, but they will come round to this position I think in the next few weeks." <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit-cross-party-group-of-scots-parliamentarians-claim-people-s-vote-will-break-logjam-1-4874723>

Nicola Sturgeon defends business trip to France after 'jaunt' accusation (The Scotsman) POL

Nicola Sturgeon will showcase Scotland as an "open and outward-looking country" during a visit to France. The First Minister is heading to Paris to address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Assemblée Nationale, the lower house of the French Parliament. She will also officially open the Scottish Government's hub office in Paris. France is the third largest market for Scottish exports, with Ms. Sturgeon saying the relationship between the two nations is "one of the oldest in the world." But she has come under fire for embarking on another overseas trip so soon after a visit to the US and Canada. The SNP leader visited Washington DC, New York, New Jersey, Ottawa and Toronto earlier in February. Scottish Conservative chief whip Maurice Golden said: "Another week and another jaunt abroad for the First Minister. Meanwhile, back home, we have a health service on its knees, our schools are struggling, and councils are toiling to balance their budgets due to SNP cuts." The Tory MSP added: "The SNP's only aim is to drive a wedge between Scotland and our largest trading partner - which is the rest of the UK. Nicola Sturgeon should focus on growing Scotland's economy instead of attempting to grandstand on the world stage." Speaking ahead of the trip, the First Minister stressed: "France is our third largest export market and French-based firms play a key part in our economy, with investments in financial services and our food and drink industry." <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-defends-business-trip-to-france-after-jaunt-accusation-1-4874553>

Nicola Sturgeon: EU nationals crucial to Scotland's well-being (The Scotsman) POL

Nicola Sturgeon will say EU nationals are "crucial" to Scotland's well-being as she appears before delegates in the French Parliament today. Scotland's First Minister will appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Assemblée Nationale, the lower house of the French legislature in Paris. The SNP

leader will attack the UK’s decision to end Freedom of Movement as part of its Brexit deal as a ‘self-defeating measure’ and pledge to give her support to EU citizens currently living in Scotland. “Those EU citizens of course include 7,000 French people, who are our colleagues, friends, neighbors and in many cases our family. The Scottish Government is proud that they have done us the honor of making Scotland their home,” is expected to tell the delegates. “We will always stick up for their rights - in recent months we have lobbied successfully to ensure EU citizens would not have to pay a fee to obtain settled status in the UK. “And we will always make it clear that EU citizens are welcome. In fact in the coming months, we plan to step up our efforts to encourage EU citizens to stay in Scotland.”
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-eu-nationals-crucial-to-scotland-s-well-being-1-4875144>

Trump Organization lawyer and Scots public affairs exec team up for book on US president

A senior Trump Organization executive tasked with managing the company’s potential conflicts of interest during Donald Trump’s presidency has teamed up with a former editor of a Scottish newspaper to write a “behind the scenes” account of the US president’s business dealings, The Scotsman can reveal. George Sorial, executive vice president and chief compliance counsel for the Trump Organization, is co-writing the book alongside Damian Bates, a former editor of the Press and Journal. The book, entitled ‘The Real Deal: My Decade Fighting Battles and Winning Wars with Trump’, is billed as a collection of “behind the scenes stories of Trump’s leadership, problem solving, and success.” It promises readers an insight into the “life lessons” accrued “from a decade with a man of the people.” The book is expected to chronicle the Trump Organization’s move into Scotland with Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeenshire and its subsequent acquisition of the historic Turnberry hotel and golf resort in South Ayrshire. Mr. Sorial was the driving force behind Trump’s protracted and contentious attempts to create his inaugural Scottish golf course, giving evidence before the Scottish Parliament and meeting former first minister Alex Salmond. The former real estate lawyer, whose mother is from the Lewis village of Brogar, has been employed by Trump since 2007. He has been secretary of the company behind the Aberdeenshire resort since November 2008.
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/trump-organisation-lawyer-and-scots-public-affairs-exec-team-up-for-book-on-us-president-1-4875142>

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press
Date: Thu, 19 Sep 2019 10:43:43 +0000

Got it, thanks!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 11:19 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How about adding this one from the Herald:

Scottish economy on brink of recession after Brexit turmoil

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 11:13 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Cameron 'sought Queen's help' over Scottish independence (BBC News) POL

Former PM David Cameron has revealed he asked whether the Queen could "raise an eyebrow" about the prospect of Scotland voting for independence. He told the BBC he sought help from royal officials days before the 2014 vote amid "mounting panic" he may lose. What was discussed was not "anything that would be in any way improper... but just a raising of the eyebrow even... a quarter of an inch", he said. The Queen later urged people to "think very carefully about the future". The comments - made to a well-wisher outside a church on the Balmoral estate - were one of the main talking points of the referendum campaign.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49733588>

Alex Salmond: Yes would win 60% now if I had waited to hold independence vote (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Alex Salmond has claimed that 60 per cent of Scots would have voted for independence if he had delayed the referendum until Boris Johnson became prime minister in the wake of the Brexit vote. The former first minister said that he would have pushed back the 2014 ballot if he had known how Britain's political future would unfold in the aftermath of the vote to leave the European Union. Scotland voted "no" to independence by 55 per cent to 45 per cent five years ago. Within hours of the result Mr Salmond announced his resignation as SNP leader and first minister. In a series of tweets yesterday Mr Salmond said if he had known five years ago that Mr Johnson was to become prime minister with Britain poised on the brink of a hard Brexit "I would have delayed the Scottish independence referendum and now looked forward to a 60 per cent-plus Yes vote". He said "we should focus not on what might have been but on the opportunity still to come".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/alex-salmond-yes-would-win-60-now-if-i-had-waited-to-hold-independence-vote-mg6hv0zzz>

Sturgeon 'fights for European future' on Berlin visit (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she was "fighting" for a European future as she visited Berlin, five years on from Scots voting to stay in the UK in 2014. Ms Sturgeon was in the German capital to talk to government and business leaders. While the UK is due to leave the European Union at the end of October, Ms Sturgeon stressed Scotland was an "outward-looking European nation" and promised to do "everything" in her power to try to halt a possible no-deal Brexit. Two years after Scots rejected independence, voters backed keeping the UK in the EU – however the UK as a whole voted to leave. Ms Sturgeon tweeted: "In #indyref UK politicians told us independence would see us thrown out of the EU. Today, five years on, I'm in Germany fighting for an EU future that we stand to lose because we are not independent. Scotland's future belongs in Scotland's hands. "

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17910026.nicola-sturgeon-fighting-european-future-visit-berlin/>

Trump's helicopter plan fails to take off (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

US president Donald Trump's vision of bolstering business at three of his loss-making courses by exporting one of his helicopters across the Atlantic to woo golfers has failed to take off. The Scotsman can reveal a little known subsidiary of the Trump Organisation which oversaw a Scottish helicopter charter service has quietly shipped back a multimillion pound Sikorsky aircraft to the US amid falling demand and growing distrust of the Trump brand.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-s-luxury-helicopter-charter-plans-fail-to-take-off-1-5006867>

Older Scottish universities getting lion's share of foreign fees (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's older universities have accumulated vast reserves of cash from levying fees on foreign students while newer institutions are cutting staff to balance the books, Scotland's public spending watchdog has found. Tuition fees have overtaken public money as the main source of university income, with the majority paid by students from China, the US, India and other countries outside the EU. Most of this is going to Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews while newer institutions, which are less attractive to foreign students, struggle, Audit Scotland said. The older universities have faced calls to help more disadvantaged young people, who are up against tough competition to get in and are more likely to attend cash-strapped former technical colleges that were promoted to university status after 1992.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/older-scottish-universities-getting-lions-share-of-foreign-fees-tm3sjdgnm>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 10:14 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sounds good!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 10:04 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

I added in a piece on JP Morgan and the majority petition – I can't find Macwhirter's piece online though, could maybe include it tomorrow?

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:52 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

I saw something about how some are proposing that the vote should be 2/3 majority – any articles on that? Any articles on JP Morgan opening a big center in Glasgow? Is the Iain Macwhirter oped any good? I reordered slightly

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:45 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this? I added in the Willie Rennie indy article too...

Poll - majority of Scots will vote "remain in the UK" (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A majority of Scots would vote to stay in the UK in a fresh independence referendum, new polling indicates. The survey by the Scotland in Union organisation found 59% would vote to remain, while 41% would back independence. But the findings were dismissed by the SNP Deputy leader Keith Brown who claimed the question was "rigged." It comes on the fifth anniversary of the independence referendum of 2014 - but uses a different question to the one posed five years ago. Instead of "Should Scotland be an Independent Country?", it asks "Should Scotland remain in the United Kingdom or leave the United Kingdom?" Most polls recently have indicated that opinion among Scots was split down the middle in the independence issue.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-independence-poll-majority-of-scots-will-vote-remain-in-the-uk-1-5005983>

How has Scotland changed since the indyref? (BBC News) POL

Five years have passed since the Scottish independence referendum. BBC Scotland looks at how the country's politics has changed since then, and how likely we are to do it all again. Where were you on 18 September, 2014? If you're a Scot over the age of 16, there's an 84.59% chance you were in a polling station at some point, ticking Yes or No on the question of independence. When those ballot papers were counted up, the No pile was bigger by 55% to 45% - but that was just the beginning of the story. Wherever you were that day, it's unlikely you would have predicted where we would all be five years later, with the UK seemingly jammed halfway out the exit door of the EU and the question of Scotland's part in it decidedly unresolved.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49726825>

Willie Rennie vows to halt indyref2 'dead in its tracks' (BBC News) POL

The Scottish Liberal Democrat leader has pledged to stop indyref2 "dead in its tracks" even if pro independence parties win a majority in Scotland. Willie Rennie also said his party would stop Brexit and ruled out future coalitions with Labour or the Tories. His comments follow those of UK party leader Jo Swinson who said the Lib Dems would be the "stop Brexit party". First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said she wants to have another vote on leaving the UK in 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49706904>

Petition launched to require two-thirds majority for independence (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Unionists have launched a campaign to raise the bar for a second independence referendum by insisting any constitutional change must be backed by two-thirds of voters. The Scotland Matters group, which includes figures from the Better Together campaign of 2014, has lodged a petition at the Scottish Parliament on the issue. It coincides with the Scottish Government advancing its Referendums Bill through Holyrood to pave the way for a second independence referendum in late 2020. Nicola Sturgeon has said she will ask the UK Government to transfer vital referendum powers it has so far withheld by January next year. The Scotland Matters petition, which is cited in a report to Holyrood's constitution committee tomorrow about the Referendum Bill, says a two-thirds vote for change would avoid a disputed result. Rather, it would be "clear, demand acceptance by all, and neutralise subsequent efforts to revoke the result of have another referendum" and give a "powerful mandate" for the government implementing the change.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17906410.petition-launched-require-two-thirds-majority-independence/>

Turn Palace of Holyroodhouse into Scottish House of Lords, urges Green MSP Andy Wightman (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The royal family should relinquish the Palace of Holyroodhouse so it can be converted into Scotland's answer to the House of Lords, a politician and land reformer has said. On the fifth anniversary of the 2014 referendum, in which 55 per cent of Scots voted to stay part of the UK, Andy Wightman, a Green MSP, has outlined a radical vision for the future. Part of his plan involves using the 17th-century royal residence, which was completed during the reign of Charles II. "The Palace of Holyroodhouse is ideally situated to host an elected second parliamentary chamber which will no doubt be needed to assist with scrutiny of the considerable additional administrative responsibilities that an independent Scotland would take on," Mr Wightman said. The Greens' popularity increased after campaigning for Scottish independence but the party has been criticised for being too close to the SNP and focusing more on the constitution than the environment.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-palace-of-holyroodhouse-into-scottish-house-of-lords-urges-green-msp-andy-wightman-qkl8h5r8j>

Op-ed: Jeremy Corbyn may be crucial to saving the Union (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Union is doomed. Or so you might think given the tone of some Brexit commentary of late, including my own. And yet a question is being dodged by those who want to see the United Kingdom stay united. They dodge it because it makes them queasy. The question is this: can socialism save the Union? You can understand why, especially for those on the centre-right, this is a tricky one. If there is truth in the notion that a Jeremy Corbyn government would halt the break-up of Britain, it presents them with a fiendish dilemma. What do they esteem more, their conservatism or their unionism?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jeremy-corbyn-may-be-crucial-to-saving-the-union-rx768g9ms>

Scottish group fined over donations to Tories (BBC News) POL

A Scottish group which gave money to the Conservative Party has been fined £1,800 by the Electoral Commission for not reporting donations properly. The Scottish Unionist Association Trust gave hundreds of thousands of pounds to the party over a period of 17 years. These donations were reported by the Conservatives, but a probe found SUAT "consistently failed to provide proper notification" to the election watchdog. The group has accepted the Commission's findings and paid the fines. An investigation by the Ferret website previously found that the SUAT donated £318,876 to the Conservatives between April 2001 and February 2018.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49726822>

Senior judges to hear Wings Over Scotland appeal (BBC News) POL

Senior judges are to hear an appeal by a prominent pro-independence blogger who lost his legal case against former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale. Stuart Campbell of the Wings Over Scotland blog accused Ms Dugdale of defamation after she claimed he had sent "homophobic tweets". A sheriff ruled in Ms Dugdale's favour after a hearing earlier this year. Mr Campbell has now been given permission to appeal to the Inner House of the Court of Session. The case was referred to the Court of Session after the Sheriff Appeal Court in Edinburgh agreed to a request by Mr Campbell's QC, Craig Sandison.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49729743>

Exxonmobil invests £140m after local tempers flare (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

A £140 million plan to reduce flaring and improve infrastructure at an ethylene plant in Fife has been announced by Exxonmobil. The oil and gas company said that the work over the next two years would support about 850 construction jobs and benefit 40 suppliers. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) began a formal investigation into the Mossmorran plant in April after hundreds of complaints from people living near by about a chemical smell and rumbling noise. Exxonmobil said that

some of the investment would go toward technologies that reduced the impact of flaring, which would reduce noise and vibration. It also plans to upgrade infrastructure to “improve operational reliability and performance”. Jacob McAlister, the plant manager, said: “We are committed to the highest operational and regulatory standards.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/exxonmobil-invests-140m-after-local-tempers-flare-r533l3x5n>

JPMorgan Chase to build new technology base in Glasgow (BBC News) POL

US financial services giant JPMorgan Chase has unveiled plans to build a new multi-million pound base for its technology operations in Glasgow. Planning permission has been granted for a 270,000 sq ft building in the heart of Glasgow's International Financial Services District (IFSD). It will house about 2,000 technology specialists currently spread between two other locations in the city. The 13-storey building in Argyle Street is scheduled to open its doors in 2022. Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of next year.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49714650>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

From: (b)(6)
Date: 12 September 2019 at 09:44:58 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Labour scrambles to recruit candidates for half of Scottish seats (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Labour is struggling to find candidates to fight a snap election with vacancies for more than half of the country's seats. There are no prospective parliamentary candidates for 33 seats in Scotland and party bosses are pressing local activists to put their names forward. Labour is always expected to field candidates in the 59 Scottish constituencies represented at Westminster. The party has been forced to extend a deadline for applications. Vacant seats include East Renfrewshire, which was once held by Jim Murphy as Scottish Labour leader, as well as both Aberdeen constituencies and two in Dundee.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/labour-scrambles-to-recruit-candidates-for-half-of-scottish-seats-2whm3x3n3>

Pledge Citizens' Assembly will be independent of Government (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Controversial plans for a Citizens' Assembly in Scotland have been backed by MSPs at Holyrood with Constitution Secretary Mike Russell insisting it will be independent of Government. But the move came under fire from opposition parties who branded the proposal a "ruse" to press the case for independence. MSPs voted in favour of the Assembly which will be headed up by former Labour MEP David Martin and co-convenor Kate Wimpess, the third sector leader. The Assembly has been tasked with looking at the kind of country we are seeking to build in Scotland, how the country can best overcome the challenges it faces and the information required to allow Scots make "informed choices about the future of Scotland."

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/pledge-citizens-assembly-will-be-independent-of-government-1-5002648>

US deal with Prestwick put on hold (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL/ECON

A lucrative new US military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport has been put on hold amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and President Trump's flagship Scottish resort, *The Scotsman* can reveal. A US Defence Department agency has postponed a lucrative new military aircraft refuelling deal with Glasgow Prestwick Airport amid multiple investigations and growing political scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic into US military patronage and spending at the transport hub and president Donald Trump's flagship Scottish resort.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scottish-government-refuses-to-rule-out-selling-prestwick-airport-to-us-military-1-5002104>

Royal Navy Type 31 frigate order goes to Babcock (BBC News) ECON

The race to design and build a new generation of Royal Navy frigates has been won by a consortium led by Babcock. The firm has been named preferred bidder for the £1.25bn contract for five Type 31 warships. The deal secures hundreds of jobs at Rosyth in Fife, where the ships will be assembled, with construction work spread between yards across the UK. Work is to begin by the end of 2019, with the first ships delivered in 2023. The Type 31 is a smaller, cheaper frigate than the Type 26 warships currently being built at the Upper Clyde shipyards.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49670332>

Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge: How likely is it to be built? (BBC News) POL/ECON

Reports have resurfaced that a bridge from Scotland to Northern Ireland is being considered by the UK government. Channel 4 News said it had seen documents showing that the Treasury and Department for Transport had been asked for advice on possible costs and risks. The idea has been floated before with two potential routes suggested - from Portpatrick to Larne or near Campbeltown to the Antrim coast.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49661019>

41% of Scots want to bring back death penalty (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Since the hangman tied his last noose 56 years ago Scotland has taken a more progressive approach to justice. But while liberal experts trumpet our politicians' embrace of rehabilitation, it appears that many Scots harbour more old-fashioned attitudes to crime and punishment. A YouGov poll of 1,059 Scots for *The Times* has found that 41 per cent of the population — 1.8 million people — would reintroduce the death penalty for murderers. Those who continue to oppose capital punishment polled only slightly higher at 44 per cent, with 15 per cent unsure.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/41-of-scots-want-to-bring-back-death-penalty-tfs7ws7qr>

Five Glasgow marches banned over sectarian disorder fears (BBC News) POL

Five marches planned for this weekend have been banned by Glasgow City Council after an emergency meeting. It follows violent sectarian disturbances at similar events over the past two weekends. Four Loyalist parades and an Irish Republican march planned for Saturday and Sunday will not be allowed to go ahead due to the threat of trouble. The decision was taken by an urgently arranged meeting of Glasgow City Council's Public Processions Committee. In what has been described as an unprecedented move, council officials recommended that all five processions this weekend be prohibited.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49661504>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Only thing I'd flag are 2 opeds in the Scotsman about Trump – I can't open the articles bc I'm having problems with the Scotsman so don't know the content...

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:19 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Big one today! Anything I've missed?

Court to rule over Parliament shutdown appeal (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court is to again rule on whether or not Boris Johnson's suspension of the UK Parliament is legal. A judge at the Court of Session last week rejected an attempt by a cross-party group of politicians to have the suspension declared unlawful. They appealed to the court's Inner House, with a panel of three judges being asked to overturn the decision. The panel is expected to deliver its ruling on Wednesday. Parliament was officially suspended for five weeks - a process known as proroguing - in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with MPs not due back until 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49655301>

No-deal Brexit 'would cost economy £9bn and double joblessness' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Unemployment would almost double in Scotland under a no-deal Brexit, the country's leading economic think tank has warned. The Fraser of Allander Institute said Bank of England projections would see the country face a £9 billion hit to its economy and "significant" job losses. Sajid Javid, the chancellor, unveiled an extra £2 billion for no-deal Brexit planning last week. The Scottish government has used some of its share of the funding for the storage of extra drugs and medical supplies, including increased

stocks of body bags. Despite revised estimates downgrading the potential economic impact, the respected think tank warned that the consequences would be similar to those in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brexite-would-cost-economy-9bn-and-double-joblessness-vdpjwq7rm>

'No need to reword vote on secession' (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Changing the wording of the question voters would be asked if there were another independence referendum would be "confusing", the Scottish constitutional relations secretary has said. Mike Russell said there was a "clarity and consistency" to having the same wording as in the 2014 ballot, when people were asked: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" He said because this question was "still current" there was no need for the Electoral Commission to test it if there were another referendum next year, as Nicola Sturgeon has proposed. The commission has made clear that it "firmly recommends" it should give its "views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question", regardless of whether it has previously done so.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-need-to-reword-vote-on-secession-2npgr5jvn>

MP Lisa Cameron missing from SNP election list after row over abortion (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An SNP MP who faced a "smear campaign" over her opposition to lifting Northern Ireland's abortion ban is the only party candidate not to have been approved for a snap general election. Lisa Cameron's political future was in doubt last night as SNP members were given 48 hours to choose whether they want sitting MPs to fight a probable November poll or whether an internal selection should take place. An email was sent from Angus MacLeod, the party's national secretary, to members represented by an SNP MP on Monday containing a poll by SurveyMonkey, the online survey. People had the option to reselect their MP or to mark their preference for an open contest, which would be triggered if more than 20 per cent of respondents want a challenger to stand against the MP. Responses must be given by 6pm today.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mp-lisa-cameron-missing-from-snp-election-list-after-row-over-abortion-83lj9qxzz>

Scottish Conservative MP Bill Grant to stand down at election (BBC News) POL

A Scottish Conservative MP has announced he will stand down at the next general election. Bill Grant won the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock seat in 2017 after overturning a large SNP majority. But he said he would not be seeking re-election whenever the next general election is called. In a letter to his local Conservative association, Mr Grant said it had always been his intention to serve just one term in Parliament.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49650206>

Glasgow to host world leaders for critical climate summit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

About 200 world leaders and up to 30,000 delegates will converge on Glasgow next year for a UN climate change summit, it was announced last night. President Putin, Angela Merkel and President Macron are among those expected to attend. COP26, or the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change convention, has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement in 2015. It will be held at the Scottish Events Campus in Glasgow in November or December after a successful UK bid to host the event. The main summit is in the UK, while Italy has agreed to put on preparatory events. The Scottish government joined MSPs and environmental activists

in welcoming the news, describing their delight that the “fight back against the climate emergency will begin in Glasgow”.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-to-host-world-leaders-for-critical-climate-summit-vrbchsln0>

Court threat over President Trump’s Turnberry hotel stays (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Senior US congressmen have demanded documents from the Department of Defense as they investigate claims that President Trump is profiting from military use of his Ayrshire golf resort. The Trump administration has faced allegations of corruption since it was revealed that US Air Force personnel stayed at Turnberry during stopovers to refuel at Prestwick airport near by. The House of Representatives committee on oversight and reform wants a full breakdown of expenditure on rooms at the resort and has threatened defence officials with court summons. A report from the currency exchange company FairFX revealed that rates at the hotel have varied hugely since Mr Trump took office.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/court-threat-over-president-trumps-turnberry-hotel-stays-w5bp3fgph>

Glasgow march violence 'stain on city's reputation', says minister (BBC News) POL

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has said the people of Glasgow have had enough of marches that lead to "sectarian violence" on their streets. Mr Yousaf said the vast majority of the city's population viewed the trouble stemming from the marches as a "stain" on the city's reputation. The minister was responding to a topical question at Holyrood after a second weekend of disorder. He said the city council was looking at ways of reducing the number of marches. On Saturday, a police officer was injured as two Irish Republican marches and counter-demonstrations were held in Glasgow.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49651139>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:36 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this?

Gordon Brown: rise up to prevent an undemocratic no-deal Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has urged voters to “rise up” against the government in a bid to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Labour former prime minister issued the rallying cry at an event in Glasgow last night as he accused Boris Johnson of leading a “xenophobic” administration. He said: “Here is a man [Mr Johnson] who when he faces a difficult challenge in parliament, he shuts it down. When he faces a difficult challenge with the law, he tries to break it. We the people have to stop him breaking the law.” Mr Brown addressed about 60 people in Gorbals parish church, where he said that further meetings across the country, including in Edinburgh, would aim to “marshal our forces” to stop “a government that is acting

dictatorially and undemocratically". The only example that he gave to push for a revolt was encouraging people to phone radio stations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-rise-up-to-prevent-an-undemocratic-no-deal-brexite-blql7hkl8>

Sacking Tory rebels will hurt party at the polls, Ruth Davidson warns (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson has accused Boris Johnson of alienating Remain voters by sacking 21 rebel Tory MPs. Ms Davidson, who quit as Scottish Conservative leader last month, said that expelling senior Conservatives including the former chancellors Philip Hammond and Ken Clarke would hurt the party's election hopes. She rejected claims that it would enforce discipline. Rory Stewart, a former international development secretary, also had the whip withdrawn. "These weren't MPs who lacked discipline. They weren't serial rebels; in fact, this vote was the first time some of them had broken the whip in their careers," Ms Davidson wrote in the London Evening Standard, which is edited by the former Tory chancellor George Osborne.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sacking-tory-rebels-will-hurt-party-at-the-polls-ruth-davidson-warns-wlc3qsdbk>

Op-ed: Scots are right to be suspicious of Boris Johnson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

For a while now, but more and more frequently since July, friends, colleagues and correspondents from parts south of Berwick have taken to asking me this question: why is Boris Johnson so unpopular in Scotland? It is a good question and one worth taking seriously. First, the facts. Mr Johnson really is unpopular north of the border. According to last week's YouGov poll for The Times, two thirds of Scottish voters think Mr Johnson an untrustworthy individual and a further 14 per cent don't know if he can be trusted or not. Even among Tory voters, only 53 per cent think he's trustworthy, and overall only one in four Scottish voters think Mr Johnson is doing a spiffing job as prime minister. No wonder our poll suggested the Tories might lose 80 per cent of their Scottish seats if there were an election soon.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-are-right-to-be-suspicious-of-boris-johnson-5pxlf5chk>

Ban marches, urges former lord provost Michael Kelly (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Public marches belong in the 19th century and should be banned, a former lord provost of Glasgow claimed as it emerged that a dozen republican and loyalist processions are planned in the city this month. Michael Kelly spoke out after rival factions clashed in Glasgow for the second week in a row. A huge police operation was undertaken at the weekend at a republican march in the city in which an officer was injured and 11 people arrested, including a boy aged 14.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ban-marches-urges-former-lord-provost-michael-kelly-fj5bwzvmd>

Trump Turnberry: US Air Force to review Scotland resort stays (BBC News) POL/ECON

The US Air Force (USAF) has ordered a review of its guidance on overnight accommodation for flight crews. It has emerged that some personnel have been staying at one of President Donald Trump's Scottish golf resorts. There has been an increase in the number of US military flights stopping at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, near the resort, since he took office. A US congressional committee is investigating Mr Trump for a potential conflict of interest over the matter.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49633936>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:02 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court of Session will give Brexit judgement next week (BBC News) POL

Scotland's highest civil court will give its judgement next week on a challenge to the planned suspension of the UK Parliament. But judges Lord Carloway, Lord Brodie and Lord Drummond Young refused an interdict which would have immediately halted the process. Lord Carloway said the court had to consider some extremely complex issues and a decision would take some time. The court had heard the prorogation of Parliament could begin on Monday. In London earlier, a legal challenge over the decision to suspend Parliament was rejected in the High Court. The case was brought by businesswoman Gina Miller, who argued the move was "an unlawful abuse of power". That decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49611281>

Settling Salmond case 'could cost almost £1m' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Taxpayers face footing a bigger bill than originally thought to settle a legal tussle with Alex Salmond, Scotland's former first minister. The Scottish government spent more money on outside legal advice as they scrambled to finalise a deal on court expenses for Mr Salmond. The former SNP leader received £512,000 of public money to cover costs after a botched investigation into complaints of sexual harassment against him. A Labour MSP said that the total bill could be close to £1 million. The Scottish government had said that it had spent an additional £118,523 on external lawyers before its failed defence against a judicial review brought and won by Mr Salmond, 64. It has now emerged that, despite having a team of internal solicitors, outside expertise was again sought during a dispute over what percentage of Mr Salmond's costs should have been paid by the government. At the time it was suggested that an independent third party be brought in to rule on the disagreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/settling-salmond-case-could-cost-almost-1m-gqwd2w9bj>

Trump Turnberry: US Congress launches investigation into Prestwick Airport deals (BBC News) POL/ECON

A US Congressional committee is investigating President Donald Trump in connection with a potential conflict of interest over military spending at a Scottish airport near his golf resort. The House Oversight and Reform Committee says expenditure at Prestwick airport has "increased substantially" since Mr Trump came into office. The debt-ridden airport has been fighting off closure. It is said to be integral to the Trump business, which is also loss-making. The committee's accusations are detailed in a letter to the Pentagon - which is dated to June but was only revealed on the Politico website on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49621836>

Index aims to boost productivity in Scotland (BBC News) ECON

A new index has been created to measure the productivity levels of Scottish businesses. The first Scottish Productivity Index suggests some progress in productivity, but says that Scotland is "lagging behind" its competition. The report will be published annually and will look at 15 key indicators. It will

track performance in four areas: business practices, skills and training, health and wellbeing and infrastructure and connectivity. The index is being compiled by CBI Scotland and KPMG and contains a number of straightforward recommendations for government and businesses to approach together. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49627041>

Business confidence at three-year low (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Business confidence in Scotland has fallen to its lowest level in more than three years, according to research published today. The Royal Bank of Scotland purchasing managers' index (PMI) found there was only a small expansion in private sector activity last month. However, positive sentiment dwindled and companies reported inflationary pressures. The PMI is a long-running data series monitoring monthly trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. A reading of greater than 50 indicates an expansion of activity. The headline output reading, a combined score for manufacturing and services, was at 50.3, marginally ahead of the 50.2 recorded in July.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/business-confidence-at-three-year-low-rn8lvtdhl>

Saved in the States (*The Sunday Post*, 95,000, centrist)

A mesh victim hailed her surgeon and supporters yesterday after a life-transforming operation in America. Claire Daisley said she did not have the words to thank donors who paid for her trip and surgeon Dionysios Veronikis, who operated for free at his hospital in Missouri. She said: "They did not just change my life, they saved my life." The surgeon managed to remove all of the mesh implant that had inflicted nine years of agony and Claire said Health Secretary Jeane Freeman must now deliver on her promise to bring him to Scotland. She said: "Dr Veronikis must be allowed to help other women like me. I'm the living proof."

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/video-crippled-in-scotland-saved-in-the-states-mesh-victim-claire-daisley-shares-her-story/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:30 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? Wasn't too sure how to classify the last one but thought it was worth including...

PM moves political battleground to Scotland (BBC News) POL

Boris Johnson is to move the political battleground to Scotland when he visits Aberdeenshire to announce additional funding for Scottish farmers. The trip marks the end of a bruising week in which the PM lost Commons votes on his general election plan and a bill designed to stop a no-deal Brexit. The SNP said the motion to hold an early poll was a plot to make sure the UK left the EU without a deal. The prime minister's trip will include a visit to the Queen's Balmoral estate. He will also visit a farm, days after the government revealed a £160m funding package for Scottish farmers. The move settled a long-running row over the distribution of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments across the UK.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49599334>

Nicola Sturgeon: Bring on a general election so Scotland can oppose Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon said that she was relishing the prospect of a general election so the SNP would be able to “stand up for Scotland’s opposition to Brexit”. She also claimed that Ruth Davidson quit as leader of the Scottish Tories because she could not “stomach” Boris Johnson in Downing Street. The first minister was responding to Jackson Carlaw, who is Ms Davidson’s interim replacement. He used first minister’s questions to claim that voters faced a choice of getting back to the issues that mattered or further division with the SNP.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-bring-on-a-general-election-so-scotland-can-oppose-brexite-bsfdkdhtk>

Op-ed: Who in Scotland is looking forward to an election? (BBC News) POL

The outcome of the last general election in 2017 proved to be something of a setback for the SNP. The party lost 21 seats, a reverse that was widely interpreted as evidence of a rejection of the party's push for a second independence referendum. Indeed, a few weeks later Nicola Sturgeon put the party's referendum ambitions on hold. However, according to the polls, an election this autumn could well present the SNP with a golden opportunity to repair much of the damage it suffered two years ago - and to inject new life into its campaign for Scottish independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49595385>

Op-ed: Tories are destined to lose Holyrood’s battle over EU (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, a man whose time may yet be coming, had a brace of urgent questions for Nicola Sturgeon yesterday: “When is a decision likely to be made on the future of the Stone of Scone?” and “Does [she] agree it is time that the stone came home to Perthshire?” For how much longer, for the love of all that is holy, must it languish in the Edinburgh captivity to which Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, condemned it? The people of Perth thirst for the return of their ancient possessions and they will not sit idly by and be ignored.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tories-are-destined-to-lose-holyrood-s-battle-over-eu-5d3720xxc>

Jury convicted me because I was English, crash driver complained (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A wealthy businessman who mowed down two motorcyclists on Scotland’s answer to Route 66 said that he was only convicted because he was English and driving a Porsche. Craig Coote, 49, was overtaking a vehicle on a blind bend on the North Coast 500 when he crashed into two German bikers who were left with serious leg injuries. The engineering company boss, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, who was accompanying three other cars, was said to have treated the scenic Highlands route like a “playground”. Sheriff Margaret Neilson criticised Coote’s claims to social workers that the jurors who convicted him of dangerous driving were “prejudiced and racist” because he was English.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jury-convicted-me-because-i-was-english-crash-driver-complained-9kdm58lfn>

Edinburgh fails to cash in when it hosts Hollywood movies (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Closing roads to allow Hollywood blockbusters to film in Edinburgh has raised no money for the city. Residents complained about disruption and increased traffic as the city closed 52 streets while filming for *Fast & Furious 9* takes place and critics said that they should be compensated. The council has claimed that films being shot in the capital boost the city economy. However, figures released after a freedom of information request by the investigative journalism website *The Ferret* revealed that hosting

location shoots in Edinburgh was “revenue neutral”, with no money generated directly from the production. The council said that it made £152,000 from film companies by closing its streets between 2012 and 2017, but it is understood that this covers the cost to the council of hosting the film and crew. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-fails-to-cash-in-when-it-hosts-hollywood-movies-r7bmkbq9p>

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast (BBC News) ECON

A two-year study has begun off the coast of Aberdeen into how sea birds interact with wind farms. Radar equipment has been installed on two of the 11 turbines which make up the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). The wind farm was at the centre of a row with Donald Trump who has claimed turbines "kill all the birds". The new equipment detects a bird passing through the area and prompts cameras to track and film them.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49594699>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this? I don't think the Scotsman piece is online yet, annoyingly, but I think it's worth including given the interest in that area.

No-deal Brexit risks inadvertent end to Union, say experts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The economic and political chaos created by a no-deal Brexit risks “inadvertently” breaking up Britain, a credit ratings agency has said. Researchers for DBRS, a Canadian company, said Scottish independence was most likely to split the Union but added that Irish unification was also a possibility if the UK left the EU without an agreement. A poll for The Times suggested on Tuesday that the Scottish constitutional question was on a knife-edge, with 51 per cent planning to vote No to independence and 49 per cent in favour. The SNP was buoyed by 45 per cent of Scots now supporting another referendum being held in the next five years, ahead of the 44 per cent opposed to such a move. The remaining 11 per cent had not decided.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/no-deal-brexite-risks-inadvertent-end-to-union-say-experts-9fdhf76zq>

Murdo Fraser wants directly elected mayors to tame Holyrood's power (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's seven cities should have directly elected mayors or provosts, a Tory MSP has said. Murdo Fraser argued that such high-profile local politicians could provide a "counterweight to an over-centralised Holyrood". The Scottish Conservative finance spokesman said that introducing the positions to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling would devolve more power to local communities. He suggested the move in a speech to the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's conference in Crieff. There are more than 20 directly elected mayors in England. Boris Johnson served as the mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Andy Burnham, the former Labour health secretary, is mayor of Greater Manchester.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/murdo-fraser-wants-directly-elected-mayors-to-tame-holyroods-power-hnsr2rd5h>

Ministers are criticised for 'retrograde' referendum legislation (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Plans to hand Scottish ministers the power to call a referendum would circumvent the proper representative process and mark a "very clear" retrograde step, an academic has said. Dr Alan Renwick, deputy director of the UCL Constitution Unit, said holding a referendum is a major decision and "should be subject to the greatest level of scrutiny". He said: "The representative system is set up to have checks and balances, and there is a long history in less healthy democracies, and in non-democracies, of using referendums for a strong leader to get round parliaments. "Scotland should not be going there. It should not be opening itself to suspicion that it could be going there." Dr Renwick was giving evidence to Holyrood's Finance and Constitution Committee, which is scrutinising the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The legislation aims to provide a framework for a second independence referendum, which First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold in the second half of 2020. However, moves in the bill to give ministers the power to call referendums through secondary legislation, rather than by introducing a separate Act, have attracted controversy.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17880296.scottish-government-criticised-retrograde-referendum-legislation/>

Row over funding for farmers (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A row has erupted over Chancellor Sajid Javid's announcement of £160 million funding for Scottish farmers from EU agricultural subsidies that were misallocated by the UK government, as part of a oneyear spending review that he claimed was "turning the page on austerity". Scottish Tories celebrated the announcement as evidence of their clout in government, but the S NP accused ministers of returning cash that should have been passed on years ago and "conspiring to end devolution as we know it". It came as part of a preelection spending spree announced by Mr Javid, who promised cash for health, schools and the police ahead of a snap vote expected as early as next month amid a growing political crisis. Scotland will get a £1.2 billion windfall through the Barnett formula from an overall boost to public spending of £13.4bn in 2020-21.

[No link](#)

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:41 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still can't get Press Data, annoyingly. IT won't deal with it and (b)(6) didn't know – I might try (b)(6)
Have pulled together the below in any case...

Scottish Tories face wipe-out in general election, YouGov poll shows (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Tory MPs who were key to Theresa May's Westminster majority would be all but wiped out amid another SNP landslide if there were an election, a poll for *The Times* suggests. The Conservatives stand to lose ten of their 13 seats north of the border in a new vote, according to analysis of the YouGov survey by Sir John Curtice. Following their 2015 success — when they returned a record 56 MPs — the SNP would be expected to secure 51 seats, 16 more than in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-face-wipe-out-in-general-election-yougov-poll-shows-53pf0t5jq>

Nicola Sturgeon orders new white paper to make the case for Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has laid the groundwork for a second independence referendum by instructing civil servants to draw up a white paper intended to convince voters to leave the UK. Before the referendum in 2014, Alex Salmond, the first minister, and Ms Sturgeon, his deputy at the time, unveiled a similar dossier drafted by civil servants to make the case for independence. The 650-page document has been widely discredited for including expected North Sea oil revenues — of up to £7.9 billion in the first year of independence — in its growth calculations shortly before the price plummeted. Since then senior SNP figures have said that oil should be “a bonus and not the basis” of the economic case for independence.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/first-minister-updates-white-paper-to-set-stage-for-a-new-independence-referendum-gdldjnkbr>

The wind is changing on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Advocates for leaving the European Union have been inclined to dismiss claims that Brexit could undermine Scotland's continued membership of the United Kingdom. Our exclusive YouGov poll today casts doubt on that assertion. It can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote “no” again in an independence ballot. Throughout 2017 and 2018 YouGov consistently reported that “no” votes outnumbered “yes”. On average, once “don't knows” were left to one side, just 44 per cent said they would vote “yes”, little different from the result in 2014. But in April YouGov reported Yes support had risen to 49 per cent.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-wind-is-changing-on-scottish-independence-pd7grpwrq>

Judge to rule whether Parliament shutdown is legal (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A judge is to rule on whether Boris Johnson's plan to shut down the UK Parliament for five weeks ahead of Brexit is lawful. The case was brought to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, who argued the PM exceeded his powers. The government said the issue should be a political, rather than a legal, one. Lord Doherty heard submissions from both sides on Tuesday, and will deliver his ruling on Wednesday. The prime minister announced on 28 August he wanted to shut down Parliament - a process known as proroguing - ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49568760>

Unseen letters show how Glasgow helped JFK on road to White House (BBC News) POL

Rarely-seen letters and telegrams have been shared to mark an extraordinary coup for a Scottish city. Correspondence from a young John F Kennedy to the Lord Provost of Glasgow marked a visit which saw the future US president make his public speaking debut in a city hotel. JFK was sent to visit American survivors of the sinking of the TSS Athenia. The Govan-built ship was torpedoed by Germany on 3 September 1939. On the 80th anniversary of the loss, Glasgow City Archives has released photographs of JFK on this visit.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49557543>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:46 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Still waiting for press reader, but how's this for a start?

Parliament suspension case back in Edinburgh court (BBC News) POL

A judge in Edinburgh is due to hear arguments over the prime minister's plan to shut down the UK Parliament. A cross-party group of parliamentarians wants a ruling at the Court of Session that Boris Johnson is acting illegally. The prime minister wants to suspend Parliament for five weeks ahead of a Queen's Speech on 14 October. The judge, Lord Doherty, said it was in the interests of justice, and in the public interest, for the case to proceed as quickly as possible. The UK government is opposing the move, and argues it acted within its powers by seeking to prorogue Parliament. The Lord Advocate - Scotland's top law officer - has asked to take part in the hearing on Tuesday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49550874>

Boris Johnson is abusing power, lord advocate plans to tell courts (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's most senior law officer has accused the UK government of abusing its power to force through Brexit as he tries to intervene in two court challenges to the suspension of parliament. James Wolffe, the lord advocate, has applied to intervene in a hearing today at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, brought by a cross-party group of 75 parliamentarians, and an action at the High Court in London. The Scottish government said that if the applications were approved Lord Wolffe would argue that Boris Johnson's prorogation of parliament "prevents scrutiny and represents an abuse of executive power". Jolyon Maugham, QC, who is supporting the SNP MP Joanna Cherry and other politicians in the Court of Session, said that Lord Wolffe's submissions were "very powerful indeed".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-is-abusing-power-lord-advocate-plans-to-tell-courts-xvmcs057n>

Nicola Sturgeon to outline plans to combat climate change (BBC News) POL

Climate change, the economy and building a fairer country are central to the Scottish government's plans for next year, Nicola Sturgeon has said. The first minister is due to announce the programme for government as MSPs return to Holyrood on Tuesday. Speaking ahead of the unveiling, Ms Sturgeon said

the Scottish government would do "everything in its power" to prevent a no-deal Brexit. She also said there had been a "meltdown" at Westminster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49556793>

Vote for Wings Over Scotland party puts independence at risk (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has claimed that Yes voters will jeopardise the pro-independence majority at Holyrood if they back a new party proposed by the man behind the Wings Over Scotland blog. Stuart Campbell, who runs the nationalist website, is considering setting up a party that would target list seats at the next Scottish election in 2021 if a second Scottish independence referendum has not been delivered by then. It would not directly compete with the SNP for constituency votes and Mr Campbell insists that it would probably result in more pro-independence MSPs being returned to Holyrood. However, Ms Sturgeon said that attempts to game the electoral system "risk ending up in a mess and achieving the opposite of what you wanted to achieve".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-vote-for-wings-over-scotland-party-puts-independence-at-risk-k6z62xrsc>

New Brexit direction was final straw for 'genuinely conflicted' Ruth Davidson (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson was "genuinely conflicted" over the direction of Brexit and doubted her ability to lead the Scottish Conservatives into the "dreaded" prospect of two election campaigns, she has revealed. The former party leader admitted that her closest aides realised her zeal for the job had diminished in the days before she officially announced her departure on Thursday. In a column for The Mail on Sunday, Ms Davidson, 40, said that her resignation had "been a long time coming", with colleagues suggesting she used her maternity leave after the birth of her baby, Finn, in October last year to decide if she wanted to return as leader at all. She said that a close aide could "already tell my heart was no longer in the job" and the "fire that had kept me slugging it out for all these years . . . had somehow become dimmed". Her deputy, Jackson Carlaw, will become acting leader, a role he filled during Ms Davidson's maternity leave, until a permanent successor is chosen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/new-brexit-direction-was-final-straw-for-genuinely-conflicted-ruth-davidson-9dgn8gm6w>

Op-ed: Scottish Tories need stability not a shake-up (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There could hardly be a greater contrast between the language of Boris Johnson and the self-analysis of Ruth Davidson as both separately discussed their futures at the weekend. The prime minister told The Sunday Times that he was working non-stop, burning the candle at both ends, pushing ahead with his programme like "a locomotive freighted with investment, bashing through all the priorities . . ." We have to go "full throttle", he said, "put a tiger in the tank, put our pedal to the metal, foot to the floor". He sounded more Jeremy Clarkson than voice of the nation. Ms Davidson, by contrast, chose her words carefully as she explained her decision to step down as leader of the Scottish Tories.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-02/scotland/scottish-tories-need-stability-not-a-shake-up-69krddf6h>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:42 AM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine. I think we also need to do a refresh of the distro list.

Let's try to have as much as possible as distros:

Edinburgh Consulate (EdinburghConsulate@state.gov)
EUR-WE-UK-DL (EUR-WE-UK-DL@state.gov)
London Press Office (LondonPressOffice@state.gov)
LondonPol (LondonPol@state.gov)
LondonEcon (LondonEcon@state.gov)

(U) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, added in another one at the end!

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Scottish judge considering parliament shutdown challenge (BBC News) POL

A Scottish judge has retired to consider a legal attempt to block the suspension of the UK Parliament. Lord Doherty heard arguments from representatives of a cross-party group seeking an interim interdict that would halt the move by the government. Arguing for the UK government, Roddy Dunlop QC said the issue "was not a matter for the courts". The judge will return to give his decision at 10:00 on Friday. The group of 75 parliamentarians are seeking the Scottish legal equivalent of an injunction to stop parliament being suspended, pending a full hearing on 6 September. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49509712>

Scottish Tories consider split from UK party as Ruth Davidson bows out (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives are considering splitting from the UK party while Ruth Davidson's successor is chosen. Ms Davidson, 40, used her resignation speech yesterday to back Boris Johnson's plan to deliver a Brexit deal by suspending parliament and urged MPs to back any agreement reached. "If it requires a new Queen's Speech to bring back a deal, what I would encourage colleagues [to do] is not to blow it," she said. A decision was expected this morning on whether the Scottish courts can stop the suspension of parliament.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-consider-split-from-uk-party-as-ruth-davidson-bows-out-8bxhh6x7t>

Senior MSP calls for fresh look at Scottish Conservative party's relationship with London (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The end of Ruth Davidson's eight-year reign as Scottish Tory leader has clearly dented her party's electoral prospects and exposed a weak flank in the Union. But it has also broken the taboo around an idea that made her leader in the first place, sparking a debate about her party's ties to the one led by Boris Johnson. In 2011, as a newly elected Glasgow MSP with two failed attempts to become an MP behind her, Ms Davidson started as a 10/1 outsider in the contest to succeed Annabel Goldie.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869307.senior-msp-calls-fresh-look-scottish-conservative-partys-relationship-london/>

Vanquished foe is favourite to win this time (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Murdo Fraser, who was defeated by Ruth Davidson in the 2011 Scottish Conservative leadership contest, was the favourite yesterday to replace her. With Jackson Carlaw, the deputy leader, expected to enjoy a lengthy period as interim leader as Britain's exit from the European Union and a probable general election unfold, potential candidates were keeping their heads down and refusing to discuss their prospects. Ladbrokes had Mr Fraser as the frontrunner, however, at odds of 2:1. He is one of the party's most senior figures, having been an MSP since 2001, and has taken an active role in recent years as Ms Davidson's finance spokesman. Donald Cameron, the party's policy chief, was next at 4:1. The solicitor is well-liked and, as a Highlands and Islands MSP, would enhance the party's credentials in rural areas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/vanquished-foe-is-favourite-to-win-this-time-90jj8wfc5>

Scottish Tories likely to be without a new leader until 2020 (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are unlikely to have a new leader until next year, it has emerged. The party's management board met last night for an initial discussion on the rules and timing of the search to replace Ruth Davidson. However the contest is not expected to begin in earnest until Holyrood's mid-October recess at the earliest. A senior source said current events at Westminster, with arguments over Brexit and the possibility of a general election, made for the "wrong immediate landscape for a contest", and so the choice of Ms Davidson's successor was likely to be "later rather than sooner".

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869139.scottish-tories-likely-without-new-leader-2020/>

Op-ed: The game changed and Ruth Davidson cut her losses (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Her eyes began to well up the moment she mentioned family. There was no hiding Ruth Davidson's emotion as she confessed that, in her effort to be "a good leader", she had been "a poor daughter, sister, partner and friend". Nobody says on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office".

This is as true of politicians as of anyone else. Usually, though, a heartfelt commitment to an honourable cause does much to offset the missed bathtimes, parents' evenings and family meals. Not all the time, however. Especially when the political cause to which one has devoted one's life takes a turn not to one's liking. Then the scales in which one weighs guilt against purpose begin to tilt.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-game-changed-and-ruth-davidson-cut-her-losses-9mhs3rdrd>

Lib Dems hold off SNP to win Shetland by-election (BBC News) POL

Lib Dem candidate Beatrice Wishart has fought off a strong challenge from the SNP to hold Shetland in a Holyrood by-election. She succeeds Tavish Scott, who had been MSP for the constituency since 1999 in what was Scotland's safest seat. Ms Wishart polled 5,659 votes, ahead of SNP candidate Tom Wills on 3,827, a majority of 1,837. The Lib Dems saw their majority more than halved from 4,895 in 2016 as the SNP benefitted from a 14.4% swing. With 11,835 votes cast, the turnout was 66.5%, up from 62% in the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502204>

Jeremy Corbyn slated for backtracking on vow he wouldn't block IndyRef2 (The Scottish Sun, circulation 188,000, right) POL

Jeremy Corbyn was slated last night after trying to backtrack on his admission he wouldn't block IndyRef2. The Labour leader said his party would reject a fresh poll in the "formative years" of a Downing Street administration. His rivals savaged him for being indecisive just two weeks after he claimed it was "not up to Parliament" to veto a 2014 re-run. Speaking on a visit to Dunfermline, Mr Corbyn said: "What Scotland needs is a Labour government that focuses on Brexit, ending austerity and tackling the climate emergency. "In the formative years of a Labour government we wouldn't agree to another referendum as we'll be focused on these central priorities. "However, if at some point there was a legitimate and fresh mandate we wouldn't block it."

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4661672/jeremy-corbyn-indyref2-vow-slated/>

SNP's currency plan 'could spark £200bn economic crisis' (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

The SNP's plan for a new currency in an independent Scotland could see the nation facing an economic crisis costing up to an eye-watering £200 billion, a leading currency expert has warned. The costs of a "classic currency crisis" could be anywhere between £30bn and £100bn on top of the loss of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of £100bn; money that would be needed to protect Scotland's new currency system from unwanted market speculation. The estimate has come from Ronald MacDonald, Professor of Macroeconomics and International Finance at the University of Glasgow's Adam Smith Business School, who has advised governments and public agencies such as the IMF and various central banks, including Europe's, on currency issues.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17869349.snps-currency-plan-could-spark-200bn-economic-crisis/>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:52 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson 'on verge of quitting' (BBC News) POL

Ruth Davidson is on the verge of quitting as leader of the Scottish Conservatives, BBC Scotland understands. Ms Davidson has been deeply unhappy with the prime minister's pursuit of a possible no-deal Brexit. She is said to be considering her position, with a statement on her future likely to be made on Thursday. Ms Davidson, who gave birth to a son in October of last year, has been leader of the party since November 2011. Sources have told the BBC that Ms Davidson's decision was based on a mixture of personal and political factors which have been building over recent months.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49502861>

Op-ed: The Union has just lost its most effective advocate (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson's resignation is a disaster not just for the Conservative Party in Scotland but also for the Union at a moment of great peril. Success for the Scottish Tories in recent years was wholly down to Ms Davidson's ability to shatter popular perceptions of Conservatism. She was the kick-boxing lesbian who went to a tough state school in Fife. She was the pawky straight-talker with a talent for cutting to the chase. She was relatable and likeable. Ms Davidson won votes from former Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters who would never before have dreamed of backing someone with a blue rosette.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-union-has-just-lost-its-most-effective-advocate-t8k0hz7w7>

Poll: Support for EU and holding a new Indyref rises (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Support for remaining in the EU has risen in Scotland while the number of people wanting to leave has dropped by almost half, according to an exclusive poll of the Herald's readers. A survey of how people feel on Brexit found that only 16 per cent favour the decision to quit the European Union, while almost 67% now say they are against the plan. This compares to the 38% in Scotland who voted to leave in the 2016 referendum, compared to 62 per cent who wished to remain. Furthermore, the ongoing threat of crashing out without a withdrawal deal and the doom-laden prophecies of disruption at ports, empty supermarket shelves and civil disruption means that more than one-in-ten Scots said they are now "terrified" by the prospect.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17866232.poll-support-eu-holding-new-indyref-rises/>

Scottish judges 'could order Boris Johnson to cancel Brexit' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish judges can order Boris Johnson to effectively cancel Brexit by revoking Article 50 as part of a ruling on whether suspending parliament is lawful, a cross-party group behind a legal challenge believes. More than 70 MPs and peers have asked for an emergency ruling in the Court of Session to block the prorogation of parliament. A substantive hearing in the case is scheduled for next Friday but petitioners

have requested interim interdict, similar to an injunction in England and Wales, in an attempt to stop the prime minister's plan to suspend parliament on September 10. It is expected to be heard today but the court has yet to confirm a date. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish first minister, said that yesterday would "go down in history as the day UK democracy died" unless Mr Johnson's bid could be blocked. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-judges-could-order-boris-johnson-to-cancel-brexit-8v3mwt5l2>

Op-ed: Gordon Brown's caring sharing Union is dead. Brexit has killed it (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

People of Scotland, awake! Our precious Union is at risk again from "hard line separatists" to the north and right-wing Brexiteers to the South. But fear not, because Gordon Brown is on the stump again, determined to give narrow nationalism what for – slam! pow! – and send Nicola Sturgeon and Nigel Farage scurrying back into their populist cages. The Hammer of the Nats is back. Hearing Gordon Brown at the Edinburgh Book Festival these last weeks took me back fully five years to the dying days of the Scottish independence referendum campaign. Then, the former Prime Minister thundered across central Scotland like an old testament prophet, warning of indyref apocalypse.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17864458.iain-macwhirter-gordon-browns-caring-sharing-union-dead-brexit-killed/>

Shetland by-election: Voters to elect new MSP (BBC News) POL

Voters in Shetland are going to the polls in a by-election to elect a new MSP for the islands. The by-election was sparked when Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott stood down to take a job with Scottish Rugby. Mr Scott had held the seat since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Ten candidates are standing to replace him, with polling stations open between 07:00 and 22:00. The result is due in the early hours of Friday morning.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49502202>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Citizens' assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country's constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens' assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It

emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens' assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

Citizens' Assembly: Can Scots learn from Ireland? (BBC News) POL

The Scottish government has started recruiting people to take part in a Citizens' Assembly. Members of the public selected will be asked to discuss the big constitutional questions facing the country, hearing evidence from all sides in debate and looking at topics such as independence and Brexit. The approach was used in Ireland during the debate over the legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

A group of academics, politicians and anti-nuclear campaigners have registered their "collective dismay" at the decision to restart one of the country's oldest nuclear reactors, nearly 18 months after it was shut down to investigate cracks in its graphite core. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has granted permission to EDF, the operators of Hunterston B nuclear power station, to operate reactor four for four months. The reactor was shut down in March last year after investigators discovered more cracks than expected in its graphite core. The regulator said it was now satisfied that it was safe to operate the reactor and that it could be safely shut down "in all foreseeable circumstances".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

From (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:56 PM

To (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

All good - we'll send a combined tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)

Date: 28 August 2019 at 17:07:48 BST

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry just reading this now as my own computer was getting updated.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 28 August 2019 at 13:52:56 BST, (b)(6) wrote:

Also this one:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49496517>

Brexit: MPs ask Scottish court to block Westminster shutdown
A group of parliamentarians has asked Scotland's top civil court to block Boris Johnson's bid to suspend parliament.

The 75 pro-Remain politicians initially launched a legal action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last month.

They are now seeking an interim interdict that would prevent parliament being suspended until the case has a full hearing on 6 September.

The court is expected to consider their motion on Thursday or Friday.

An interim interdict is the Scottish equivalent of an injunction in the English and Welsh legal systems.

The legal move came after the prime minister announced he had asked the Queen to suspend Parliament on 10 September.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:39 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

Subject: RE: RE: Scotland Press

There seems to be 2 Herald pieces that might be interesting – the oped on Britian needing progressive federalism and Gordon Brown’s caring union? Otherwise looks good and Gillian, could you send it out today?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, accidentally sent this to myself! Look ok? I might need either you or (b)(6) to send as my PC is out of action for a few hours apparently...

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)
Date: 28 August 2019 at 09:33:36 BST
Subject: RE: Scotland Press
To: (b)(6)

How’s this?

Citizens’ assembly recruits will get £1,200 to debate future (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An army of canvassers will offer voters £1,200 plus expenses to help map the country’s constitutional future. Participants in the Scottish citizens’ assembly will be given £200 for each of the six weekends they take part, the organisers have said. They will meet from October to April before making recommendations for the future of Scotland, including the challenges of Brexit. The Scottish government will then draw up an action plan, setting out how any proposals agreed by MSPs will be implemented. It emerged last week that the bill for consultants to set up the project has topped £500,000. Organisers claimed not to know the budget for the assembly. They said that when Ireland set up a citizens’ assembly to debate issues including reform of abortion law, about 40 people were asked to participate for every member who joined.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/citizens-assembly-recruits-will-get-1-200-to-debate-future-r8p6mgpdc>

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legalisation of abortion. BBC Scotland's The Nine programme has been looking at how it worked there.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49477328>

Ex-MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh barred as Europe candidate wants to be on SNP's ruling body (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A former SNP MP who was barred from running in the European elections has her eye on a position on the party's ruling body. Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh is campaigning to be the black, Asian and minority ethnic convener on the party's national executive committee. The election for positions on the committee has exposed bitter splits in the party and members have traded insults. Ms Ahmed-Sheikh, lost her seat as MP for Ochil & South Perthshire in the 2017 election. She was previously the SNP's national women's and equalities convener. In January she was found guilty of professional misconduct by a tribunal and fined £3,000 for failing to keep proper accounts of a trust during her time as a partner at the now-defunct Hamilton Burns law firm. It was agreed that there was no suggestion of dishonesty or personal benefit. The Times revealed in April that she had been rejected as a suitable candidate for the European elections.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-mp-tasmina-ahmed-sheikh-barred-as-europe-candidate-wants-to-be-on-snp-s-ruling-body-vmvnh80mt>

Will SNP efforts to unseat Lib Dems be enough for Shetland by-election victory? (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Shetland is unfinished business for the SNP, says Professor John Curtice. Scotland's northernmost seat was one of the few areas that resisted the SNP tsunami at the 2015 election, and the Nationalists have craved it ever since. Scotland's leading polling expert says this helps explain why Nicola Sturgeon has poured money and manpower into a by-election tomorrow that, on paper, looks an impossible task. When former Libdem leader Tavish Scott won the seat for a fifth time in 2016, he did so with a whopping 44.3 point lead over the SNP. Although a good chunk of his personal vote may not transfer with his quitting Holyrood, what remains is formidable. For the SNP to win, they would have to not only overturn the safest majority at Holyrood, but end a 70-year-old liberal monopoly in the Northern Isles by converting an awful lot of Unionists to the Yes movement.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17863937.will-snp-efforts-unseat-lib-dems-enough-shetland-by-election-victory/>

Decision to restart Scots nuclear reactor has put people 'at risk' (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

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<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/decision-to-restart-scots-nuclear-reactor-has-put-people-at-risk-1-4992443>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 9:33 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Gordon Brown: Hardline separatism will cost Scots dear (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Holyrood has failed to make Scotland wealthier and fairer because it has instead been used as a constitutional battering ram, Gordon Brown has said. The former Labour prime minister said that while, from 1999, the new parliament gradually established itself in the affections of the Scottish people, "the fact is that, particularly during the past decade, it has, so far, failed to deliver a fairer and more prosperous Scotland," Mr Brown said. The Scottish parliament was controlled by a Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition until 2007, when the SNP first came to power.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gordon-brown-hardline-separatism-will-cost-scots-dear-rkhq0n3gf>

Brown brands Cameron lazy over EU referendum (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Gordon Brown has savaged David Cameron over Brexit, accusing his successor of being too "lazy" to strike a deal with Europe that could have avoided it. In a passionate denunciation, Mr Brown said the former Tory prime minister and his ministers were complacent and "thought they would win without a fight". He said: "They didn't put a positive case for Europe and we lost the referendum, and that's why we are in this position." It was a highly unusual breach of the convention that former prime ministers do not publicly attack their successors. Mr Brown, who lost the 2010 election to Mr Cameron, made the comments while arguing against nationalism and a no-deal Brexit at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861257.gordon-brown-scottish-parliament-failed-deliver-fairer-scotland/>

SNP boss faces sack after independence referendum 'Plan B' blocked (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

SNP activists are to be given the chance to oust the party boss who trashed a grassroots plan to secure independence without a referendum. National Secretary Angus MacLeod rubbished the idea of a "Plan B" when it was proposed by SNP MP Angus MacNeil and Inverclyde Councillor Chris McEleny in July. Mr MacLeod said it was "hastily written, almost whimsically so", and said it had been "utterly inappropriate" for the two proposers to discuss it in the media. Now, in a key test of the party's mood, Mr McEleny is challenging Mr MacLeod, seen as the choice of the SNP establishment, for the national secretary's position. Delegates to the party's autumn conference in Aberdeen will vote on the issue in October.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17861098.snp-boss-faces-sack-independence-referendum-plan-b-blocked/?ref=ar>

Op-ed: SNP conquerors would create only division (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Of all the lessons from the Brexit debacle one stands out for me: 52-48 was not a decision, but a division. It created a country split down the middle. Everything the May and Johnson governments have done since then has deepened that split rather than uniting the country. We do not yet know where this will leave the UK's relationship with Europe — most likely a journey through the valley of No Deal to the depression of Bad Deal — but we know it will leave behind a fractured politics and social divisions by age, class and geography. Nicola Sturgeon's government is blind to this lesson.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conquerors-would-create-only-division-w0k80j2md>

Scotland aiming to be leader in 5G technology, Nicola Sturgeon says (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Nicola Sturgeon has said she hopes Scotland will become a leading country in embracing 5G technology. The First Minister spoke in Glasgow on Monday as the Scottish Government unveiled a new plan to support use of the technology. 5G is the next generation of mobile network and is expected to offer internet speeds several times faster than the current generation, 4G. A Deloitte report commissioned by the Scottish Futures Trust suggests 5G could enable Scotland to add about £17 billion to GDP by 2035 and create 160,000 jobs.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-aiming-to-be-leader-in-5g-technology-nicola-sturgeon-says-1-4991703>

Unclassified

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Think that's them?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Maybe add this one:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/5g-digital-network-vital-to-boosting-scottish-economy-slnmxd38h>

There were also some articles over the weekend in the Herald about saving the fishing industry from crazy immigration rules and how SNP might win in Shetland but lose in Holyrood – maybe add those?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Hey – how's this?

Move to debate no-deal Brexit at Holyrood (BBC NEWS) POL

The Scottish government wants Holyrood to hold a debate on a no-deal Brexit when MSPs return from summer recess. The SNP government hopes a motion making the parliament's opposition to no deal in all circumstances could be agreed unanimously. If opposition parties agree, the debate could be held next week - during the first week of the new session. Scottish Labour, the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have all indicated support for the debate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49465418>

Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL/ECON

Scotland's lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a "crazy" immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen's Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80 million-a-year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly – which would cut membership by almost half.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17859495.immigrations-rules-putting-scots-fishing-industry-risk/>

Op-ed: Scots must learn from Brexit or risk a repeat (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Under canvas, and in the sweltering heat of a Borders summer, a packed audience gathers to talk about — politics. Time was when August was the height of the silly season and the only stories of note involved surf-boarding dogs, psychotic sheep or squirrels high on crack cocaine. No longer. At this year's Edinburgh Fringe politicians have been thick on the ground. At the Beyond Borders book festival, held every year in the grounds of Traquair House, we heard

intense debate on what constitutes a leader, and whether Boris Johnson qualifies. As the perspiring crowd emerged into the Traquair sun, someone said: "I could have done with another hour of that." Yesterday they were back to hear Nicola Sturgeon discuss diversity in publishing.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-must-learn-from-brexit-or-risk-a-repeat-qxsqq6x2h>

SNP ready to discuss free ports in Scotland despite crime fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

It is the policy in which is distilled Boris Johnson's vision of a buccaneering, free-wheeling, post-Brexit capitalism, according to his critics. The Prime Minister wants to create a network of UK free ports – tax and tariff havens in all but name – despite European Union red flag warnings such schemes are a risk for crime and money-laundering. Now Mr Johnson has recruited an unlikely potential ally to the policy: the SNP. The Scottish Government has, tentatively, said it is ready to discuss free ports north of the Border, or will be ready once the dust settles on Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858317.snp-ready-discuss-free-ports-scotland-despite-crime-fears/>

Op-ed: SNP could win in Shetland, but pay for it at Holyrood (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Pity the Shetlander. The inhabitants of Holyrood's northernmost constituency have been plagued by touring politicians this summer. There is a byelection next Thursday and the SNP are throwing the kitchen sink at it, hoping to inflict a shock defeat on the Liberal Democrats. A third of the SNP's MSPs have visited so far, including Nicola Sturgeon (three times) and a good chunk of her cabinet. There have also been MPs, MEPs, councillors and staffers from HQ. It's a fascinating contest. For this is no ordinary seat. Shetland is, on paper, the toughest target in Scotland.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17858076.tom-gordon-snp-win-shetland-pay-holyrood/>

Russian envoy offers Scotland trade links worth billions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Russia is wooing Scotland with the prospect of bilateral trade worth billions. In a rare interview as he approaches the end of his five-year term in Edinburgh, Moscow's consul-general in Scotland told *The Sunday Times* he was "quite amazed" that so few Scottish businesses were active in Russia. Andrey Pritsepov pointed to Norway's bilateral trade with Russia as being worth \$5bn (£4bn), while Scotland, with an almost identical population, has deals worth just \$300m (£244m).

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/russian-envoy-offers-scotland-trade-links-worth-billions-jdxhfp620>

From Russia — with no comment from consul-general Andrey Pritsepov (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The offices of the Russian consulate in Scotland are located in a grand town house on Melville Street in Edinburgh's New Town. Entrance is via an ordinary intercom which allows visitors access to a small reception room, furnished with two leather armchairs and a two-seater sofa covered with a blue-and-red tartan throw. A desk sits by the wall, with a Russian colouring book for children and a selection of crayons. A CCTV camera keeps silent watch up in the corner.

After a few minutes wait, an aide comes to lead me up the winding staircase to the first floor office of Andrey Pritsepov, the consul-general, who greets me with a firm handshake and a warm smile.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-08-25/scotland/from-russia-with-no-comment-from-consul-general-andrey-pritsepov-nbbwl7rz7>

Russia fights to seize Tower of Lethendy mansion from billionaire Boris Mints (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's most luxurious country houses is at the centre of Russia's High Court battle in London to recover £570 million from an oligarch. The Tower of Lethendy, which sits in 39 acres in rural Perthshire and has a private golf course, is one of 140 properties and businesses around the world that Russia is trying to take from Boris Mints and his family. Mr Mints, 61, co-founded Otkritie, the biggest bank in a group known as the Moscow banking circle that used state support and huge transactions to grow their balance sheets rapidly before three collapsed within months of each other, necessitating bailouts from the Russian central bank in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/russia-fights-to-seize-tower-of-lethendy-mansion-from-billionaire-boris-mints-3b62ltxsr>

Louise Linton, 'Marie Antoinette of Washington', takes on critics in Me, You, Madness (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An Edinburgh-born actress married to a senior figure in the Trump administration has said she wrote herself the role of a narcissistic serial killer to hit back at her critics. Since marrying Steven Mnuchin, the US Treasury secretary, at the White House in 2017 Louise Linton has been pilloried by opponents who say the couple embody a brash, wealth-fixated culture around President Trump. Now she is using the independent film Me, You, Madness, which she is writing, directing and starring in, to send a message to those who have mocked and chastised her.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/louise-linton-marie-antoinette-of-washington-takes-on-critics-in-me-you-madness-9qkrts250>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good

From: (b)(6)
Date: 21 August 2019 at 09:25:11 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Is this OK for today?

Key Scottish economic figures to be published (BBC NEWS) ECON

The Scottish government is to publish annual economic figures that have become a key battleground in the debate over independence. The Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report estimates the difference between how much the country raises in taxes and how much is spent on its public services. Last year's report said Scotland spent £13.4bn more than it raised in taxes. This deficit was lower than the previous year's £14.5bn. But it still represented 7.9% of Scotland's GDP - four times higher than the UK as a whole and well above the 3% target the EU sets for its members.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49413345>

Anti-English sentiment is not welcome in SNP, says Sturgeon (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has warned there is "no place" in the SNP for independence supporters who protest about "the English" being in Scotland. Speaking to the political comedian Matt Forde at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Ms Sturgeon condemned a pro-independence banner often displayed in Edinburgh calling for "England to get out of Scotland". "The person with that banner does not speak for the SNP," she said. "That kind of sentiment has no place in Scotland." She added: "You can be absolutely vehement and resolute about calling it out and saying very clearly to people: 'If that's your opinion, you don't belong in this party and we don't want you'. "People who put up banners like that, I don't want them in the SNP."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-english-sentiment-is-not-welcome-in-snp-says-sturgeon-b82d9d0st>

Scots official 'detained' in China sent 'pray for me' text to girlfriend before vanishing (*The Daily Record*, circulation 137,000, liberal) POL

A Scottish Government worker who has gone missing in China is said to have told his girlfriend to "pray for me" before trying to leave the country. Simon Cheng Man-kit, who works for Scottish Development International in Hong Kong, met Nicola Sturgeon last year, describing the experience as an "honour". He vanished two weeks ago after crossing the Chinese border for a business trip and there are unconfirmed reports he has been detained by authorities. Although he works for SDI, it is believed Simon is employed by the British Consulate-General. He posted a picture to social media of him meeting Sturgeon during her visit to China last April.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-official-detained-china-sent-18973384>

Op-ed: Wings party is bound to ruffle SNP feathers (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A couple of weeks ago I interviewed Scotland's most controversial internet blogger and it caused a bit of a stir. Stuart Campbell, of Wings Over Scotland, revealed he was in talks to set up his own political party to fight the next Holyrood election. The reaction among SNP folk of my acquaintance was near panic. You might find such an extreme reaction puzzling if you take Mr Campbell's intentions at face value. His stated aim, after all, is to game Holyrood's arcane electoral system to maximise the number of pro-independence MSPs on the regional lists. This, he says, would help ensure a parliamentary majority for a new referendum on breaking up the UK.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/wings-party-is-bound-to-ruffle-snp-feathers-gtlwcmtrv>

Tourists snub Scotland because of Brexit fears (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Brexit uncertainty has caused overseas visitors to stay away from Scotland this year, heaping pressure on one of the country's most important industries. Tourism figures say the ongoing political strife in the UK has forced European tourists to holiday elsewhere this summer. And the decline has not been offset by so-called "staycations", with the fragile economic conditions causing domestic holidaymakers to rein in their spending. Worries over Brexit have emerged strongly in new evidence given to the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) the representative body for the industry with more than 250 members. It comes after figures from VisitScotland showed the number of inbound visits to Scotland plunged by 35 per cent to 420,000 in the first quarter of the year, while accompanying spending dropped 43% to £193 million.

https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/17849491.tourists-snub-scotland-brexit-fears/

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine – thanks!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

Hey, seems a fairly slow news day – anything I've missed?

Ballot query by Electoral Commission threatens to derail Nicola Sturgeon's plans for second referendum on Scottish independence (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's plan to hold a second vote on Scottish independence within two years may be scuppered after the elections watchdog queried the wording on the ballot. The Electoral Commission has said it must be allowed to assess the question put to voters and urged amendments to Ms Sturgeon's Referendum Bill in a letter to MSPs. The first minister has that said she wants another vote by 2020 but may be forced into a delay as the commission insists it must assess the wording "regardless" of whether it approved the question for the 2014 vote. The bill argues that if a question has already been assessed by the commission it will not have to be examined again, preventing it from looking again at the question used in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The watchdog wrote to MSPs on the constitution committee describing its "important" role in ensuring that a referendum question is "intelligible". It wrote: "The commission firmly recommends that it must be required to provide

views and advice to the Scottish parliament on the wording of any referendum question . . . regardless of whether we have previously published our views on the proposed wording.”
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ballot-query-by-electoral-commissionthreatens-to-derail-nicola-sturgeon-s-plans-for-second-referendum-on-scottish-independence-ddbff96kd>

John McDonnell snubbed over Holyrood candidate (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist)

John McDonnell has been snubbed over the choice of a Holyrood candidate after trying to rewrite Scottish Labour policy on a second independence referendum. The Shadow Chancellor lobbied to have Unison trade union organiser Simon Macfarlane chosen to fight SNP-held Maryhill and Springburn in 2021. He recorded a video endorsing the fellow left-winger, urging local members to “make sure that you support Simon in this next election”. He said: “I’ve known Simon Macfarlane for many years. He’s devoted his life to our local community and we hope that you will support him in Maryhill and Springburn to become a strong voice for you in the Scottish Parliament.” The Campaign for Socialism, the Scottish sister organisation to Momentum, promoted the clip on social media, calling it a “BIG ENDORSEMENT”. However at the selection meeting on Friday, party members rejected Mr Macfarlane, and by 36 votes to 27 backed the more moderate Keiran O’Neill instead.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847133.mcdonnell-snubbed-holyrood-candidate/>

**Op-ed: Modern nationalism still tinged with tensions (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)
POL**

Back in 1992 an SNP party political broadcast featuring a youthful Alex Salmond began by asking an apparently simple question: “What sort of person are you?” Mr Salmond was not minded to wait for your answer. He knew what kind of person you were. “Do you let other people talk for you, act for you, walk all over you? Of course not,” he said, before continuing, “But here’s a puzzle. As a Scot, that’s exactly the sort of person you are.” Just in case you weren’t sure who these “other people” were, Jim Sillars was on hand to make it clear. “It’s a wee bit like your next door neighbour walking into your house, destroying your prized possessions then walking back out again,” Mr Sillars said. “And you’re powerless to stop them. Frustrating isn’t it?” Very frustrating, I suppose.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/modern-nationalism-still-tinged-with-tensions-nbmgrk0sp>

Derek Mackay admits ministers lack ‘full cost analysis’ despite promise to nationalise Clyde shipyard (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has admitted he doesn’t know how much his decision to nationalise the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde could end up costing taxpayers. Visiting Ferguson Marine Engineering in Port Glasgow, Mr Mackay said the government did not yet have “a full cost analysis”, despite committing itself to buying the yard in less than a month if no one else will. Mr Mackay announced on Friday that the Government had taken control of Ferguson’s to stop it going bust after a £97m contract to build two CalMac ferries went disastrously wrong. If administrators Deloitte cannot find a commercial buyer after four weeks, the business will be bought outright by taxpayers to safeguard around 350 jobs and complete the ferries.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17847238.mackay-admits-ministers-lack-full-cost-analysis-despite-promise-nationalise-clyde-shipyard/>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T:(b)(6)
M:
E:

Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Private Event at Consulate to Mark Honoring of Deceased USSS Agent
Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2018 09:32:54 +0000

Thanks, (b)(6) I will reply to USSS now, copying you in.

(b)(6) and I also agree that a meeting later in the day would be better so we will suggest 4:00pm to USSS. Consular should be finished by that point.

Best,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 7:21 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Private Event at Consulate to Mark Honoring of Deceased USSS Agent

Hi (b)(6)

I agree, we should offer the Consulate for the meeting. I think that if we have it later in the day that may lessen the potential conflict with consular work, but defer to you on the timing, etc.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Private Event at Consulate to Mark Honoring of Deceased USSS Agent

Hi (b)(6)

I hope you're well. I am conscious of not overly bombarding you with events/ invites before you've even started at Post, but this is an important one that I wanted to draw your attention to.

You may be aware that in July this year, USSS Special Agent Nole Remagen passed away at Trump Turnberry. Special Agent Remagen was supporting POTUS's visit to Scotland - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/18/politics/secret-service-agent-dies/index.html>. I then assisted USSS after Special Agent Remagen's passing by engaging with various Scottish health authorities to ensure all medical treatment fees were settled (as it happened, there were no charges due to the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964).

In August, I was approached by Police Scotland on behalf of the Police Roll of Honour Trust (PRHT). The PRHT is a UK organization that pays tribute to British police officers who have been killed or died on duty or as a result of duty - <https://www.policememorial.org.uk/>. PRHT informed me that they wanted to present us with a framed scroll for Special Agent Remagen and, if appropriate, a second scroll for Special Agent Remagen's family.

I connected Police Scotland with (b)(6) USSS Attaché in London, to see what would be possible. (b)(6) got in touch today to advise me that Police Scotland will meet with USSS in Edinburgh on Wednesday, October 24, to present them with a framed scroll in honor of USSS Special Agent Remagen. This would be an informal meeting and (b)(6) has asked whether it could be held at the Consulate.

I know that Wednesdays are Consular Days but given the circumstances, I think it would be important for the Consulate to host this meeting. I understand that PRHT has waived a number of their longstanding rules to allow an overseas security personnel be added to their Roll of Honor. The goodwill of such a gesture will go a long way to maintaining and strengthening the excellent relationship shared between our respective security forces, and it would be wonderful if the Consulate could be a part of that.

Are you happy for me to give the green light to (b)(6) for this meeting to be held at the Consulate? I will copy you on all correspondence moving forward, as well as (b)(6)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

From: "Lempert, Yael (London)" (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
CC: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Exec Summary for Memorial Service
Date: Wed, 17 Jul 2019 20:07:58 +0000

Thanks, really appreciate your sending. Sounds like it was a really meaningful and fitting memorial.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:55 PM
To: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Exec Summary for Memorial Service

Ma'am,

I know you would have made it if you could have, but I wanted you to see the Order of Service and what we sent to our PA office.

Thanks for your continued support,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

US Secret Service Attaché
American Embassy London

(b)(6) UK mobile)
(b)(6) (US mobile)

(b)(6)

Executive Summary:

The UK Police Roll of Honor Trust (PRHT) unveiled a memorial plaque in honor of deceased US Secret Service Special Agent Nole Remagen on the first anniversary of his death, July 17th, 2019 at Turnberry Hotel in Ayrshire, Scotland. The PRHT is a Royal Chartered UK charity that pays tribute to British Police Officers who have died in the line of duty. The PRHT made the extraordinary decision to change their constitution in order to honor the life of Special Agent Remagen with inclusion to the Police Roll of Honor. The PRHT considered that "Special Agent Remagen was acting as a Law Enforcement Officer,

working alongside British Police Officers and would, if the need arose, have acted in his capacity as a Special Agent of the US Secret Service whilst in the United Kingdom". Special Agent Remagen is the first American to be added to the Honor Roll.

The ceremony was officiated by the Reverend Doctor (b)(6) Chaplain to the Scottish Police College. Remarks were made by SAIC (b)(6) (WFO) and SAIC (b)(6) (PPD). The plaque was unveiled in the lobby of the Turnberry Hotel by Colonel John Dalrymple-Hamilton, Her Majesty the Queen's Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran. After the plaque unveiling, representatives from the Police Service of Scotland, the Scottish Government and various police organizations including the US Secret Service laid wreaths in honor of Special Agent Remagen. In addition to the Vice-Lord Lieutenant, the following VIP's were in attendance:

- o **Humza Yousaf**, Member of Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Pollok, Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- o **Jeane Freeman**, Member of Scottish Parliament for Ayrshire, Cabinet Secretary for Health
- o **Bernie Higgins**, Assistant Chief Constable Police Service of Scotland
- o **Sidney Mackay**, Chairman of the UK Police Roll of Honor Trust

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Sender:	"Lempert, Yael (London)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
Subject:	CG Edinburgh Update – March 12
Date:	Tue, 12 Mar 2019 09:18:18 +0000

Hi Yael –

I wanted to send the below update ahead of our call later today. Look forward to talking with you!

Best,

(b)(6)

Events/Ongoing Activities:

- (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

tabloid Scottish Sun printed the following article:

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/3946960/mum-jail-kidnapping-american-government/>

- **ECON** – We’ve been participating in a number of events on expanding U.S.-Scotland trade and investment held by the Scottish North American Business Council (SNABC) and Scottish government and quasi-government entities. The Scottish Government has identified the United States as its top target market for trade and investment expansion so is eager to collaborate on events.
- We are resuming **outreach to schools**, starting with a school in Fife, the region that is co-hosting Tartan Day with us this year. Using the PAS London presentation as a base, we are tailoring it for a Scottish student audience.
- I will give opening remarks at the **Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)** biennial conference in Edinburgh March 21-24.

- (b)(5)

Visitors:

- Thanks to the London Consular Section for sending (b)(6) to cover while I was on leave.

- USSS arrived in Edinburgh yesterday to advance Eric Trump's visit to Edinburgh and the Turnberry resort March 14-15.
- ARSO (b)(6) will make her introductory visit to Edinburgh March 20-21. Specialists from OBO and RSO also have visited the CG recently to examine electrical sockets and the security doors, respectively.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated May 27, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified eight additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Acting Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2019 14:17:41 +0000

Thanks!

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 8:36:50 AM GMT-4
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

I'll call over and see if there is someone else there who could assist. Just got to the office. Will look at your EA and get back to you on both.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Office of Presidential Appointments (HR/PAS)
Department of State
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (202) 647-4694

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

Until I'm able to consult with (b)(6) we will be staying at Trump Hotel where we have been during our travels to DC since 2017.

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 7:59:52 AM GMT-4
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

I am out of the office until 28 Mar. If you need immediate assistance, please contact ethicsattorneymailbox@state.gov . Best, (b)(6)

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
BCC:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Subject:	PLEASE CANCEL / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1
Date:	Tue, 12 Jun 2018 15:31:06 -0400

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Dear (b)(6)

There has been a change to Ambassador and (b)(6) schedule, and they will no longer travel to Washington, D.C., tomorrow.

Could you kindly cancel their suite for tomorrow evening, confirmation 54234022-1.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 9:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1

(b)(6)

Good evening (b)(6)

Kindly find their confirmation below for this Wednesday.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Director of Attache

FIRST AND ONLY FORBES FIVE-STAR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
T: 202.868.5074 | F: 202.868.5191 | M: (b)(6)

[EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C.** <reservations@trumphotels.com>

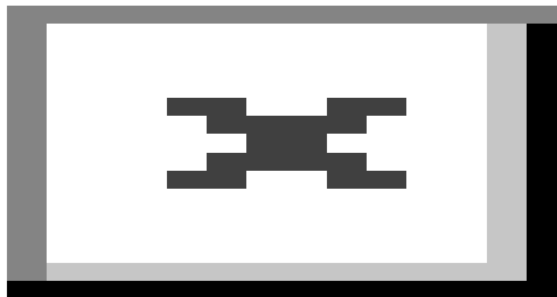
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 9:38 PM

Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for [redacted] & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1

To: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com

(b)(6)

[View this email in your browser](#)



(b)(6)

THANK YOU [REDACTED] & KELLY CRAFT FOR BOOKING AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER	CI2LTR7 [REDACTED] (b)(6)
GUEST NAME	[REDACTED] & KELLY CRAFT [REDACTED] (b)(6)
TRUMP CARD	[REDACTED]
ARRIVAL DATE	WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 2020
DEPARTURE DATE	THURSDAY JUNE 14 2020
NO. OF NIGHTS	1 NIGHT
NO. OF PERSONS	2 ADULT
ROOM DESCRIPTION	<u>1 EXECUTIVE JUNIOR SUITE, ONE KING BED</u>
RATE BY DAY	USD 950.00 PER NIGHT
RATE INCLUSIONS	ACCOMMODATION ONLY

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004
 PHONE: 202.695.1100
 TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426
 EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COM
[AREA MAP](#) | [DIRECTIONS](#)

Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.



PROFILE & STAY PREFERENCES

Be sure to update your Trump Card profile and preferences, so that we can deliver you the best possible experience for your upcoming stay.

LOGIN



TRUMP
WELLNESS

We want to help you maintain your healthy lifestyle when traveling.

With our Trump Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The SPA BY
IVANKA TRUMP™

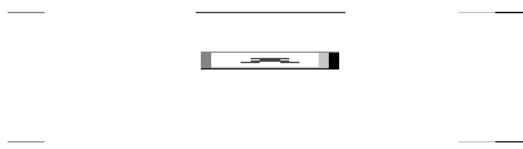
We welcome you to unwind and enjoy refreshing customized level of service in a haven of relaxation and well-being. The Spa by IVANKA TRUMP™ seeks to create pathways for you through inner health and external beauty.

[LEARN MORE](#)

BLT PRIME BY
DAVID BURKE

Helmed by celebrated chef David Burke, we invite you to indulge in our Five Star Diamond awarded signature steakhouse, renowned for the highest-quality, dry-aged steaks and seafood dishes complemented by savory sides.

[LEARN MORE](#)



PARKING

Valet Parking is available 24 hours a day for \$56 per day with unlimited

in/out privileges.

POLICIES

100% Smoke-Free

Check-in Time: 4:00 PM

Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

ADDITIONAL TAX & SERVICES

Rates are subject to the following:

14.8% Room Tax

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.



**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) @trumphotels.com>; Craft, Kelly (b)(6) Kelly Craft (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Itinerary details for "Permission to Depart Post" cable
Date:	Tue, 10 Apr 2018 17:35:26 -0400

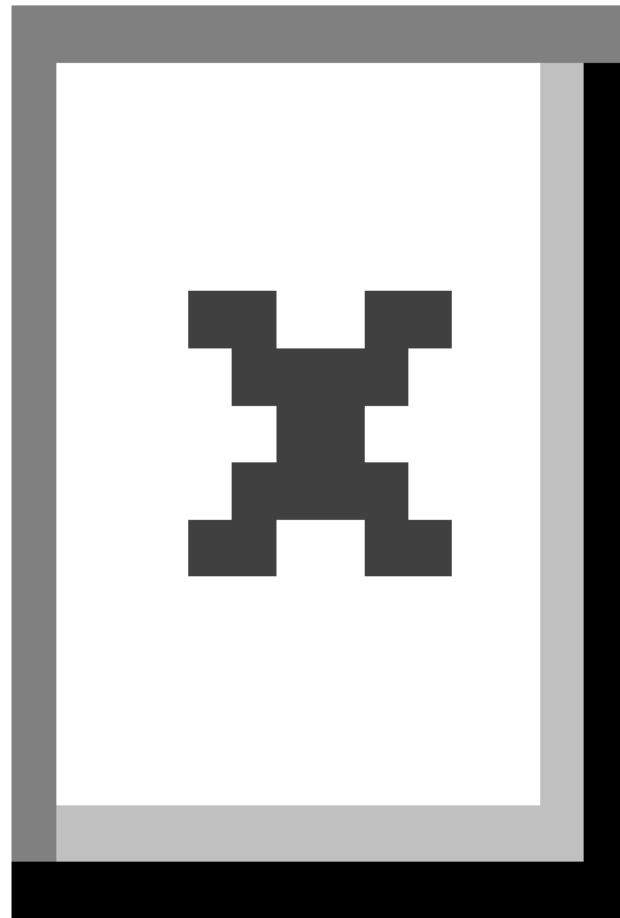
Ambassador,

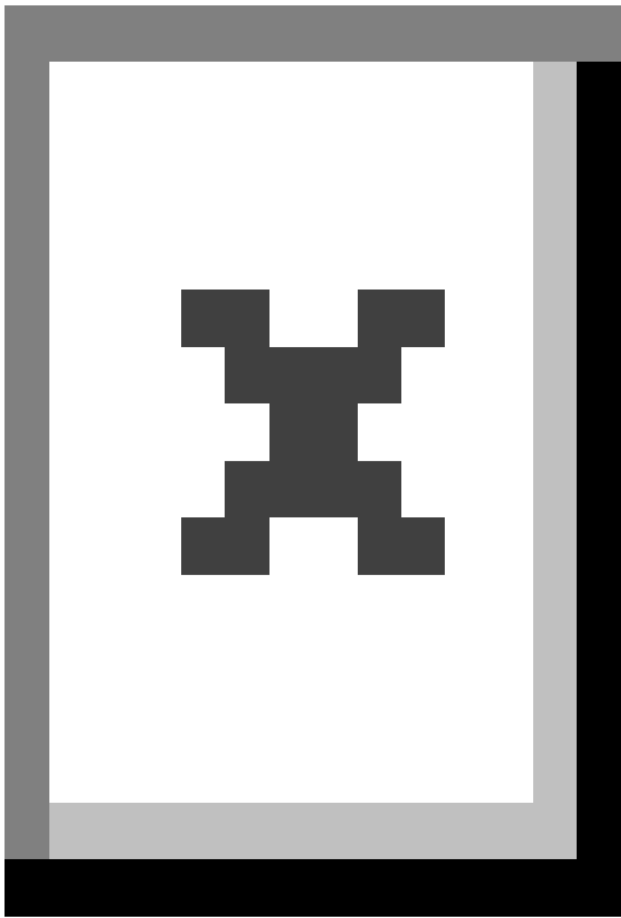
In order to complete a "permission to depart post" cable, we'll need to know your itinerary after you depart Calgary – whether you will fly to Washington DC or to Lexington. We assume in either case, you would return to Post at approximately 5:00 pm on Sunday, April 15.

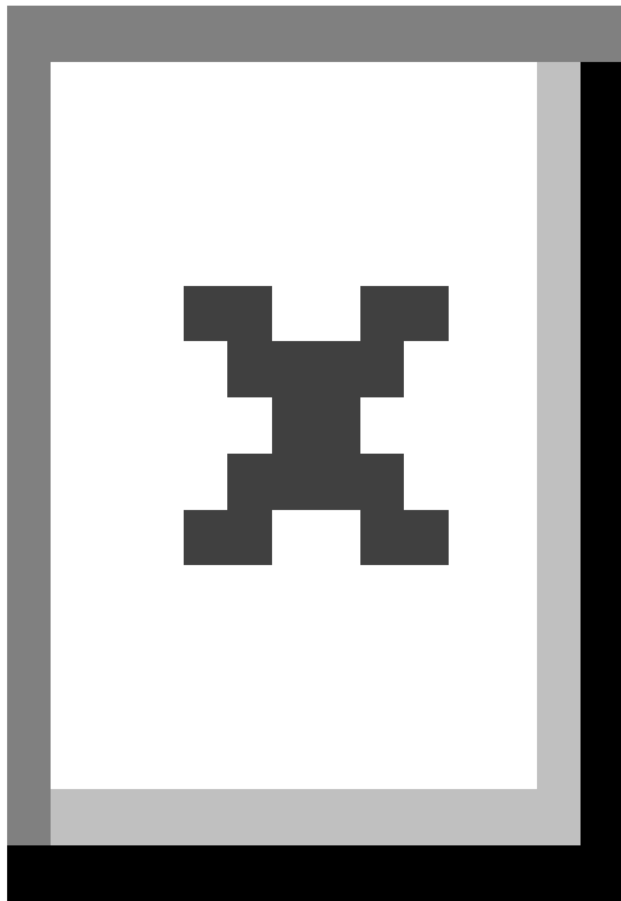
(b)(6)

Hotel reservations at the Trump Intl Hotel will need to be adjusted according to your final plans. I spoke with (b)(6) at Trump Hotel today. She says she will waive any cancellation fee for you and (b)(6) but always appreciates as much notice as we can give them.

(b)(6)







Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)

April 13, 2018

FL-2020-00059 1-00000362373

"UNCLASSIFIED"

6/29/2022

FL-2020-00059 4/10/2022 16

May 2018

Friday

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

	FRIDAY	
	13	
	← From Apr 8	NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC (April 8-16) To Apr 16 →
	Mother's Day	
7 AM		
8		
9		
10	7:45 MT Time: Depart for Imperial Oil; met by Susan Riggs & CG Tom Palaia, escorted to Executive Conference Room; 505 Quarry Park Blvd SE, CALGARY	
11	8:15 MT Time: Working breakfast w small group of energy-industry owner operators & executives Sue Riddell Rose; Ron Mathison, owner MATCO, Cal Frac; Rich Kruger, CEO Imperial; Ron Manix, owner MANCAL; Brett Wilson, oil sands investor; Rob Dutton, CEO of Devon	
12 PM	9:45 MT Time: Pull-aside with Rich Kruger, CEO Imperial	10:00 MT Time: footwear & clothing change; travel to Aggie Days ; Stampede Park, 141
1	10:15 MT Time: Aggie Days at Stampede Park engage with children ages 9-12	
2	11:45 MT Time: Depart for Airport	
3	12:15 (Time TBC) DEPART CALGARY - FOR WASHDC (OR LEXINGTON) 4.5-hr flight, PLUS 2-hr time difference	
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9	ARRIVE WASHDC, depart for Trump Intl Hotel	
10	RON Trump Intl Hotel, 1-bd suite, CONF # 23631395-1 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC	

April 14, 2018

FL-2020-00059 1-00000362373

"UNCLASSIFIED"

6/29/2022

FL-2020-00059 1-00000362373

Saturday

April 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SATURDAY	
14	
← From Apr 8 NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC (April 8-16) To Apr 16 →	
7 AM	
8	
9	(TBC) BY PHONE with Stuart Dwyer: Pre-Brief for meeting w Minister of Finance Morneau; pending AMB's preferred date/time for call
10	LEXINGTON Blue Grass Stakes / Mitch McConnell
11	
12 PM	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	RON Trump Intl Hotel, 1-bd suite, CONF # 23631395-1 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC
10	

April 15, 2018

FL-2020-00059 1-00000362373

"UNCLASSIFIED"

6/29/2022

FL-2020-00059 April 2018

May 2018

Sunday

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

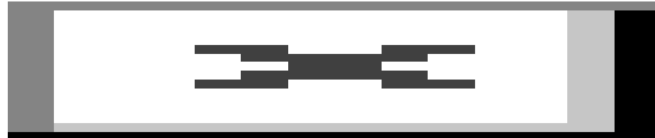
	SUNDAY
	15
	← From Apr 8
	NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC (April 8-16)
	To Apr 16 →
	KY World Trade Center mission trip (April 15-18)
	To Apr 18 →
7 AM	
8	
9	LEXINGTON
10	
11	
12 PM	
1	
2	
3	
4	(TIME TBC) Depart Lexington, via personal aircraft
5	(TIME TBC) ARRIVE OTTAWA, FBO Sky Service
6	
7	
8	
9	RON Trump Intl Hotel, 1-bd suite, CONF # 23631395-1 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC
10	

(b)(6)

From: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Previous EA
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2019 14:22:08 +0000

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 9:04:38 AM GMT-4
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Previous EA

Kelly – Here is the previous language re: consulting firm and what your obligations were/are. It seems that if the obligations change, then Ethics will advise/discuss with you and you can take whatever action is appropriate.



Best,
 J

(b)(6)
Office of Presidential Appointments (HR/PAS)
Department of State
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: [Redacted]

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:37 AM

To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

I'll call over and see if there is someone else there who could assist. Just got to the office. Will look at your EA and get back to you on both.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of Presidential Appointments (HR/PAS)
Department of State

Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: [Redacted]

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

Until I'm able to consult with (b)(6) we will be staying at Trump Hotel where we have been during our travels to DC since 2017.

From: (b)(6)
Date: March 26, 2019 at 7:59:52 AM GMT-4
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Automatic reply: Kelly Craft

(b)(6) I am out of the office until 28 Mar. If you need immediate assistance, please contact ethicsattorneymailbox@state.gov . Best, (b)(6)

Sender: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient: [Redacted]

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC
Date:	Tue, 6 Mar 2018 11:14:33 -0500

Would Matt like to attend with me?
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:11 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Yes. Please.
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Craft, Kelly
Subject: Trump Hotel? dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Prefer your usual suite at the Trump, and (b)(6) joining?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Boyse, Matthew G; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

(b)(6)
Do you mind to secure rooms for us from april13-16?

Matt, I would like for you to travel with us if you are available.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Boyse, Matthew G
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:18 AM
To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft
Subject: FW: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 9:10 AM
To: Dwyer, Stuart A; Boyse, Matthew G; (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

I just heard that the Washington round will take place April 8-16 at a hotel near Dulles airport.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Dwyer, Stuart A
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:56 AM
To: Boyse, Matthew G (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

No, understand they were still juggling with the Easter calendar. (b)(6) will reach out, but our guess is that it will be that week after Easter. SD

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Boyse, Matthew G
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:18 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Ottawa - Exec <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov>; Dwyer, Stuart A (b)(6)
Subject: RE: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

No -- Stuart?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Boyse, Matthew G
Cc: Ottawa - Exec; Dwyer, Stuart A
Subject: dates for NAFTA Round 8, WASHDC

Round 7 is ending, heard anything about Round 8 dates yet?

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Boyse, Matthew G
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: dates for NAFTA Round 8 yet?

Matt,
Wondering if you'd heard any specific dates for NAFTA Round 8 yet, in WashDC.

For (b)(6) info, in case she doesn't already know: AMB would like you to accompany her to WashDC for that.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: DECISION: going w (b)(6) Trump Hotel - keep or cancel Saturday?
Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2019 21:18:06 +0000

(b)(6)

Ambassador,
 See (b)(6) message below. May I assume that you will go with him to Lexington on Saturday night, so I should cancel the Trump Hotel for that night? (48 hours cancellation policy)

(b)(6)

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 3:07 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: DECISION: Trump Hotel - keep or cancel Saturday?

If Kelly goes to Lex with me then cancel. If not we should keep the room until 6 pm

Sent from my iPhone powered by Coal!

On Feb 20, 2019, at 1:18 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

Ambassador,

Per attached travel schedule, you depart WashDC on Saturday night at 9:30 PM. The suite at the Trump Hotel is through Saturday night, check-out Sunday.

Since you depart so late, do you wish to keep the suite for use during the day or shall I cancel Saturday? Check-out is normally 12:00 noon; we can ask for late check-out 2:00'ish, but no guarantees. Trump Hotel advised they have 48-hours cancellation policy.

Your preference: **keep Saturday night resv / cancel Saturday night**

2/23/2019	72UK	DCA to Lex	9:30 PM	AMB	(b)(6) KC
-----------	------	------------	---------	-----	--------------

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Travel Update

<Travel Schedule.xlsx>

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

To: Craft, Kelly <(b)(6)>

CC: (b)(6)

Subject: CANCELLED Saturday night / Trump Hotel

Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2019 13:25:10 +0000

Spoke with (b)(6) at the Trump Intl Hotel this morning, and she confirmed she would cancel Saturday. I mentioned that you may like late check-out on Saturday; she assured me they would take care of you!

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 7:58 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Re: DECISION: Trump Hotel - keep or cancel Saturday?

Please cancel room for Saturday evening.

From: (b)(6)

Date: February 20, 2019 at 3:07:43 PM EST

To: (b)(6)

Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: DECISION: Trump Hotel - keep or cancel Saturday?

If Kelly goes to Lex with me then cancel. If not we should keep the room until 6 pm

Sent from my iPhone powered by Coal!

On Feb 20, 2019, at 1:18 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

Ambassador,

Per attached travel schedule, you depart WashDC on Saturday night at 9:30 PM. The suite at the Trump Hotel is through Saturday night, check-out Sunday.

Since you depart so late, do you wish to keep the suite for use during the day or shall I cancel Saturday? Check-out is normally 12:00 noon; we can ask for late check-out 2:00'ish, but no guarantees. Trump Hotel advised they have 48-hours cancellation policy.

Your preference: **keep Saturday night resv / cancel Saturday night**

2/23/2019 72UK DCA to Lex 9:30 PM AMB

(b)(6)
KC

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:58 AM
To: Chip Templeman (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(6)
Subject: Travel Update

(b)(6) <Travel Schedule.xlsx>
Sender: (b)(6)
Recipient: Craft, Kelly <(b)(6)>
(b)(6) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>
BCC: Kelly Craft (b)(6)
 Craft, Kelly
Subject: CANCELLED / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for [redacted] & Kelly Craft - (b)(6)
 54234022-1
Date: Tue, 12 Jun 2018 15:42:49 -0400

(b)(6)

Thanks so much for your speedy response!

Have a great evening,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 3:33 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Re: PLEASE CANCEL / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for [redacted] & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1

(b)(6)

Good afternoon (b)(6)

This has been processed, thank you for letting me know!

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Director of Attache

FIRST AND ONLY FORBES FIVE-STAR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

Old Post Office Building

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004

T: 202.868.5074 | F: 202.868.5191 | M: (b)(6)

EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS

✕ ✕ ✕



(b)(6) On Tue, Jun 12, 2018 at 3:31 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Dear (b)(6)

There has been a change to Ambassador and (b)(6) schedule, and they will no longer travel to Washington, D.C., tomorrow.

Could you kindly cancel their suite for tomorrow evening, confirmation 54234022-1.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)
Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 9:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1

Good evening (b)(6)

Kindly find their confirmation below for this Wednesday.

Best regards,

(b)(6)
Director of Attache

FIRST AND ONLY FORBES FIVE-STAR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
T: 202.868.5074 | F: 202.868.5191 | M: (b)(6)

[EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS](#)

✕ ✕ ✕



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C.** <reservations@trumphotels.com>

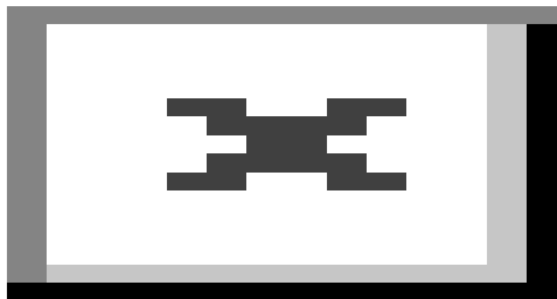
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 9:38 PM

Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for [redacted] & Kelly Craft - 54234022-1

To: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com

(b)(6)

[View this email in your browser](#)



THANK YOU JOE & KELLY CRAFT FOR BOOKING AT

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER

CI2LTR7

(b)(6)

GUEST NAME

& KELLY CRAF

TRUMP CARD

(b)(6)

ARRIVAL DATE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 2020

DEPARTURE DATE

THURSDAY JUNE 14 2020

NO. OF NIGHTS

1 NIGHT

NO. OF PERSONS

2 ADULT

ROOM DESCRIPTION

1 EXECUTIVE JUNIOR SUITE, ONE KING BE

RATE BY DAY

USD 950.00 PER NIGHT

RATE INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION ONLY

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004

PHONE: 202.695.1100

TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426

EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COM

AREA MAP | DIRECTIONS

Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel

observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.



PROFILE & STAY PREFERENCES

Be sure to update your Trump Card profile and preferences, so that we can deliver you the best possible experience for your upcoming stay.

LOGIN



TRUMP
WELLNESS

We want to help you maintain your healthy lifestyle when traveling. With our Trump

Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The SPA BY IVANKA TRUMP™

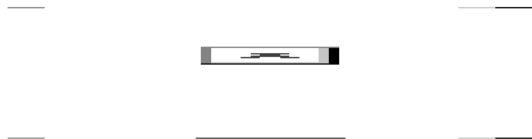
We welcome you to unwind and enjoy refreshing customized level of service in a haven of relaxation and well-being. The Spa by IVANKA TRUMP™ seeks to create pathways for you through inner health and external beauty.

[LEARN MORE](#)

BLT PRIME BY DAVID BURKE

Helmed by celebrated chef David Burke, we invite you to indulge in our Five Star Diamond awarded signature steakhouse, renowned for the highest-quality, dry-aged steaks and seafood dishes complemented by savory sides.

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PARKING

Valet Parking is available 24 hours a day for \$56 per day with unlimited in/out privileges.

POLICIES

100% Smoke-Free

Check-in Time: 4:00 PM

Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

ADDITIONAL TAX & SERVICES

Rates are subject to the following:

14.8% Room Tax

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.



**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) <@trumphotels.com> Kelly Craft (b)(6) Craft, Kelly



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated June 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified five additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all five records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Acting Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

(b)(6)

From: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: CONFIRMED 6:00 CHECK-OUT / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) - 45009086-1
Date: Fri, 12 Jan 2018 15:02:59 -0500

She's an amazing young woman!
 Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 11:42 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly
Subject: CONFIRMED 6:00 CHECK-OUT / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) - 45009086-1

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 12:37 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: LATE CHECK-OUT / Ambassador & Mrs Craft / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) - 45009086-1

Good morning (b)(6)

I have placed the request for a 6 PM late check out and have also blocked off the room so it is not sold to anyone on Friday, January 19.

We are looking forward to having them back and I wish you a wonderful weekend ahead.

Best regards,
 (b)(6)
 Director of Attache

NOW OPEN

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON D.C.
 Old Post Office Building
 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
 T: 202.868.5074 | M: (b)(6) F: 202-868-5191
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Forbes Travel Guide Most Anticipated Hotel Openings Of 2016

On Fri, Jan 12, 2018 at 12:30 PM, (b)(6) wrote:
 Dear (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thank you for your assistance for the below reservation for Ambassador [redacted] late arrival on Thursday, January 18.

[redacted] advises that he and the Ambassador would like to please request a 6:00 PM check-out on Friday, January 19.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy
Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

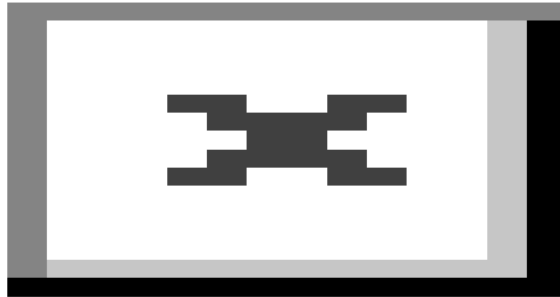
Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C. [mailto:reservations@trumhotels.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for Joe Craft - 45009086-1

[View this email in your browser](#)





THANK YOU JOE CRAFT FOR BOOKING AT
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER

(b)(6)

45009086

GUEST NAME

TRUMP CARD

ARRIVAL DATE

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 2020

DEPARTURE DATE

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 2020

NO. OF NIGHTS

1 NIGT

NO. OF PERSONS

1 ADUL

ROOM DESCRIPTION

1 PREMIER ON
BEDROOM SUITE, ON
KING BE

RATE NAME

DISYB

RATE BY DAY

USD 1,195.00 PER NIGT

RATE INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION ONL

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004
PHONE: 202.695.1100
TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426
EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COM
AREA MAP | DIRECTIONS

Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.



TRUMP WELLNESS

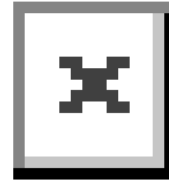
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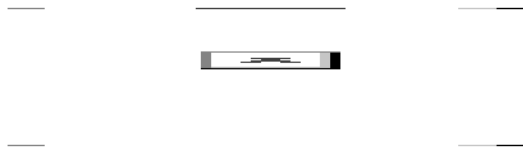
LEARN MORE



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LEARN MORE



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Check-out Time: 12:00 PM***

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Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	Junior Trump Hotel suite / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)
Date:	Sun, 18 Feb 2018 18:04:16 -0500

Yes, correct.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Craft, Kelly
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 2:11 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

Confirming we are staying in the junior suite at Trump.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Craft, Kelly; Kelly Craft (b)(6)
Subject: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

Ambassador,

See below that your normal suite it not available. (b)(6) offers two options: junior suite at \$1500/night or Post Master Suite at \$3500/night. You'll be staying two nights. Your preference?

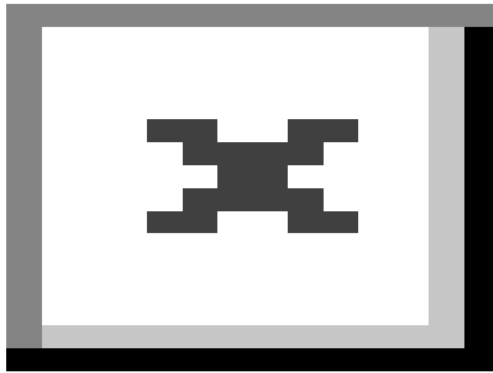
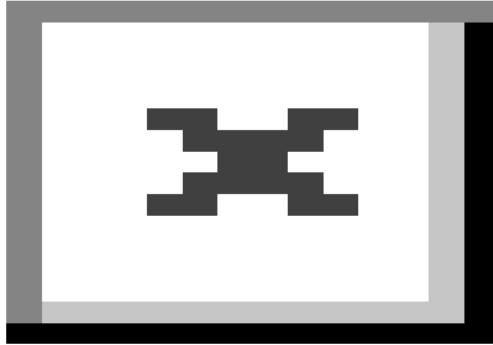
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 8:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: RESV for Ambassador (b)(6) Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018) (b)(6)

Good evening (b)(6)

Thank you for your patience, I was able to get the best rate for (b)(6) Ambassador Craft as follows:

Executive Junior Suite at \$1,500 - this is not their normal suite, this is a bachelor type of suite that they have stayed in the past or the Post Master Suite at \$3,500 which is a signature suite, larger than their usual suite. It is 1600 square feet, this luxurious suite has separate living, dining and bedroom areas. he suite features a king size bed, custom luxurious bed and bath linens including plush robes, 55" high definition television with enhanced sound system, complimentary VoIP phone calls, and other similar amenities as their usual suite. .I have attached some photos below:



We have one of each room left, kindly let me know how the Ambassador wishes to proceed.

Best regards,

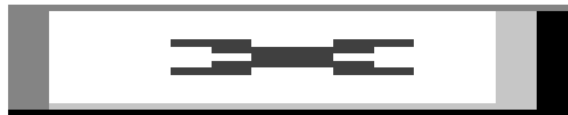
(b)(6)

Director of Attache

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✕ ✕ ✕



Forbes Travel Guide Most Anticipated Hotel Openings Of 2016

On Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 6:56 PM, (b)(6) wrote:
No worries, (b)(6) I appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you tomorrow!

Have a great evening,

(b)(6)
Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 6:54 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: RESV for Ambassador & Mr Joe Craft / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

Good afternoon (b)(6)

It is so nice to hear from you!

I am working on some rates for them as their usual suite is booked until March.

Kindly allow me until tomorrow to have something to present for Mr. & Ambassador Craft.

Best regards,
(b)(6)
Director of Attache

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(b)(6) On Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 4:59 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Dear (b)(6)

Ambassador Kelly Craft and (b)(6) would like to stay at Trump International Hotel for two nights, arriving approximately 9:00 pm on Thursday, February 22, and checking out Saturday morning, February 24. As they have enjoyed in the past, they request a one-bedroom suite please.

I believe you already have their necessary information on record, in order to finalize the reservation. Should you need anything further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for emailing me confirmation of the reservation.

With my thanks,

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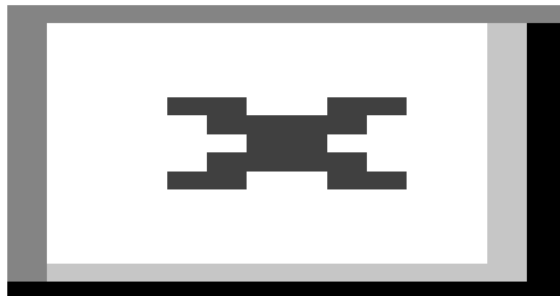
Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

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Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for Joe Craft - 45009086-1

[View this email in your browser](#)



THANK YOU JOE CRAFT FOR BOOKING AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER

45009086

(b)(6)

GUEST NAME



TRUMP CARD

ARRIVAL DATE

THURSDAY JANUARY :
20:

DEPARTURE DATE

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 20:

NO. OF NIGHTS

1 NIGE

NO. OF PERSONS

1 ADULT

ROOM DESCRIPTION

1 PREMIER ONE
BEDROOM SUITE, ONE
KING BED

RATE NAME

DISYB

RATE BY DAY

USD 1,195.00 PER NIGHT

RATE INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION ONLY

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1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004
PHONE: 202.695.1100
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Recipient:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)
Date:	Sun, 18 Feb 2018 14:37:36 -0500

Disregard the last question
Confirmation for Trump on calendar
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

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Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 2:11 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: DECISION: which Trump Hotel suite? / Trump Intl Hotel, Washington (Feb 22-24, 2018)

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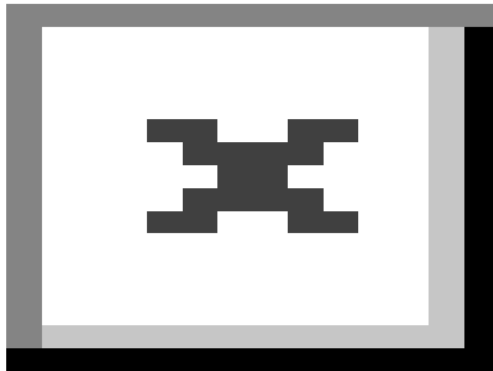
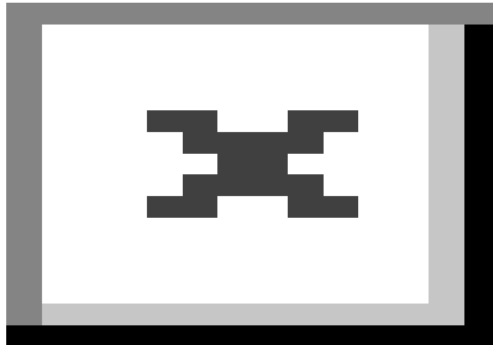
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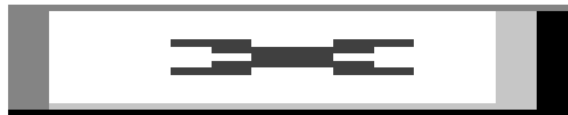
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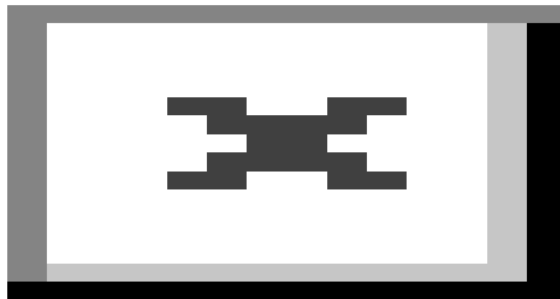
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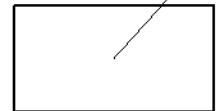
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Sender:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	CONFIRMED 6:00 CHECK-OUT / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for Joe Craft - 45009086-1
Date:	Fri, 12 Jan 2018 12:42:22 -0500

(b)(6) **From:** (b)(6) [redacted]@trumphotels.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 12:37 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: LATE CHECK-OUT / Ambassador & Mrs Craft / Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for [redacted] - 45009086-1

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Best regards,

(b)(6)
Director of Attache

NOW OPEN

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON D.C.
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004
T: 202.868.5074 | M: (b)(6) F: 202-868-5191
[EXPLORE OUR DESTINATIONS](#)



Forbes Travel Guide Most Anticipated Hotel Openings Of 2016

On Fri, Jan 12, 2018 at 12:30 PM (b)(6) wrote: (b)(6)
Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your assistance for the below reservation for Ambassador [redacted] late arrival on Thursday, January 18.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) advises that he and the Ambassador would like to please request a 6:00 PM check-out on Friday, January 19.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy
Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C. [mailto:reservations@trumphotels.com] (b)(6)

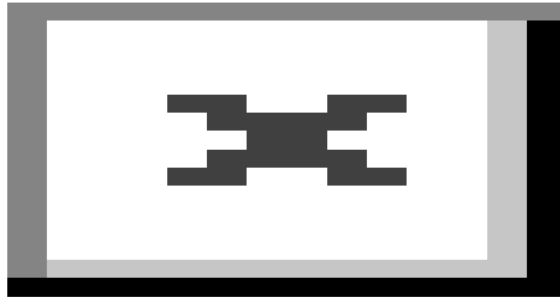
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:08 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Trump Hotels Reservation Confirmation for (b)(6) 45009086-1

[View this email in your browser](#)





THANK YOU JOE CRAFT FOR BOOKING AT
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER

45009086

(b)(6)

GUEST NAME

TRUMP CARD

ARRIVAL DATE

THURSDAY JANUARY :
20

DEPARTURE DATE

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 20

NO. OF NIGHTS

1 NIGE

NO. OF PERSONS

1 ADUL

ROOM DESCRIPTION

1 PREMIER ON
BEDROOM SUITE, ON
KING BE

RATE NAME

DISYB

RATE BY DAY

USD 1,195.00 PER NIGE

RATE INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION ONL

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004
PHONE: 202.695.1100
TOLL-FREE: 866.660.9426
EMAIL: WASHINGTON.RESERVATIONS@TRUMPHOTELS.COM
AREA MAP | DIRECTIONS

Should you plan to have guests visit during your stay, the hotel observes a maximum occupancy of (3) people in our king bedrooms, (4) people in our one-bedroom suites, and (6) people in our two-bedroom suites and penthouses.



TRUMP WELLNESS

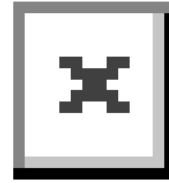
We want to help you maintain your healthy lifestyle when traveling. With our Trump Wellness program we can help you achieve just that.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The SPA BY IVANKA TRUMP™

We welcome you to unwind and enjoy refreshing customized level of service in a haven of relaxation and well-being. The Spa by IVANKA TRUMP™ seeks to create pathways for you through inner health and external beauty.

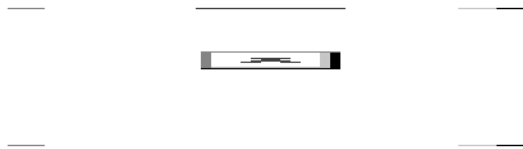
LEARN MORE



BLT PRIME BY
DAVID BURKE

Helmed by celebrated chef David Burke, we invite you to indulge in our Five Star Diamond awarded signature steakhouse, renowned for the highest-quality, dry-aged steaks and seafood dishes complemented by savory sides.

LEARN MORE



PARKING

Valet Parking is available 24 hours a day for \$56 per day with unlimited in/out privileges.

POLICIES

***100% Smoke-Free
Check-in Time: 4:00 PM
Check-out Time: 12:00 PM***

ADDITIONAL TAX & SERVICES

***Rates are subject to the following:
14.8% Room Tax***

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to 3PM local time day of arrival.



Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Joe.Craft (b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

FL-2020-00059 A-
00000362320

"UNCLASSIFIED"

7/28/2022 FL-2020-00059
07/28/2022 8

675-AA-000030

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT













From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	[correction] 35% APPLIED / Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.
Date:	Thu, 14 Feb 2019 19:30:31 +0000

Apologies! I was looking at the AMB's calendar, wrong month, when I typed this message. Of course I'm referring to **February** 19-23 reservations – not April!

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:28 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject: 35% APPLIED / Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

[Redacted]

To close the loop on your email, I spoke with the Trump Intl Hotel internal reservations, and they will apply the 35% off to your reservations for 5 nights, April 19-23 (checking out April 24).

They will email me an amended confirmation, but I wanted to let you know this discount was applied. Thank you for sending it to me!

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 10:49 AM
To: (b)(6) kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.

FYI

Sent from my iPhone powered by Coal!

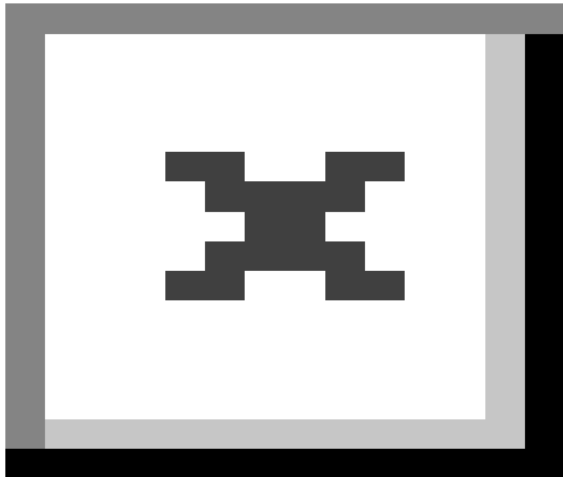
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Trump Card" <marketing@trumphotels.com>
Date: February 1, 2019 at 10:20:59 AM EST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

[View in browser](#)

Hi, Joe Craft 1090 | PLATINUM



Trump Card Members Receive 35% Off

For a limited time, enjoy 35% off the Best Unrestricted Rate at Trump® International Hotel Washington D.C. Valid for all stays through April 14, 2019.

[BOOK NOW](#)



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© 2019 Trump International Hotels Management LLC, [725 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022](#)

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Grant, Kenya (b)(6)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated July 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified two additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Harris, Harry B (Seoul)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Mattis responds to Trump's 'world's most overrated general' comment
Date:	Fri, 18 Oct 2019 22:35:14 +0000

Thanks vi'll look for it.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2019 7:23:26 AM

To: Harris, Harry B (Seoul) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Mattis responds to Trump's 'world's most overrated general' comment

McRaven's Oped in NYT also worth a read.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Harris, Harry B (Seoul) (b)(6)

Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2019 7:13:39 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Mattis responds to Trump's 'world's most overrated general' comment

Jim Mattis is a class act. The joke he told about this is one for the ages.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/2019/10/18/mattis-responds-to-trumps-worlds-most-overrated-general-comment/>

Sent from my iPhone

Sender:	"Harris, Harry B (Seoul)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)



American Embassy Panama Management Notice

2017-0003	ALL MISSION EMPLOYEES	01/24/2017
2017 Hotel Rates		

Below please find the current per diem and hotel rates for Panama.

Location	Lodging	M&IE	Per Diem
David, Chiriqui	\$114.00	\$81.00	\$195.00
Colon	\$114.00	\$87.00	\$201.00
PAN Others	\$84.00	\$58.00	\$142.00
Panama City	\$173.00	\$99.00	\$272.00

For any cities in Panama not listed above, the "PAN Others" rates apply.

	Panama Telephone	Embassy rate	Breakfast & Wi-fi Included	PTY - Hotel (min)	Hotel - NEC (min)
Panama City – U.S. Franchise					
AC Hotel City by Marriott (b)(6)	309-3131	\$124.00	Yes + Dinner included	30	45
Aloft Panama	305-5100	\$ 95.00	Yes	20	45
American Trade – Casco Viejo Low season (May-Nov) High season (Dec-Apr)	831-2056 211-2000	\$159.00 \$173.00	No	30	20
Country-Inn Amador Panama Canal	300-1894 211-4500	\$ 90.00	Yes	45	40
Country-Inn El Dorado Panama City	300-1895 236-6444	\$ 90.00	Yes	30	20
Crowne Plaza Panama	800-2376	\$100.00	Yes	30	25
Crown Plaza Aeropuerto	800-2376	\$100.00	Yes	15	60
Doubletree by Hilton	395-9100	\$ 75.00	Yes	30	30
Hard Rock Hotel Megapolis	380-1111 215-5747	\$114.00	Yes	30	30
Hilton Garden Inn Panama Regular Long Term	301-9999	\$ 88.50 \$ 82.50	Yes	25	25

Hilton Panama Hotel	280-8013	\$143.00	Yes	30	30
Las Americas Golden Tower	214-2144/ 2145	\$119.00	Yes	30	30
Le Meridien	800-2376 340-9890	\$150.00	Yes	30	30
Marriott	210-9229 210-9100	\$143.63	Yes	30	30
Marriott Courtyard – Multiplaza	301-0101	\$143.00	Yes	25	30
Marriott Courtyard – Metromall	301-7111 301-0101	\$139.00	Yes	20	35
Marriott Executive Apartment Finisterre – Regular Long Term (15+/30+ days)	297-6300 214-9200	\$109.00 \$84/\$74	Yes	30	30
Radisson Summit & Golf	232-3700	\$85.00	Yes	60	35
Sheraton Panama	305-6960	\$105.00	Yes	20	45
Trump Ocean Club	215-8888	\$158.00	Yes	30	30
Windham Panama Albrook Mall (Tryp) Std Room Suite Long Term (min 15 days)	307-0300	\$129.00 \$159.00 \$ 99.00	Yes	30	10
Waldorf Astoria by Hilton	280-8013 294-8000	\$143.00	Yes	30	30
Westin Panama – Costa Del Este	800-2376	\$150.00	Yes	15	45
Westin Playa Bonita	800-2376	\$150.00	Yes	60	60
Panama City – Other Hotels					
AC Hotel Panama by Marriott	309-3131	\$90.00	Yes	30	25
Central Hotel Panama Deluxe Rooms Premium Rooms Garden View Rooms	309-0300	\$135.00 \$145.00 \$155.00	Yes	30	25
El Panama	215-9445 215-9446 215-9443	\$90.00	Yes	30	25
Eurostarts Hotels	366-8820 366-8800	\$90.00	Yes	30	30
Global Hotel Panama (Previous Grace Hotel)	280-6400	\$115.00	Yes	30	25
Holiday Inn at Panama Canal	800-2376	\$85.00	Yes	45	10
Holiday Inn Express	305-8852 305-8810	\$ 85.00	Yes	30	30
Intercontinental Miramar	800-2376	\$150.00	Yes	30	30

Las Americas Golden Tower	214-2144 / 2145	\$119.00	Yes	30	25
Las Clementinas - Casco Viejo Low season (May-Nov) High season (Dec-Apr)	228-7613	\$120.00 \$140.00	Yes	30	20
Riande Continental Aeropuerto	291-9013 291-9000	\$ 90.00	Yes	30	25
RIU Hotel	282-0420	\$119.00	Yes	30	30
Sortis Hotel – Single Double	398-8800 398-8884	\$125.00 \$135.00	Yes	30	30
The Bristol	265-7844	\$142.00	Yes	30	30
Veneto Hotel	302-8888	\$70.00	Yes	30	25
Westin Costa del Este	800-2376	\$150.00			
Westin Playa Bonita	800-2376	\$173.00			
Wyndham Garden Panama Centro	263-7274	\$66.00	Yes	30	25
Bocas del Toro Province					
Bocas del Toro Hotel (Partial balcony) (b)(6)	757-9771	\$149.00	Yes		
Palma Royale Hotel Low season High season & Holidays reservations@palmaroyale.com	757-9979	\$80.00 \$90.00	Yes		
Playa Tortuga Hotel & Beach Resort – Std - Jr. Suite (b)(6)	302-5424	\$115.00 \$125.00	No		
Tropical Suites Island View Suites Ocean View Suites www.bocastropical.com	6949-9083	\$116.00 \$149.00			
Cocle Province					
La Pradera Hotel	991-0107	\$55.00	No		
Los Mandarinos Hotel	983-6645	\$139.00	Breakfast only		
JW Marriott Buenaventura, Rio Hato Sun to Thur w/ exceptions on holidays Fri to Sat (b)(6)	908-3333	\$129.00 \$173.00	Yes		
Sheraton Bijao – Beach Resort (b)(6)	209-1598 6379-3061	\$154.00	No		
Colon Province					
Four Point by Sheraton		\$95.00	Yes		
Melia Panama Canal	470-2580 470-1914	\$139.00	Yes		
Chiriqui Province					
Ciudad de David Hotel reservas@hotelciudaddedavid.com	774-3333	\$95.00	Yes		

	Las Lajas Beach Resort ** info@laslajasbeachresort.com		\$77.00	Yes		
Chiriqui Province - Boquete						
	Oasis Hotel info@oasisboquete.com	720-1586	\$80.00	Yes		
	Finca Lerida Ventas@fincalerida.com High Season Low Season	720-1111 720-2285	\$150.00 \$125.00			
Darien Province						
	Rosned Hotel – Santa Fe Single room Double room	299-6434	\$20.00 \$22.00	No		
	Sobiakiru Hotel, Yaviza	6150-5449	\$25.00	No		
Herrera Province						
	Azuero Hotel	970-1000	\$72.00	No		
	Cubita Boutique Resort ventas@cubitaresort.com	978-0200	\$90.00	Yes		
	Los Guayacanes Hotel	996-9758	\$72.00	No		
Veraguas Province						
	Mykonos	933-2411	\$65.00	No		

Notes:

- All hotels require a credit card number to hold reservations.
- When calling for reservations please ask for the “American Embassy rate” or you will be charged the regular rate.
- A 10% Tourist Tax is applied to public lodging rates. Only personnel accredited to the US Mission Panama are exempt.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated August 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified six additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	Global Witness Report
Date:	Fri, 17 Nov 2017 12:59:25 -0500

DRL just sent me this.

(b)(5)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tue, 25 Sep 2018 00:42:42 +0000
To: Satterfield, David M;NEA-DAS-DL;NEA-Office Directors-DL;NEA-Deputy Directors-DL;NEA-MAG-DL;NEA-Egypt;NEA-IPA-DL;NEA-LEV-DL;NEA-ARP-DL;NEA-I-Clearances;NEA-IRAN-DL;NEA-Press-DL;NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL;(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: UNGA: NEA meeting tracker for evening of 09/24/2018
Attachments: 20180924_NEA_Meeting_Tracker.xlsx

Greetings NEA-

Attached is the latest draft of the NEA meeting tracker for UNGA. As always, if you notice something missing or out of what, please let the NEA-UNGA-Coordinators distro know. Look for an update early tomorrow morning that reflects scheduling changes that have cropped up overnight.

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

NEA UNGA Schedule Tracker

as of 09/24/2018 @ 2031

Key:	POTUS/White House	S	D / P	AA/S	DAS
* = notetaker will be on standby outside meeting					
Time	Event	Location	Principal	Other Participants	Notetaker
Tuesday, September 25					
TBD	Jeffrey broadcast interviews	Palace	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A
TBD	Tueller broadcast interviews	TBD	Tueller	Christiaan James	N/A
0730-0830	Lempert breakfast w/ Crompton	TBD	Lempert	N/A	N/A
0800-0830	Jeffrey w/ Zohar Palti	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn	(b)(6)
0850-0900	Pre-brief for P for Kohler	P Suite	Satterfield	Lempert	N/A
(b)(7)(E)					
0900-0940	P w/ UN PESG Kohler	UN GA 1B141A	P	Satterfield, Lempert	(b)(6)
0930-1030	Votel w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace Hotel	Votel	Lenderking, Tueller	TBC
1000-1030	Rayburn w/ UN Syria Human. Coord	Maxwell	Rayburn	N/A	(b)(6)
1000-1100	Satterfield w/ Zohar Palti	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
1100-1200	Lempert w/ Amb. Baali	Algerian Mission	Lempert	TBA	
1215-1300	Satterfield w/ UN Coord Mladenov	UN S-34MM3	Satterfield	N/A	
0900-1530	United Against a Nuclear Iran (UANI)	Westin Grand Central	N/A	Peek	
1200-1300	SR Hook panel @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	SR Hook	N/A	N/A
1330-1430	Satterfield w/ Israel MFA DG Rotem	Palace?	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
1400-1430	Jeffrey w/ Alon Ushpiz	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Rayburn	
1430-1500	Satterfield w/ Spain MENA DG Martinez	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner	
(b)(7)(E)					
1500-1530	S, NSA speech @ UANI	Westin Grand Central	S, NSA Bolton	N/A	N/A
1500-1600	NSC Sartor w/ FM Siala	Libyan Mission	Sartor	N/A	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
1700-1730	Lenderking w/ UNHCR Lise Grande	Palace Hotel	Lenderking	TBD	(b)(6)
1700-1800	Satterfield w/ Alon Ushpiz	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Pilz	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
1900-1930	Satterfield w/ Jordan FM Safadi	Trump Tower 1506	Satterfield	Rayburn	(b)(6)
Wednesday, September 26					
0830-0930	Satterfield w/ German MENA DG Ackerman	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield	Dr. Skinner	(b)(6)
(b)(7)(E)					
0915-1000	POTUS w/ Netanyahu	UN HQ, Conf Rm C	POTUS+6	S	N/A
0930-1030	P w/ UNSE Griffiths	Palace (4202)	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	(b)(6)
1030-1130	EU Syria Ministerial	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	N/A	N/A
1030-1100	Lenderking Press Roundtable	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
1100-1130	Lenderking Broadcast Interviews	Palace, TBD	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
(b)(7)(E)					
1230-1300	D w/ Qatar FM MbAR	Qatari Mission	D	Satterfield? Lenderking?	TBD
1245-1330	Jeffrey Broadcast Interviews	UN Conf Rm 1	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
1400-1500	CT Sales w/ FM Siala	Libya Mission	CT Sales	TBD	(b)(6)
1400-1530	EEAS Red Sea Cooperation Event	German House, UN Plaza	N/A	Lenderking	
1430-1500	P w/ UNSE de Mistura	S34MM1	P	Satterfield TBC, Cohen, Jeffrey, Skinner	N/A
1630-1700	P w/ UN U/S DiCarlo	S3516	P	Satterfield, USUN Hunter	
1830-2030	Sheikh AbZ Reception	Morgan Library	Satterfield	Lenderking	N/A
2000-2130	Satterfield w/ Neil Crompton	Match 65	Satterfield	N/A	N/A
2000-2030	Jeffrey interview w/ Reuters	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
2000-UTC	Palestinian Meeting on Peace Plan	Grand Hyatt	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thursday, September 27					
0800-0830	UK-hosted Iraq Breakfast	1 Beekman Place	TBD	Peek	TBD
(b)(7)(E)					
1030-1130	Satterfield w/ Jerome Bonnafont, Nicola de Riviere	French Mission	Satterfield	TBD	(b)(6)
1200-1230	Satterfield w/ FM Basil	UN, TBD	Satterfield	Rayburn?	N/A
1230-1400	Yemen Quad Ministerial	1 Beekman Place	P	N/A	(b)(6)
1330-1430	Syria Ministerial	French Mission	S	Satterfield, Jeffrey	
1500-1600	Syria Detentions Event	TBD	Jeffrey	Rayburn	
1530-1600	P w/ Morocco FM Bourita	USUN Conf. Room C	P	Satterfield TBC	

1730-1830	Satterfield w/ Italy DG Cardi, DDG Gori	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		Annabel Lee
1830-1900	Satterfield w/ ICRC Pres. Maurer	Palace Hotel (3915)	Satterfield		(b)(6)
1930-UTC	Lenderking dinner w/ Qatar UN Del.	Estatorio Milos	Lenderking	N/A	N/A
Friday, September 28, 2017					
0800-0900	GCC+2 Ministerial	Palace Hotel, Reid Salon	S	Satterfield	DAS Lenderking (TBC)
0900-0920	Jeffrey interview w/ WSJ	Maxwell	Jeffrey	Christiaan James	N/A
1030-1100	Lenderking w/ Reem al-Hashimy	UAE Mission	Lenderking	TBA	(b)(6)
1300-1400	GCC+2 Roundtable	Foreign Press Center	Lenderking	Christiaan James	N/A
1400-1430	Satterfield w/ UK PermRep Pierce	UK Mission	Satterfield	Cohen	(b)(6)
1530-1600	Satterfield w/ Yusuf bin Allawi	TBD	Satterfield	Lenderking	
1800-1830	Satterfield w/ Min Gargash	UAE Mission	Satterfield	Lenderking	
Saturday, September 29, 2017					
PENDING MEETINGS					
TBD	(b)(5)	Algerian Mission	P	Satterfield?	(b)(6)
TBD		TBD	P	Satterfield, Lenderking	
TBD		TBD	Satterfield	Lempert	
TBD		TBD	Lenderking	TBD	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Mon, 28 Oct 2019 10:05:39 +0000

(b)(5) if that works?

Johnson eyes SNP-LibDems plan to get his early election (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Boris Johnson has signalled he may borrow a plan for an early election put forward by the SNP and Liberal Democrats if his own preferred route fails today. The Prime Minister will ask MPS this afternoon for a third time to back an election under the Fixed-term Parliament Act, but with little prospect of success. He needs two-thirds of MPS to support his proposal for an election on December 12 in return for the Commons getting until November 6 to scrutinise and pass his Brexit deal legislation. However Downing Street said it would look at "all options" for a Plan B, including one similar to a new joint Snp-libdems plan to use a one-page bill to secure an election on December 9. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Libdems leader Jo Swinson both promoted the idea yesterday, saying it would avoid Mr Johnson getting his "bad Brexit deal" passed with the help of rebel Labour MPS.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17996818.johnson-eyes-snp-libdem-plan-get-early-election/>

One in 10 Scots stocking up on food for no-deal Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

While the UK government has urged people to not worry about stockpiling ahead of a possible no-deal Brexit, the latest Panelbase poll for The Sunday Times shows some voters in Scotland have had other ideas. Although ministers have played down talk of supplies running out, one in 10 adults in Scotland have already started to stock up on food. Almost as many (8%) have put extra medicine aside while 4% are keeping their cars full of petrol. Amid currency concerns, 3% say they have prepared for Brexit by buying euros while 2% have bought US dollars. However, by far the largest group (84%) say they have done nothing to prepare for the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/one-in-10-scots-stocking-up-on-food-for-no-deal-brexit-g5080hht5>

Ruth Davidson told to publish PR job advice (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson should publish advice received before she accepted her PR job, a critic has demanded. The former Scottish Conservative leader faced calls to resign as an MSP after announcing a job with Tulchan as a senior adviser, earning £50,000 a year for 25 days' work. In response to the criticism, the Edinburgh Central MSP said she had undertaken "due diligence" before accepting the new role, including meeting parliamentary staff at Holyrood. Neil Findlay, the Labour MSP, said: "Ruth Davidson claims she sought the advice of the Scottish parliamentary authorities before accepting this highly paid job as a lobbyist. In the interest of openness and transparency she should publish all communications between her and the parliamentary authorities who gave her advice." Mr Findlay is to introduce a bill on the rules governing second jobs for MSPs. He said: "If it is true that Davidson was given the green light to take this job, then clearly the rules are not fit for purpose."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-told-to-publish-pr-job-advice-jwpxbkjij>

'Disloyal' Ian Murray deserved bid to oust him after Jeremy Corbyn attacks, says Len McCluskey (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Len McCluskey says the actions of Ian Murray in criticising the Labour leadership “had to be called out” after an attempt by his union to unseat the Scottish MP. Unite triggered a selection ballot in his Edinburgh South constituency but failed by 158 votes to 13. Mr McCluskey said the contest had come about because of the Edinburgh MP’s criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, as well as attacks on Unite and his resignation as shadow Scottish secretary. The Unite general secretary said that his members saw the actions of Mr Murray as “contemptuous”. Mr McCluskey insisted that the union knew it would not manage to unseat the MP, who boasts a majority of 15,514. He said: “We knew full well there was no chance of unseating Ian, he was always going to get the support of his constituency. His behaviour — and this was the view of our Scottish membership, which I support — needed to be called out.” He described Mr Murray as a “constant critic” of Mr Corbyn.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/disloyal-ian-murray-deserved-bid-to-oust-him-after-jeremy-corbyn-attacks-says-len-mccluskey-2z806pgks>

SNP urged to explain by-election expenses manoeuvre (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The SNP narrowly avoided going over the legal spending limit for a by-election by only declaring costs of rented accommodation for days campaigners were using it. Opposition politicians have now called for a probe to be launched into the party’s expense returns for the hotly-contested Shetland by-election. The Herald on Sunday has obtained documents showing the party declared just 57% of the total cost of two rented flats which were used in the run-up to the vote in August. Almost half of the £ 99,000 spent in total on the contest has been declared without receipts, on a two-page document signed by the party’s chief executive Peter Murrell, pictured left.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17996124.snp-scrape-by-election-limit-declaring-spending-rented-flats-occupied/>

Op-ed: SNP chooses not to read the full story of Brexit’s impact on our economy – Michael Glackin (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

“Brexit has cost Scottish economy £3bn” roared the headlines last week. The Fraser of Allander report, which prompted this worrying news, indeed concludes that continuing uncertainty caused by Brexit has cost the Scottish economy £3bn. So far. No one should quibble with the estimate, a large chunk of which is based on the sharp decline in business investment as companies shelve spending decisions, helplessly waiting for the fog of Brexit to lift. Right on cue, up popped the Scottish government to warn: “The report makes clear that Brexit uncertainty has already had a damaging impact on economic growth in Scotland. Any form of Brexit brings the threat of further damage to Scotland’s economy, and we are clear that a no-deal outcome has the potential to tip the Scottish economy into recession.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/michael-glackin-snp-chooses-not-to-read-the-full-story-of-brexit-impact-on-our-economy-vcs0867mr>

Trumps ‘frustrated’ by foreign projects ban (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Donald Trump’s most senior executive in the UK has said the Trump family is feeling frustrated at being unable to pursue “foreign investments” and overseas business opportunities, while also revealing that “everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book”. Sarah Malone, executive vice president of Trump International Scotland, suggested that since assuming the presidency, Mr Trump’s personal “liberties and freedoms” have been curtailed because he cannot visit his Scottish properties to play golf when he likes. Ms Malone made the comments at a rare public speaking engagement at a controversial evangelical church in Glasgow with ties to Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), which claims to be the world’s biggest Christian television network. The event saw Ms Malone’s husband, Damian Bates – a former newspaper editor who has dined with Mr Trump at the White House while researching a book about him – claim the president turned down a \$65 million (£50m) offer to film another series of The

Apprentice in order to pursue his political career. Mr Bates also lashed out at media coverage of the Trump administration, criticising the BBC and urging people to tune in to RT, the Russian government-funded broadcaster. In an address before an audience around 120-strong at destiny Church in Glasgow, Ms Malone said those who claim Mr Trump is profiting from his presidency had a “very crude”, “overly simplistic” and “ridiculous” mindset. “It’s frustrating for the family, because they’re business people, so the presidency is ... and also his liberties and his freedoms to be able to come and play golf when he wants,” she explained. She indicated her colleagues in the Trump Organisation would follow her husband’s lead and commit their experiences with Mr Trump to paper. “Everybody in the Trump Organisation is going to write a book,” she said. “Everybody’s writing a book. Everybody’s writing a book about Trump whether they’re in the organisation or not.” At Thursday evening’s event, Mr Bates addressed the ongoing controversy surrounding the financial ties between the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Mr Trump’s nearby Turnberry resort, and the US Defence Department, the subject of an ongoing investigation by the US Congress. He said there was a “deal done” with the US government for military aircraft to stop at Prestwick, which offered the “cheapest” landing rates in Europe. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/trumps-frustrated-at-inability-to-pursue-foreign-investment-deals-says-trump-org-executive-1-5033346>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 9:26 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today?

Johnson eyes SNP-LibDems plan to get his early election (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL
 Boris Johnson has signalled he may borrow a plan for an early election put forward by the SNP and Liberal Democrats if his own preferred route fails today. The Prime Minister will ask MPS this afternoon for a third time to back an election under the Fixed-term Parliament Act, but with little prospect of success. He needs two-thirds of MPS to support his proposal for an election on December 12 in return for the Commons getting until November 6 to scrutinise and pass his Brexit deal legislation. However Downing Street said it would look at “all options” for a Plan B, including one similar to a new joint Snp-libdems plan to use a one-page bill to secure an election on December 9. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Libdems leader Jo Swinson both promoted the idea yesterday, saying it would avoid Mr Johnson getting his “bad Brexit deal” passed with the help of rebel Labour MPS. <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17996818.johnson-eyes-snp-libdem-plan-get-early-election/>

One in 10 Scots stocking up on food for no-deal Brexit (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL
 While the UK government has urged people to not worry about stockpiling ahead of a possible no-deal Brexit, the latest Panelbase poll for The Sunday Times shows some voters in Scotland have had other ideas. Although ministers have played down talk of supplies running out, one in 10 adults in Scotland have already started to stock up on food. Almost as many (8%) have put extra medicine aside while 4% are keeping their cars full of petrol. Amid currency concerns, 3% say they have prepared for Brexit by buying euros while 2% have bought US dollars. However, by far the largest group (84%) say they have done nothing to prepare for the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/one-in-10-scots-stocking-up-on-food-for-no-deal-brex-it-g5080hht5>

Ruth Davidson told to publish PR job advice (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson should publish advice received before she accepted her PR job, a critic has demanded. The former Scottish Conservative leader faced calls to resign as an MSP after announcing a job with Tulchan as a senior adviser, earning £50,000 a year for 25 days' work. In response to the criticism, the Edinburgh Central MSP said she had undertaken "due diligence" before accepting the new role, including meeting parliamentary staff at Holyrood. Neil Findlay, the Labour MSP, said: "Ruth Davidson claims she sought the advice of the Scottish parliamentary authorities before accepting this highly paid job as a lobbyist. In the interest of openness and transparency she should publish all communications between her and the parliamentary authorities who gave her advice." Mr Findlay is to introduce a bill on the rules governing second jobs for MSPs. He said: "If it is true that Davidson was given the green light to take this job, then clearly the rules are not fit for purpose."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-told-to-publish-pr-job-advice-jwpxbkjii>

'Disloyal' Ian Murray deserved bid to oust him after Jeremy Corbyn attacks, says Len McCluskey (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Len McCluskey says the actions of Ian Murray in criticising the Labour leadership "had to be called out" after an attempt by his union to unseat the Scottish MP. Unite triggered a selection ballot in his Edinburgh South constituency but failed by 158 votes to 13. Mr McCluskey said the contest had come about because of the Edinburgh MP's criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, as well as attacks on Unite and his resignation as shadow Scottish secretary. The Unite general secretary said that his members saw the actions of Mr Murray as "contemptuous". Mr McCluskey insisted that the union knew it would not manage to unseat the MP, who boasts a majority of 15,514. He said: "We knew full well there was no chance of unseating Ian, he was always going to get the support of his constituency. His behaviour — and this was the view of our Scottish membership, which I support — needed to be called out." He described Mr Murray as a "constant critic" of Mr Corbyn.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/disloyal-ian-murray-deserved-bid-to-oust-him-after-jeremy-corbyn-attacks-says-len-mccluskey-2z806pgks>

SNP urged to explain by-election expenses manoeuvre (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

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<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17996124.snp-scrape-by-election-limit-declaring-spending-rented-flats-occupied/>

Op-ed: SNP chooses not to read the full story of Brexit's impact on our economy – Michael Glackin (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

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waiting for the fog of Brexit to lift. Right on cue, up popped the Scottish government to warn: "The report makes clear that Brexit uncertainty has already had a damaging impact on economic growth in Scotland. Any form of Brexit brings the threat of further damage to Scotland's economy, and we are clear that a no-deal outcome has the potential to tip the Scottish economy into recession."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-27/scotland/michael-glackin-snp-chooses-not-to-read-the-full-story-of-brexits-impact-on-our-economy-vcs0867mr>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Cool, I'll pop it in near the bottom. Sorry, things are so fluid just now I think it was only in the news cycle between our updates!!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:55 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Let's just flag it as something that happened

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:49 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Not that I can see, but I can include it if you want?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:46 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:23 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? Would something like 'MIL' make a appropriate tag for the submarine story?

**Scotland's economy takes £3bn hit from Brexit fears (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)
ECON/POL**

The uncertainty caused by Brexit has cost the Scottish economy £3 billion so far, according to independent analysis. The Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University made the estimate as it downgraded expectations of future economic growth. It said the size of the Scottish economy was 2 per cent, or about £3 billion, smaller than forecast before the vote on EU membership. In a study published today, the Fraser of Allander, an economic forecaster, said business investment was particularly affected with many companies delaying or cancelling spending decisions. It looked at a range of scenarios suggesting that £100 million to £550 million of investment had been lost since the middle of 2016. Mairi Spowage, deputy director of the institute, said: "Investment remains well below trend and as a result growth continues to be sluggish."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scotland-s-economy-takes-3bn-hit-from-brexit-fears-99qvg523s>

Independence support falling according to poll for group backing Yes (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is greater strength of support among Scots for staying in the UK than leaving, according to a poll commissioned by a pro-independence organisation. The Progress Scotland survey found 37 per cent of voters "completely support Scotland staying part of the UK", compared with 26 per cent who "completely support Scotland becoming independent". SNP deputy leader Keith Brown insisted a growing number of Scots are ready to listen to the "progressive case" for independence, but pro-union leaders say the Yes campaign is losing support. The Survation poll was commissioned by Progress Scotland, headed by former SNP Westminster leader Angus Robertson, and surveyed 2,000 Scots at the start of the month. It sought answers on a spectrum of 0-10 to identify strength of opinion on the issue, with 0 marking "complete" support for staying in the UK, while 10 "complete" support for independence. A narrow majority (51 per cent) were more supportive of the Union, with 6 per cent in the middle and 40 per cent more supportive of independence.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/poll-scottish-independence-voters-switching-to-support-the-union-1-5030614>

Glitch scuppers HMS Audacious delivery date (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Technical problems have caused a delay to the completion of British nuclear-powered attack submarines, the Ministry of Defence has admitted. HMS Audacious, the fourth of seven vessels due to be delivered under the £11 billion Astute-class programme, was supposed to have entered service in summer but its final handover is likely to be delayed by 17 months. The postponement has had a knock-on effect on production of HMS Anson, the fifth boat, and is likely to affect the timetable of the final two vessels. The Astute-class submarines are due to be based at the Faslane naval base near Helensburgh. The MoD declined to disclose details of the engineering problems on the grounds that it could harm the effectiveness and security of the boats.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glitch-scuppers-hms-audacious-delivery-date-hwt560bpz>

Op-ed: There is a better way to maintain our population than looking to migrants (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

The latest population trends across the UK prompted a predictable ministerial warning from the Scottish government. Fiona Hyslop, acknowledging that inward migration would be the only driver of population growth over the next quarter of a century, said that "the damaging potential impact of Brexit" had not even been taken into account. Quite why Ms Hyslop, whose formal remit is culture, tourism and external affairs, is lead minister on the worrying state of Scotland's demographics has never been clear to me. It's such a core determinant of Scotland's future economic vibrancy that one might have imagined it would feature prominently in that brief. Then again, Derek Mackay, the cabinet secretary for finance, economy and fair work, has plenty of other awkward challenges right now.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/there-is-a-better-way-to-maintain-our-population-than-looking-to-migrants-qsrcdjt7h>

Unite pushes for de-selection of Labour MP Ian Murray (BBC News) POL

The Unite union is pushing to de-select Scottish Labour's Ian Murray as a candidate in the next general election. The MP for Edinburgh South was Labour's only Scottish MP between 2015 and 2017 and has been a consistent critic of Jeremy Corbyn. Under party rules, a contest to replace a sitting MP is triggered if a third of local members or affiliated unions back it. Mr Murray said he was "disappointed" that this was Unite's priority. "It is disappointing that in the week where I'm leading the People's Vote campaign in Scotland...that this is Unite's priority," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50146805>

Holyrood will not be recalled for Brexit debate (BBC News) POL

Plans to recall the Scottish Parliament to debate the UK government's Brexit deal have been put on hold. Holyrood's presiding officer said he was "not minded" to bring MSPs back from recess following developments at Westminster on Tuesday evening. Ministers wanted the chamber to sit on Thursday so that MSPs could reject the deal and call for a new referendum instead. But MPs voted to approve the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Boris Johnson.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50139400>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine, thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Sorry, I didn't get a chance to get this away yesterday. (b)(5)

November court date set for Alex Salmond case (BBC News) POL

A court date has been set in the case against former first minister Alex Salmond, who faces charges including attempted rape and sexual assault. A preliminary hearing will go ahead at the High Court in Edinburgh on 21 November, before a full trial, which is expected to take place early next year. Mr Salmond was charged with a total of 14 offences on 24 January this year. They include two charges of attempted rape, nine of sexual assault and two of indecent assault. He strongly denies all of the allegations against him.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50122740>

Brexit worth letting Scots go, say 75% of Tory Leave voters in England (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

More than three quarters of Tory Leave voters in England would sacrifice the Union to see Britain exit the EU, a poll has found. Research by Lord Ashcroft, the Conservative donor, found that 76 per cent of English Conservatives who voted Leave in 2016 would prioritise Brexit even if it meant Scotland gained independence. Of the same demographic, 74 per cent would choose leaving the EU over Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK. The figures are a marked increase compared with a YouGov poll in June, which found that 63 per cent of party members would be willing to pay for Brexit with an independent Scotland and 59 per cent would be happy to see Ireland reunite if Britain left the EU.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-worth-letting-scots-go-say-three-quarters-of-tory-leave-voters-in-england-7c5zpcmr>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The first minister has been out of step with voters in Scotland, including her supporters, by pressing for a general election rather than a fresh Brexit referendum as a way out of the EU withdrawal impasse, according to a survey of Scottish voters carried out for The Sunday Times. A Panelbase survey of 1,003 adults resident in Scotland on October 9-11 found that only 26% supported Nicola Sturgeon's stance, while 46% would prefer another referendum, and 27% said they did not know. Among the first minister's own party supporters, six out of 10 would prefer the priority to be to put Brexit to a new referendum. However, almost five years since becoming first minister, Sturgeon remains far more popular than the leaders of Britain's other big parties, the poll found.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8djjq>

Gove claims SNP want UK to leave EU with no deal (BBC News) POL

Michael Gove has claimed the refusal of the SNP to back the new Brexit Bill could suggest they want the UK to leave the EU without a deal. The cabinet minister said he could understand why people accused the party of quietly supporting no deal. Mr Gove made the comments while speaking via video link to Holyrood's finance and constitution committee. Speaking after the meeting, SNP MSP Tom Arthur branded the claims "self-evidently ludicrous".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50131090>

Services threatened by fall in working-age population (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland faces skill shortages and more pressure on public services that are already "buckling under the strain" as the number of working-age people is poised to shrink, business leaders said. Figures released yesterday predicted that the working-age population would fall by 7,000, or 0.2 per cent, over the next 25 years without changes to immigration rules. The reduction would be exacerbated if immigration controls are tightened once Britain leaves the EU. If migration from Europe reduced by 50 per cent then the working-age population would drop by 1.9 per cent. The fall would be 3.7 per cent if inward movement stopped altogether. The total number of people in the UK is projected to increase under all the scenarios and it is predicted that Britain's population will rise to just under 70 million within nine years.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/services-threatened-by-fall-in-working-age-population-k35tl98hd>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Scottish-farmed salmon, worth £2bn to Scotland's economy, could be banned from America unless ministers table urgent anti-cruelty legislation to protect marine life. The US is one of the largest purchasers of the fish cultivated in our lochs and coastal waters, with exports worth up to £200m a year. Time is running out, however, for the Scottish government to prove that new higher standards of aquaculture welfare are on the statute book and being enforced by March 2021. Experts claim failure to meet the US deadline could see the door shut on Scottish salmon as early as January 2022. The warning comes only days after America imposed swingeing 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky and cashmere as part of an ongoing trade war with the European Union, potentially imperilling hundreds of jobs.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxgk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 11:04 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

That the one?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:50 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5)

(I think from over the weekend). Can you add that as well?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:35 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Court asked to consider if PM's Brexit delay tactic is lawful (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's highest court is to consider whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson has fully complied with a law requiring him to ask for a Brexit delay. He sent an unsigned letter to Brussels asking for an extension along with a signed letter saying he believed a further delay would be a mistake. The Court of Session will be asked to decide whether this broke a promise not to "frustrate" the so-called Benn Act. The government maintains it has fulfilled its legal obligations.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50117164>

Nicola Sturgeon's election stance fails to impress most Scots in poll (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The first minister has been out of step with voters in Scotland, including her supporters, by pressing for a general election rather than a fresh Brexit referendum as a way out of the EU withdrawal impasse, according to a survey of Scottish voters carried out for The Sunday Times. A Panelbase survey of 1,003 adults resident in Scotland on October 9-11 found that only 26% supported Nicola Sturgeon's stance, while 46% would prefer another referendum, and 27% said they did not know. Among the first minister's own party supporters, six out of 10 would prefer the priority to be to put Brexit to a new

referendum. However, almost five years since becoming first minister, Sturgeon remains far more popular than the leaders of Britain's other big parties, the poll found.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/nicola-sturgeons-election-stance-fails-to-impress-most-scots-in-poll-p29ltdm0r>

Labour voters boost for indyref2 (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon's hopes of being able to hold a second independence referendum next year would appear to rest on the possibility that a snap general election will produce a hung parliament in which Labour will be reliant on the SNP for support. Such an outcome would enable the nationalists to offer their support to a Jeremy Corbyn-led minority government in return for Holyrood being given the power to hold an independence ballot. However, the Conservatives can be expected to highlight the "threat" of such a deal in order to dissuade voters from backing Labour. It is often argued that their portrayal of a diminutive Ed Miliband tucked into Alex Salmond's shirt pocket helped David Cameron win an overall majority in the 2015 UK election.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/labour-voters-boost-for-indyref2-7jzs8dijq>

Nicola Sturgeon accused of 'scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering' by Labour over Brexit claims (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of peddling "scurrilous and malicious rumour-mongering" after she claimed the Labour leadership had encouraged its MPs to back Boris Johnson's Brexit deal. The First Minister made her inflammatory suggestion ahead of Saturday's debate and vote in the House of Commons. The main motion on the Prime Minister's Brexit deal was not put to a vote because an amendment, tabled by Sir Oliver Letwin, was passed.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981566.nicola-sturgeon-accused-scurrilous-malicious-rumour-mongering-labour-brexit-claims/>

Row over BBC Laura Kuenssberg 'biased' anti-Sturgeon tweet (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Two of Scotland's leading female commentators have come to blows on Twitter in a row over claims of bias by BBC political editor, Laura Kuenssberg. Bestselling crime writer and Yes supporter Val McDermid said her respect for the journalist had been cut "to shreds" over the way she responded to a tweet from Nicola Sturgeon on Saturday.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17981679.row-bbc-laura-kuenssberg-biased-anti-sturgeon-tweet/>

Priti Patel plan to send migrants to north England must not stop at border, says Stuart McDonald (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Priti Patel has been accused of ignoring Scotland's need for new residents despite proposing a tailored immigration plan for northern England. The British government floated plans this month under which migrants seeking to come to the United Kingdom after Brexit would be given extra points if they agreed to move to the north of England rather than London and the southeast. For the first time the home secretary is considering taking steps to ensure that skilled immigrants are spread around the country. However, the Home Office has failed to give an assurance that similar incentives would be extended to Scotland. Studies suggest that Scotland's falling birthrate will damage economic growth and worsen skill shortages if people cannot be recruited from overseas.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/priti-patel-plan-to-send-migrants-to-north-england-must-not-stop-at-border-says-stuart-mcdonald-d52bk292l>

Why can't we have a bridge like China, says Irish PM Leo Varadkar (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Leo Varadkar has backed Boris Johnson's plan to build a bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland as part of an effort to help trade after Brexit. The Irish prime minister's public support for the proposed structure linking Larne with Stranraer will be well received in Downing Street, although he stopped short of offering financial backing. "Prime minister Johnson is genuinely interested in taking a serious look at this idea of building a bridge between Antrim and Scotland," Mr Varadkar told The Sunday Times. "I know people dismiss it, but I don't. It needs to be looked at, it needs to be at least examined. I've seen what the Chinese have got . . . 100km-long bridges. I don't know if it is viable but I also don't think it should be dismissed out of hand, and I know he is particularly excited about that one."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/why-cant-we-have-a-bridge-like-china-says-irish-pm-leo-varadkar-dtmz8fb6w>

Scottish salmon exports face US ban for 'cruelty' to seals (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Scottish-farmed salmon, worth £2bn to Scotland's economy, could be banned from America unless ministers table urgent anti-cruelty legislation to protect marine life. The US is one of the largest purchasers of the fish cultivated in our lochs and coastal waters, with exports worth up to £200m a year. Time is running out, however, for the Scottish government to prove that new higher standards of aquaculture welfare are on the statute book and being enforced by March 2021. Experts claim failure to meet the US deadline could see the door shut on Scottish salmon as early as January 2022. The warning comes only days after America imposed swingeing 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky and cashmere as part of an ongoing trade war with the European Union, potentially imperilling hundreds of jobs.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-20/scotland/scottish-salmon-exports-face-us-ban-for-cruelty-to-seals-t7mwmxggk>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:47 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I'm on the run between things so go ahead. Can you also (b)(5)
(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)
Date: 17 October 2019 at 09:25:44 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Legal bid at Court of Session to stop MPs debating Brexit deal planned (BBC NEWS) POL

Anti-Brexit campaigners are considering launching a legal bid to stop the UK government from putting its proposed withdrawal agreement before Parliament. They believe it contravenes legislation preventing Northern Ireland forming part of a separate customs territory to Great Britain. MPs are due to debate the agreement at a special Commons sitting on Saturday. Campaigner Jo Maugham QC initially announced plans to petition Scotland's highest civil court on Thursday. He later tweeted to say he would "pause and reflect and take soundings from those I trust" before going to court at 12:00. If Mr Maugham goes ahead with the legal challenge, he expects it to be heard at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50076186>

Tony Blair met Ruth Davidson to question her on risk of Scottish referendum (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson and Tony Blair have met to discuss the prospect of Brexit causing a second referendum on Scottish independence. The talks between the former Scottish Conservative leader and Labour's longest-serving prime minister took place in a hotel in Edinburgh. Much of the 45-minute conversation, held over a coffee and Diet Coke, was dominated by Mr Blair questioning Ms Davidson about a vote on secession. Mr Blair, 66, whose team approached the Tory MSP, did not meet Richard Leonard, the Scottish Labour leader, during his trip.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tony-blair-met-ruth-davidson-to-question-her-on-risk-of-scottish-referendum-p8znb66wm>

SNP spent more on by-election than Brexit (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP has been criticised for spending more on a by-election in Shetland than on the Brexit referendum. New figures from the Electoral Commission show the party spent £99,000 on the Holyrood by-election in August, compared with £90,000 on the referendum on leaving the European Union in 2016. The SNP's Shetland candidate came second to Liberal Democrat Beatrice Wishart in the poll. The Scottish Liberal Democrats have hit out at the SNP over the election spending figures, which show the party spent 12.8 per cent of the total allowed on the Brexit poll.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-spent-more-on-shetland-by-election-battle-than-brexit-referendum-1-5024899>

MSPs turn to data watchdog over Sturgeon's private emails (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's information commissioner has been urged help MSPs who want to investigate Nicola Sturgeon for using a private email account for state business. Labour wrote to the first minister and Daren Fitzhenry, the independent official responsible for enforcing freedom of information law, after The Times reported that civil servants had been ordered in 2015 to contact Ms Sturgeon on her SNP account for "urgent" business outside office hours. Elaine Smith, the Labour MSP, and Donald Cameron of the Conservatives urged Ms Sturgeon to publish all emails related to her role as first minister.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/msps-turn-to-data-watchdog-over-sturgeons-private-emails-twxqfnwqt>

Scots firms lag behind FTSE index (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

FTSE-listed Scottish companies performed worse than the overall UK index in the third quarter. Shares in Scottish companies fell after profit warnings from Irn-Bru's maker, AG Barr, and the aviation services company John Menzies. An unexpectedly high number of PPI claims at Clydesdale Bank hurt the shares of its owner, CYBG. The FTSE all-share index rose 0.3 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but shares of Scottish-headquartered companies fell by an average of 2.6 per cent over the

same period, research from Brewin Dolphin showed. Over the first nine months of 2019, shares of Scottish FTSE-listed companies climbed 6.8 per cent compared with a 10.4 per cent rise in the broader index.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-firms-lag-behind-ftse-index-zcxtb9pvv>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:44 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP conference: Nicola Sturgeon says indyref2 'must happen next year' (BBC NEWS) POL

A second referendum on Scottish independence "must happen next year", Nicola Sturgeon has told the SNP conference. Ms Sturgeon confirmed that she will ask the UK government for formal consent by the end of this year. She said Westminster had "no right" to block the request, and its opposition to indyref2 is "not sustainable". But she stressed any referendum had to be legal if the result was to be recognised internationally. She said this was because her aim was not merely to deliver a referendum - but to deliver independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50036176>

Union 'at breaking point' if UK crashes out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The United Kingdom would be pushed to breaking point by a no-deal Brexit, a think tank has said as a poll found that most Scottish voters would then back independence. The Institute for Government said that since Boris Johnson became prime minister there had been a decline in engagement with the devolved governments. In a report called No-deal Brexit and the Union the IFG said: "A no-deal Brexit would be a high stakes gamble with the future of the Union." Short-term planning for a no-deal departure from the European Union had diverted attention from longer-term questions about the relationship between Westminster and devolved governments, it said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/union-at-breaking-point-if-uk-crashes-out-l76qhlwrm>

Op-ed: Sturgeon cautious but party wants to gamble on independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is a restlessness about the SNP just now. The party's annual conference in Aberdeen felt like the bedroom of a teenager grounded by their mum: tetchy and irritable, kicking its heels, killing time, wishing it was elsewhere. The Nationalists have been denied agency. This is not a good place for any party to be. Progress is contingent. They are unable to move forward on their own terms. And that rankles. Nicola Sturgeon tried to deny this inertia. In her big speech closing the conference she insisted, contrary to all evidence, that there were cracks in the Tory government's refusal to agree to a new referendum on independence. Really? I see none, and her aides later struggled to justify her belief that the enemies of a referendum were preparing to throw in the towel.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conference-sturgeon-cautious-but-party-wants-to-gamble-on-independence-0vprrv1mq>

Alex Salmond was SNP's greatest leader, says MP tipped to succeed Nicola Sturgeon (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

One of the frontrunners to lead the SNP after Nicola Sturgeon has praised Alex Salmond as the "greatest leader the party's ever had". Joanna Cherry admitted that she barely knew the first minister and had only sat down with her on one occasion. Ms Cherry, the MP who successfully challenged the five-week prorogation of parliament by Boris Johnson, refused to rule out a leadership bid when the vacancy arises. "I don't know her very well," Ms Cherry told Holyrood magazine. "She's running the country; I'm down in Westminster. And Ian Blackford [the SNP leader at Westminster] has been very supportive of me and I'm really glad about that. "But if you think about how big the parliamentary party is in London, and at Holyrood, it would be difficult for Nicola to meet us all and be friends with all of us, she's got the country to run. So, I'm not complaining that I'm not Nicola's best mate."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/salmond-our-ever-greatest-leader-says-mp-tipped-to-succeed-sturgeon-62w078zn2>

Brexit uncertainty blamed for sales slowdown in Scotland (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scots have pulled back on buying non-essential items, according to the latest survey of retailers. The Scottish Retail Consortium said food sales continue to rise, and at a faster rate than the UK as a whole. But non-food purchases saw a steep drop last month, down by more than 5% when compared with September 2018. Political and economic uncertainty ahead of the planned Brexit date on 31 October is being blamed for caution among shoppers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50064186>

Ruth Davidson leads mental health group after Jeremy Kyle and Love Island reality show deaths (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Former Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson is to chair ITV's new mental health advisory Group, created following the deaths of participants of the Jeremy Kyle Show and Love Island. Ms Davidson, who is still an MSP after quitting as leader partly due to Brexit, has taken up the unpaid role designed to protect the mental wellbeing of participants and audiences on ITV shows. A former BBC journalist, Ms Davidson said she is "excited" to chair the mental health group which will advise both ITV and STV about the production of shows and which will "have a huge role in setting the broadcaster's overall mental health strategy".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-leads-mental-health-group-after-jeremy-kyle-and-love-island-reality-show-deaths-2rcr0x7xs>

US soldiers 'must be held accountable' for Black Watch captain's death (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The widow of an army captain killed by a forklift truck on a military base in Iraq said the US soldiers responsible must be "held accountable". Dean Sprouting, who served with the Black Watch, was hit by the vehicle while out jogging in January 2018. The soldiers faced three charges including negligent homicide but an American Brigadier General ruled these be dropped. Capt Sprouting's wife said it was as if her husband's life "didn't matter." Linda Sprouting spoke following a military inquest into her husband's death in Oxford last week.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-50054685>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:39 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Got it, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:22 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5) If you can add that as well, that would be great.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:11 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? (b)(5)

Nicola Sturgeon: 'No shortcut route to Scottish independence' (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's first minister has insisted that a legal referendum is the only way for the country to win independence. Nicola Sturgeon dismissed claims that the SNP winning a majority of Scottish seats in a general election would be enough for independence to be declared. She said there was "no easy or shortcut route to independence" and that a future referendum had to be "beyond any doubt in terms of its legitimacy". But she insisted that independence was now closer than ever. The SNP leader was speaking to BBC Scotland's political editor Brian Taylor ahead of her party's three-day conference, which opens in Aberdeen on Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002776>

Kezia Dugdale quits Scottish Labour over Brexit (BBC NEWS) POL

Former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has quit the party over its stance on Brexit, the BBC has learned. Ms Dugdale terminated her party membership in July, shortly after she stood down as an MSP. She has told friends she did not vote for the party in May's European election, while still a Labour MSP. Political correspondent Nick Eardley told BBC Scotland's Podlitical podcast that it is not known who, if anyone, Ms Dugdale did vote for. Ms Dugdale led Scottish Labour for two years before quitting the post in August 2017. She continued to sit as an MSP until June of this year, when she left politics to take a job with the John Smith Centre at Glasgow University.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002775>

Brexit tycoon John Mills fears voters will ignore cost of independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Brexiteer businessman who donated £1.65 million to the Labour Party fears that Scots are prepared to vote for independence even if it leads to economic hardship. John Mills, founder of the retail giant JML, said the party had lost its way under Jeremy Corbyn by appealing to a narrow section of the electorate. Its hard-left stance was driving voters to the SNP, he said, where they were being enticed by independence regardless of the potential economic shock. In his book *Left Behind: Why Voters Deserted Social Democracy and How to Win Them Back* he said that Labour faced an "existential threat" from populist parties. Mr Mills, a former chairman of Vote Leave, said Brexit and support for Scottish independence were driven by "revulsion against the ruling elite in London".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-tycoon-john-mills-fears-voters-will-ignore-cost-of-independence-sjrjw3bzt>

First Minister 'ignoring' Prestwick scandal (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of "ignoring" the "growing scandal" of the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial relationship with the US military, amid allegations it is waiving service fees for US Armed Forces aircraft at a cost to taxpayers in excess of £1m. Patrick Harvie MSP, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, said the airport was effectively being used as a "cut price petrol station" for the US Air Force. He added that Holyrood should not have to be "reliant on investigative journalists uncovering the facts of what's going on" at Prestwick.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-accused-of-ignoring-prestwick-us-military-scandal-1-5021355>

Op-ed: Patrick Harvie flies to the moral high ground – Alex Massie (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Despite formidable competition, Patrick Harvie might just be Holyrood's leading grandstander. No ground is high enough for the Green co-leader's righteousness. Yesterday he asked that "the whole chamber" join him "in expressing solidarity with the Kurdish people, who have been betrayed and abandoned by the US and are now enduring an assault by Turkey, a Nato member". Watch out President Erdogan, Patrick Harvie has his eye on you. Mr Harvie can see links unseen by others, however. Prestwick airport is owned by the Scottish government and counts the US Air Force amongst its few customers. So, Mr Harvie wanted to know: "If the first minister is against Scotland being used as a nuclear submarine base for the United Kingdom, why should we be any happier about being used as a cut-price petrol station for the US Air Force?"

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/patrick-harvie-flies-to-the-moral-high-ground-h7z3215jz>

Standard Life Aberdeen axes roles in Edinburgh (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland's biggest financial services company is to axe up to 70 jobs in its IT department – with most of the cuts coming north of the Border. Workers at Standard Life Aberdeen – which was created from the merger of Aberdeen Investment and Standard Life two years ago, were summoned into a meeting yesterday afternoon and told that IT services would be outsourced to Us-headquartered IT services company Cognizant. The majority of the department's staff – 42 contractors and five permanent staff – will lose their jobs by the end of the year. Staff were told about 25 people will be retained in their current roles, while a further 27 could be moved over to work for Cognizant.
<https://www.scotsman.com/business/standard-life-aberdeen-to-axe-scottish-jobs-days-before-christmas-as-it-services-outsourced-1-5021687>

School trips to Mossmorran chemical plant need risk review (BBC NEWS) ECON

Risk assessments for school trips to a Fife chemical plant need to be "improved" after "weaknesses" were found, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said. ExxonMobil's pond dipping classes at Mossmorran need to be "appropriately managed", the regulator said. It is a top-tier Comah site, which means it stores hazardous substances. Fife Council said it would "implement any HSE recommendations that could improve future risk assessments". More than 20,000 pupils from local schools have taken part in wildlife classes at a pond created on the Cowdenbeath site over the past 15 years. Risk assessments used for the school trips were obtained from Fife Council under the Freedom of Information Act.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50000353>

Good Brexit could bring investment 'wall of cash' (BBC NEWS) ECON

Scottish firms could release a "wall of cash" for investment if Brexit is "done well", a business leader has said. Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) president Tim Allan said investment had been "stymied" by uncertainty over the UK's departure from the EU. But he added that money that been held back could be released once Brexit was completed. His comments came as an SCC economic study found a decline in overall business performance in the last year. Mr Allan said this had happened "as companies take on board extra uncertainties caused by the tortuous progress of the Brexit process".
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50007802>

Doctor revokes help with vaginal mesh removal after 'delays' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An American surgeon due to travel to Scotland to try to help women suffering after vaginal mesh operations says he has rescinded his offer after "delays and disrespectful behaviours". Dionysios Veronikis said Scottish doctors missed an "obvious opportunity" to meet him to discuss the planned trip when he was in the UK last month. He also claimed that Catherine Calderwood, the chief medical officer for Scotland, failed to make contact with him because she had forgotten to use an international dialling code. Dr Veronikis, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who has pioneered mesh removal surgery, made the allegations in a letter to Neil Findlay, a Scottish Labour MSP who has campaigned with affected women. He said that if there had been no delays "three patients who made the journey to St Louis could have been operated on Scottish soil".
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/doctor-revokes-help-with-vaginal-mesh-removal-after-delays-znrqb96t0>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 11:32 AM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good, thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

UK Brexit plan not shown to SNP Govt (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Mike Russell has accused the UK government of leaving Edinburgh in the dark over its Brexit plans ahead of a cross-border meeting today. The Brexit Secretary will chair the first Joint Ministerial Council on EU Negotiations to be held in Edinburgh with UK and Welsh ministers. The gathering comes as relations between the UK and devolved governments hit a new low after Boris Johnson submitted his Brexit deal plans to the EU without consultation. Mr Russell yesterday told MSPs there had been "no correspondence" between the UK and Scottish governments in advance of the proposals.
<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17957867.uk-brexit-plan-not-shown-snp-govt/>

More politicians and less politics 'would make Holyrood better' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland could benefit from having more MSPs, the group that set up the devolved parliament has said. The steering group, which includes Henry McLeish, a former first minister, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, a former deputy, and Sir George Reid, a former presiding officer, said that "immense" pressure on MSPs may make it necessary to increase their number. They admitted it was unlikely to be popular. "If we are serious about looking to our parliament to lead on the big issues of the day and to do so in a collaborative, mature, cross-party way, this should not be automatically discounted from discussions," the group said. Two decades after the establishment of the Scottish parliament, the group considered whether parliament had lived up to expectations.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/more-politicians-and-less-politics-would-make-holyrood-better-tlcl8t5rt>

Ruth Davidson looks to aid work after life as MSP (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson is "hugely interested" in taking on aid and development work when she leaves politics. The former leader of the Scottish Conservatives has said she is unlikely to stand for re-election as an MSP. She resigned as the party's leader in August. Yesterday Ms Davidson visited Erskine Stewart's Melville Junior School in her Edinburgh constituency for the launch of the Halo Trust's Breaking Boundaries initiative, a landmine clearing programme. Last year Ms Davidson spent four days in Kabul with the charity, which is based in Dumfriesshire. "I've got another 18 months to finish at the Scottish parliament so I'll be working as the MSP here in Edinburgh Central where we stand today," she said.
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-looks-to-aid-work-after-life-as-msp-xxmx88cvq>

Arts and academia unite to publish manifesto for independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Dozens of influential figures from Scottish culture and academia have drawn up a prospectus of “guiding principles” for independence including the introduction of a written constitution. The 50 signatories — mostly avowed independence supporters such as the actor Brian Cox, the historian Sir Tom Devine, the crime novelist Val McDermid and the poet and playwright Liz Lochhead — say that failing to achieve separation from the UK would mean the population “relinquish their right to decide their own destiny”. The “declaration of independence” comes as Brexit negotiations appear to be collapsing, with Downing Street sources suggesting that a deal with the European Union is now impossible. About 62 per cent of Scots voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/arts-and-academia-unite-to-publish-manifesto-for-independence-8qhgqhtdd>

Loganair inks United Airlines deal for Scots to travel 'seamlessly' to US (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Loganair has reached a deal with one of the world’s biggest airlines which will allows passengers “seamless” travel from Scotland to the US. The Glasgow-headquartered carrier has secured an “interline agreement” with US group United Airlines which will enable customers to travel via Glasgow and Edinburgh onwards to the United States with through-check in service and protection in case of delay. The US airline operates direct flights from Scotland to its hubs at New York’s Newark Airport, O’Hare Airport in Chicago and Dulles Airport outside Washington DC. Loganair’s agreement also applies to customers travelling via Manchester and Dublin.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/loganair-inks-united-airlines-deal-for-scots-to-travel-seamlessly-to-us-1-5020650>

Bethany Haines scours Syria for father beheaded by Isis (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The daughter of a Scottish aid worker beheaded by Islamic State has vowed to return to Syria “100 times” to find her father’s body. During a ten-day trip to the Middle East Bethany Haines, 22, visited the site where it is believed that David Haines was executed. Mr Haines, 44, a humanitarian aid worker from Perth, was captured in March 2013 and held for 18 months before being beheaded by Mohammed Emwazi in September 2014. Images of the killing were turned into Isis propaganda. Emwazi, otherwise known as Jihadi John, also killed Alan Henning, another British aid worker; James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American journalists; and Peter Kassig, a US aid worker.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/bethany-haines-scours-syria-for-father-beheaded-by-isis-2gc9bwnh3>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How’s this for today? (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Scottish judges to rule on Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Three Scottish judges are due to announce later whether a court can sign a Brexit extension letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. Lord Carloway said the judges will give their decision at 11:00 BST. The court also heard an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49975066>

PM's Brexit tactics are inspired by Trump, leading Scots judges told (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A senior lawyer has told Scotland's highest civil court that the prime minister's Brexit strategy is inspired by the tactics of President Trump. Aidan O'Neill, QC, said that Boris Johnson was telling the Scottish courts one thing and the media another. Addressing the Inner House of the Court of Session, he urged judges to forbid Mr Johnson from leaving the European Union without a deal. He said that government lawyers had indicated to the courts that Mr Johnson would seek an extension to remain in the EU if he could not agree an exit deal, then briefed journalists through his aides that he was ready to defy parliament and leave without agreement. "One shouldn't be taken in by any kind of schtick that the prime minister is simply an overgrown schoolboy playing at being prime minister, as if he was Just William leading his cabinet band of outlaws," Mr O'Neill said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/pms-brexit-tactics-are-inspired-by-trump-leading-scots-judges-told-srb5prmzx>

Warning of sectarian tensions in Scotland under no-deal Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Sectarian troubles in Northern Ireland caused by a no-deal Brexit could be mirrored in Scotland's Catholic and Protestant communities, the Scottish Government has warned. The potential for violent disorder was highlighted in civil contingency plans published by the Scottish Government, which also said the old port at Stranraer may have to be turned into emergency parking for 300 lorries. It also said some container goods may have to be moved through Grangemouth and Greenock Ocean Terminal if there are blockages at Dover, with a Northern Isles freight ferry earmarked "as a last resort for importing critical supplies in the event UK measures fail". Deputy First Minister John Swinney told MSPs he had also set up a special group to monitor shortages of medicines and there would be a £7 million fund for councils to alleviate financial hardship. He said the economic shock of a no-deal Brexit on October 31 could push Scotland into recession, with a 5 per cent rise in prices, principally food, tipping 130,000 people into poverty.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17955286.warning-sectarian-tensions-scotland-no-deal-brexit/>

Inverclyde eviction threat facing retail giant Amazon (BBC NEWS) ECON

Amazon has said it will fight a court's decision to uphold an eviction notice from its landlord at a distribution warehouse in Inverclyde. The site is owned by the M7 property investment firm which gave the online giant six months' notice to quit in February. Amazon challenged the move at the Court of Session, arguing it was entitled to a year's notice. But the courts backed M7, though the US firm has said it will appeal again. About 300 people work at the Gourock site and Amazon says it remains "business as usual" for them and customers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49980400>

Op-ed: Whisky tariff war gives a flavour of life after Brexit under WTO rules (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Producers of Scotch whisky are used to taking the long view. The spirit they distil can take a very long time, maturing in casks, before a bottle can be sold. Single malts that command the most elevated prices can be decades in the making. That long view, however, has endured periods of intense shorter-term turbulence. I witnessed at first hand the great Scotch whisky takeover battles of the 1980s: Guinness's hostile capture of Arthur Bell in Perth in 1984, led by Ernest Saunders, quickly followed by his rout of the industry leader, the multi-brand Distillers Company, still reeling from its earlier involvement in the thalidomide scandal. An inevitable wave of distillery closures and capacity rationalisation followed. More recently, Scotch has been enjoying a renaissance.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/whisky-tariff-war-gives-a-flavour-of-life-after-brexit-under-wto-trading-rules-cv98zhjgg>

Matheson pressed on Prestwick ties (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Transport secretary Michael Matheson has stressed the Scottish Government is "not hiding behind anything" amid growing scrutiny of Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial dealings with the US military. Scottish Liberal Democrats MSP Mike Rumbles asked Mr Matheson how much was allegedly waived in service fees for US armed forces aircraft on stopovers at the hub, and when he knew of the allegations, but the cabinet secretary did not directly address the questions. In a heated exchange at Holyrood, Mr Matheson said the state-owned airport was run at arms-length from the government, and that Prestwick decided on "specific commercial deals".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-not-hiding-from-prestwick-airport-allegations-1-5019917>

American woman who killed North Berwick pensioner after driving on wrong side of road spared jail sentence (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

An American woman who killed a pensioner after driving on the wrong side of the road has been spared a jail sentence. Caroline Bourgois Emmet – the granddaughter of composer Irving Berlin – emerged on to a main road from an estate in East Lothian and drove for more than half a kilometre on the opposing carriageway before a fatal collision with another car. She crashed into the other vehicle in which Elizabeth Henderson was a back seat passenger, on the A198 between North Berwick and Tranent on July 19 in 2017, after leaving the Archerfield Estate. Mrs Henderson, 83, of North Berwick, died two days later in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after she suffered multiple pelvis and limb fractures and internal bleeding.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/american-woman-who-killed-north-berwick-pensioner-after-driving-on-wrong-side-of-road-spared-jail-sentence-1-5020163>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 9:31 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court asked to consider Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Judges are to consider whether a court can sign a Brexit extension request letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. The court will also hear an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law. Lord Pentland said following an earlier hearing that there could be "no doubt" that the prime minister had agreed to abide by the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49959172>

Time for some 'panic' over Scottish independence referendum says Whitehall official (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Downing Street is too complacent about the danger of a second independence referendum a senior Whitehall official has said, with a lack of "panic" at the most senior levels about the strengthening trend in polling on Scottish independence. The last three polls on Scottish independence voting intention have put support for leaving the UK at between 49 per cent and 52 per cent, when the don't knows are removed. An online poll at the start of August conducted by Lord Ashcroft also put independence in the lead for the first time in two and a half years, while polling expert Professor Sir John Curtice has said that "it can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote 'no' again in an independence ballot".

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/time-for-some-panic-over-scottish-independence-referendum-says-whitehall-official-1-5018708>

Edinburgh council cannot verify All Under One Banner's claim about nationalist rally turnout (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Council officials have been accused of suppressing attendance figures for a Scottish independence rally amid claims that a crowd of 200,000 paraded down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. All Under One Banner, the organiser of Saturday's event, said that 200,000 marched, which would put attendance on a par with the Glastonbury Festival. The claim was published by some news outlets and shared by senior nationalist politicians on social media. A Force For Good, a unionist organisation, filmed the march and said that it counted 11,286 heads. It has published the footage online to allow observers to verify its figures. Last year the organisation counted 12,789 people when All Under One Banner said that 100,000 people had marched.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-council-cannot-verify-all-under-one-banners-claim-about-nationalist-rally-turnout-jtngm6bq2>

Ditching pound after Scottish independence 'would be a gamble with livelihoods' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Proposals to stop using the pound and adopt a new currency after Scottish independence would "be a gamble with people's livelihoods", it has been claimed. Pamela Nash, the chief executive of Scotland in Union, said that a vote in favour of independence in a second referendum would put financial exports with the rest of Britain at risk. The SNP has maintained that a new currency would only be adopted when it was in the interests of the country. Analysis by Scotland in Union suggests that the export of financial services to the rest of the UK was valued at £9.1 billion in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ditching-pound-after-scottish-independence-would-be-a-gamble-with-livelihoods-5ttxcnt8>

Boris Johnson 'must convince Donald Trump to save 3,000 Scottish jobs by dumping malt whisky tariff' (The Telegraph) ECON

Boris Johnson must use his friendship with Donald Trump to save thousands of Scottish jobs by convincing the US President to scrap tariffs on single malt whisky, a former Scottish Secretary has argued. David Mundell warned 3,000 jobs and £228 million of revenue could be lost if the Trump administration presses ahead with the introduction next week of a 25 per cent trade tariff on Scotch, following a dispute with the EU over aircraft subsidies. Asking an urgent question in the Commons, he cited the figures as industry estimates of the losses that could be incurred and said Mr Johnson must "intervene directly" with Mr Trump.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/07/boris-johnson-must-convince-donald-trump-save-3000-scottish/>

Scottish Tory leadership race may start within weeks (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are likely to begin a leadership contest to find Ruth Davidson's successor within weeks if a general election is pushed back to the spring. At an awayday in North Queensferry yesterday Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, sided with those who were pushing for a snap leadership vote. The Times revealed last week that some Tory MSPs believed that a spring election would allow time to install a permanent leader. Jackson Carlaw had been due to remain interim leader until Britain left the EU but angered much of his front bench by reversing the party's position to support a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Murdo Fraser, the party's finance spokesman, spoke out about his opposition to a no-deal Brexit yesterday. It is understood that Mr Fraser, seen as a leadership frontrunner, said on the awayday that ties should be loosened between the Scottish and UK parties.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tory-leadership-race-may-start-within-weeks-7bncqsgbq>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:25 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Sturgeon's EU experts warn of disastrous slump after no-deal (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Britain is facing years of economic pain and poisonous debate if Boris Johnson drags the country out of the European Union without a deal, advisers to Scotland's first minister have warned. Nicola Sturgeon's advisory council said the prime minister's latest Brexit proposals were not credible and had no realistic prospect of success. The first minister stepped up plans for a second Scottish independence referendum yesterday as the SNP said it "will never consent to this extreme Tory Brexit". Sir Anton Muscatelli, principal of Glasgow University and chairman of the Standing Council on Europe, warned in an open letter that no-deal would not be a clean break but would signal the start of a prolonged and potentially fractious trade negotiation with acrimonious EU member states.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-rejects-extreme-brexit-deal-7zg2n223s>

Op-ed: Open letter on Brexit - Sir Anton Muscatelli (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

I am writing this open letter on behalf of members of the Standing Council on Europe, which I chair. At our latest meeting we were able to look at the UK government's proposals to the EU and unfortunately our assessment was very far from positive. The EU has signalled its willingness to give the proposals a fair hearing but in our view it is already clear they do not offer any realistic prospect of helping secure a compromise. They go back on commitments made by the UK government in December 2017 and are far removed from what is known to be the EU's position. In particular it is deeply concerning that these proposals appear not to honour the Good Friday agreement and therefore risk jeopardising the fragile peace on the island of Ireland, the importance of which is obvious to all. The proposals also seem to show a worrying move away from the commitment to maintain high and equivalent levels of environmental and labour standards, and competition policy that benefits consumers.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/open-letter-on-brexit-sir-anton-muscatelli-jbgbwwnnd>

Sturgeon savages Carlaw over his conversion to hard Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has launched a withering attack on her likely opponent at the next Holyrood election, accusing Jackson Carlaw of putting his personal ambitions before his country and party in order to suck up to Boris Johnson. The First Minister said the Eastwood MSP had changed from enthusiastic Remainer to no-deal Brexiter in "a heartbeat" as he tried to become his party's full-time leader. "Shame on him for that," she said. Mr Carlaw, who represents one of the most Remain constituencies in the UK, has previously warned against a no-deal in case it imperilled the Union. It was a position he shared with previous Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson, who quit in August citing a "conflict" over Brexit after Mr Johnson said he was ready for a no-deal Brexit. However at the Tory conference in Manchester this week, Mr Carlaw flipped his position and swung the Scottish Tories behind accepting no-deal, despite only being an interim leader.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17945806.sturgeon-savages-carlaw-conversion-no-deal-brexit/>

'Everyone a loser' from US tariff on malt whisky (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Plans for a major tariff on Scottish malt whisky by the US as part of a trade war with Europe have been condemned as damaging to business and "profoundly worrying" for the industry. Nicola Sturgeon led the criticism, saying that the 25 per cent tariff due to come into force later this month was "in no one's interests". The World Trade Organisation has given the US the green light to impose charges on up to £6.1 billion of goods from the EU, including malt whisky, as retaliation for illegal subsidies the bloc gave to Airbus.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/everyone-a-loser-from-us-tariff-on-malt-whisky-v05gclqtp>

Op-ed: Tit-for-tat trade (BBC News) ECON

Why pick Scotch? Isn't Donald Trump half Scottish, with a love for its golf courses, or at least the ones that belong to him? The selection of premium end whisky from the president's late mother's homeland as retaliation for UK subsidies to Airbus may not have registered as one of the details crossing the Oval Office desk. But it came as no surprise to the Scotch whisky industry. It saw the risk that came with the European Commission's choice, in 2017, of American whiskey in its retaliation in another trade dispute. That one was about steel, with President Trump putting up trade barriers against Chinese imports of subsidised steel, and doing a lot of damage to trading relations with others by imposing import levies on them as well.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49927808>

Investigation: How the US military is using Prestwick Airport ‘for free’ (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is waiving service fees for inbound US military aircraft as part of an alleged practice designed to increase traffic at the beleaguered airport and safeguard its lucrative commercial relationship with the US Defence Department, multiple sources familiar with its operations have told The Scotsman. The heavily-indebted airport, at the centre of a US Congressional investigation over the US military’s financial ties with Prestwick and US president Donald Trump’s nearby Turnberry resort, is alleged to have waived the so-called service fees for several hundred flights by branches of the US Armed Forces. Sources with direct knowledge of US military business at Prestwick said the cost to the airport and, as a result, Scottish taxpayers, runs into seven figures. The airport, a publicly owned asset operated on a fully commercial basis, has repeatedly declined to answer a series of questions put to it by The Scotsman regarding the allegations it is waiving the service fees.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/prestwick-airport-waiving-fees-for-us-military-aircraft-1-5017211>

Brewers tap into huge Chinese tourism boost (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

The international marketing was carefully targeted to portray Scotland as a country of rugged castles and breathtaking scenery but Chinese visitors, it seems, would rather go to the pub. Visit Scotland has published a study of Chinese tourists after the number of visitors rocketed in recent years. An estimated 200,000 went through the gates of Edinburgh Castle last year compared with fewer than 1,000 two decades ago. Sampling Scottish delicacies, including whisky, craft beer, haggis, seafood, gin and ale, was the top attraction, ahead of historical sites and shopping. Hazel Sellar, Visit Scotland’s market manager for China, said that visitors were clamouring to try quality food and drink in surroundings that were quintessentially Scottish.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brewers-tap-into-huge-chinese-tourism-boost-hzf3r7wgc>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:59 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Great, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:48 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5) otherwise good to go.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 3 October 2019 at 09:30:01 BST

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Single malt Scotch whisky targeted by United States tariffs (BBC News) ECON

Single malt Scotch whisky exported to the United States is to face a tariff of 25% from 18 October. The new duty is part of a raft of measures being imposed by the US in retaliation against EU subsidies given to aircraft maker Airbus. Other goods being targeted include cashmere sweaters, dairy products, pork, olives, biscuits, books, and some machinery. Scotch whisky exports to the US last year were worth \$1.3bn (£1bn). The US was given the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5bn (£6.1bn) of goods it imports from the EU following a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling on Wednesday. It is the latest chapter in a 15-year battle between the US and the EU over illegal subsidies for planemakers Airbus and rival Boeing.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49915034>

Scottish Tories round on Jackson Carlaw to install leader before election (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Conservatives will move to oust Jackson Carlaw as interim leader of the party next week and hold a snap contest to replace Ruth Davidson. There will be an away day for Tory MSPs in North Queensferry on Monday where Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, is expected to give an update on the process for selecting a new leader. It is understood that a group of senior politicians is likely to argue that the process should be sped up as the chances of a general election by the end of the year have fallen. Three new contenders are considering bids for the top job. Jamie Greene, 39, the transport spokesman, is understood to have used the UK party conference in Manchester to sound out members. He allegedly asked Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, for support. Sources close to Mr Greene said that he had not decided whether to run.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-round-on-jackson-carlaw-to-install-leader-before-election-qdsgztwzv>

Michael Gove 'ignored Scottish plea to see Brexit policing plan' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's justice secretary is angry that police were "blindsided" by ministers at Westminster who refused to share sensitive Brexit planning. Humza Yousaf wrote a month ago to Michael Gove, minister for no-deal planning, seeking clarity on public order preparations but had no reply. Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing, said on Tuesday that Police Scotland had been denied access to plans to handle civil disruption. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's position, he said. Mr Yousaf said: "It is imperative that Scottish ministers have the opportunity to discuss the impact of leaving the EU on devolved operational law enforcement issues."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/michael-gove-ignored-scottish-plea-to-see-brexit-policing-plan-qmx0xcpdv>

Turn 'left-wing' bank holiday into Union celebration, urges Alister Jack (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish secretary has suggested that Britain should turn an existing bank holiday into a day for celebrating the Union. Alister Jack said that one of the "left-wing" days off work could be replaced with a "Union Day". He was responding to a question at an event at the Conservative Party conference in

Manchester. "We could get rid of one of the left-wing [bank holidays]. Bring in a Union Day. It is popular," Mr Jack said to laughter from the crowd. He argued that Westminster had "retreated" from Scotland too much during the 12 years of SNP government at Holyrood and urged British ministers to spend more time north of the border.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-left-wing-bank-holiday-into-union-celebration-says-alister-jack-mmh6dqst8>

Scottish welfare state is thriving, says UN (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland is on "a very different trajectory" to the rest of the UK when it comes to social security, according to a UN poverty expert. Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, said that the spirit of the welfare state was "alive and humming" north of the border, but was waning elsewhere. Mr Alston, 69, an Australian international human rights law professor, visited Britain last year to produce a report which said that austerity policies introduced in 2010 were continuing to have tragic social consequences. It also claimed that the Scottish government's attempts to reduce the impact of social security cuts, such as the two-child benefit cap, were not sustainable. However, he told an event at the University of Edinburgh: "Scotland is spending a lot of money on mitigating what they see as the least humane policies that come from London. All of this indicates that Scotland is, at least for now, on a very different trajectory than England when it comes to the social protection of its population."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-welfare-state-is-thriving-says-un-mhq8gmpfk>

Ex-MP Michelle Thomson nominated for East Lothian seat (BBC News) POL

A former SNP MP who quit the party following an investigation into alleged mortgage fraud has been nominated as a candidate for the East Lothian seat. Michelle Thomson was reported to prosecutors regarding the alleged fraud after being elected as an MP in 2015. But in August 2017 the Crown Office confirmed there was insufficient evidence to launch criminal proceedings. Ms Thomson always denied any wrongdoing and rejoined the SNP last October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49911191>

Fracking to be banned in Scotland indefinitely, leak reveals (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Fracking will today finally be banned by the Scottish Government after six years of painstaking deliberations – only to face claims it is still not going far enough. SNP ministers had been due to announce they had finalised their position on the controversial gas extraction technology in a statement to MSPs at Holyrood this afternoon. However, the development was revealed accidentally on a government website yesterday. "On 03 October 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed its final policy position of no support for unconventional oil and gas," it said.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17943929.fracking-banned-scotland-indefinitely-leak-reveals/>

Trump's bid for Turnberry villas rejected (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

The Trump Organisation's plans to build swathes of housing and luxury holiday villas at its Turnberry resort have been rejected. The US president's son, Eric, personally oversaw proposals to rezone vast tracts of farmland surrounding the historic venue for housing. However, planners at South Ayrshire Council have turned down the firm's attempts to have the prime agricultural land redesignated. The Trump Organisation's plans for a major expansion of its flagship Scottish resort by building swathes of housing and luxury villas have been thwarted, further jeopardising efforts by the US president's company to stem multimillion-pound losses at its most prestigious overseas property.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/trump-s-plans-for-major-expansion-of-turnberry-resort-rejected-1-5016324>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5) Otherwise looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:24 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Jack says Scottish Tories have been 'brought into line' over no-deal exit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives have been "brought into line" with the UK party following interim leader Jackson Carlaw's endorsement of a no-deal Brexit, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has said. Mr Carlaw abandoned former leader Ruth Davidson's opposition to a no-deal Brexit on Sunday, saying the Scottish Tories would back Boris Johnson to take the UK out of the EU on 31 October. There were reports Mr Carlaw's shadow cabinet were left in a "cold fury" over not being consulted, but Mr Jack claimed MSPS had been told about the move, as had Ms Davidson. "He's bringing the Scottish Conservatives into line with the rest of the UK party," Mr Jack told STV.
<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17939977.nicola-sturgeon-hits-scottish-tories-brought-line-uk-government/>

Jackson Carlaw accused of misleading Scottish Tories over no-deal support (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jackson Carlaw has been accused of misleading his party when he reversed the Scottish Conservatives' opposition to a no-deal Brexit. The interim leader has come in for criticism from opponents and colleagues after taking the decision without consulting his shadow cabinet. It emerged last night that he told an event at the Tory conference in Manchester that he had spoken to his senior MSP group. The Times revealed yesterday that some in his frontbench team were left in a "cold fury" by his move. Mr Carlaw was asked at the event on Sunday what discussions he had held with colleagues and whether his MSP team was "on board".
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jackson-carlaw-accused-of-misleading-scottish-tories-over-no-deal-support-qldz379p5>

Scottish police chief Will Kerr alleges Brexit planning snub (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Police Scotland has been denied access to sensitive plans to handle civil disruption after Brexit, a senior officer said as he accused UK ministers of stoking tensions with irresponsible language. The force has

only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's distinct constitutional and legal position, according to Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing. "We have, frankly, at times struggled to access some of the more sensitive elements, or layers, of those planning assumptions," he told the Holyrood justice committee. "Some of those planning assumptions have tended, at times, to be quite London or south of England-centric, and we've been constantly reinforcing the different legal and constitutional arrangements in Scotland."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-police-chief-will-kerr-alleges-brexit-planning-snub-and-warns-over-language-tqh7h8fcv>

UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle to Scotland was 'a mistake', says Tory MP (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish Tory MP has labelled the UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle over to Scotland as part of the devolution settlement in the 1990s a "mistake". Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, labelled the national landmark one of the "fantastic assets" of the United Kingdom, but lamented the fact it can no longer be used for UK Government functions. On a panel alongside Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, and DUP leader Arlene Foster, the parliamentarian was speaking during the Policy Exchange segment at this year's Conservative Party Conference on Monday about how the union can be strengthened after Brexit.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-handing-control-of-edinburgh-castle-to-scotland-was-a-mistake-says-tory-mp-1-5015478>

Call for elections reform over 'missing' voters (BBC News) POL

Campaigners have warned that a snap UK election could leave hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland unable to vote. It follows research showing that the register of people entitled to vote was out of date. The Electoral Reform Society said the issue could affect up to 745,000 Scots who were either not on the list or were registered at the wrong address. They are calling for an overhaul of the registration system.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49897699>

Burger King milkshake tweet 'encouraged' anti-social conduct (BBC News) POL

A Burger King tweet alerting customers it was "selling milkshakes all weekend" has been banned for condoning and encouraging anti-social behaviour. The fast food firm's post came after a number of European election candidates had milkshakes thrown at them. And a McDonald's in Edinburgh stopped selling the drinks before Nigel Farage addressed a rally in the city. Burger King defended the tweet, calling it a "tongue-in-cheek reaction to recent events".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49895800>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:12 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Scots Tories want election in spring after Salmond trial (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nervous Scottish Conservatives are urging Boris Johnson to go for a spring General Election to avoid Scotland's wintry weather and take electoral advantage of 'SNP turmoil' surrounding the forthcoming Alex Salmond trial. The plea to the Prime Minister came as the party's annual conference in Manchester heard another major spending announcement: a plan to raise the National Living Wage to £10.50 an hour by 2024, unveiled by Chancellor Sajid Javid as he sought to move the conference spotlight away from allegations over Mr Johnson's private life. The further sign that an election is on its way has prompted Scottish Tory MPs to urge the PM to rule out a December poll and wait until next year to go to the country, preferably in the spring. Some party insiders argue that, apart from avoiding the effects of a bad winter in Scotland, holding an election in March 2020 could bring electoral benefits for the Conservatives in their battle with Nicola Sturgeon's SNP following the high-profile Salmond court case. One senior Scottish Tory source told The Herald: "Irrespective of the outcome of the trial, the Nationalists will be in turmoil."

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17937580.scots-tories-back-spring-election-capitalise-snp-turmoil-following-salmond-trial/>

Sidelined Tory MSPs angered by Jackson Carlaw's reversal on Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The interim leader of the Scottish Conservatives has left his MSPs in a "cold fury" by reversing the party's position and supporting a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Jackson Carlaw, who has been interim leader north of the border since Ruth Davidson stepped down, alienated shadow cabinet colleagues when he announced his support on Sunday for leaving the EU on October 31 whether or not a deal has been agreed. His stance is a significant departure from that of Ms Davidson, who said in July that she would not under any circumstances support Britain leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement. Mr Carlaw, who issued a note to all staff and MSPs after replacing Ms Davidson telling them to drop the word "interim" from his job title, told activists at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that the "endless drift" of failing to agree a deal was more damaging than the potential impact of leaving without an agreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sidelined-tory-msps-angered-by-carlaw-s-reversal-on-brexit-5gv65tlcs>

Major military exercise Joint Warrior set for Scotland (BBC News) POL

Thousands of military personnel are to take part in a major UK-led military exercise starting this week. Joint Warrior is held twice a year, in spring and autumn. Starting on Saturday and continuing until 17 October, the second of this year's exercises will involve warships, submarines and aircraft. Most of the training takes place around Scotland's north, north west and north east coasts and will include live-firing at ranges such as Cape Wrath.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-49877455>

MI5 spied on Manny Shinwell, the Labour titan feared to be a Communist (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

A Labour cabinet member was spied on by the security services for decades, declassified files have shown. Manny Shinwell, a Scottish MP, was suspected of being a communist sympathiser and had his post and phone calls intercepted by police and MI5. The former Red Clydesider who became chairman of the Labour Party was monitored even while serving as defence minister in Clement Attlee's government from 1945 to 1951. The files, which have been stored in the National Archives in Kew, London, also show that the US authorities raised concerns about Shinwell, who died in 1986 when he was 101.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mi5-spied-on-manny-shinwell-the-labour-titan-feared-to-be-a-communist-dzksrmd2w>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good – thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:20 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP pushes for a compromise caretaker PM to oust Johnson (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP will warn Labour and the Liberal Democrats they must compromise on a candidate to lead a “government of national unity” as pressure builds to oust Boris Johnson and ensure that Brexit is delayed. Opposition leaders will meet today to discuss how to thwart a no-deal Brexit, with the parties deadlocked over who should lead a caretaker administration after a vote of no-confidence in Mr Johnson’s government. With Conservatives in Manchester for their party conference, opposition MPs are expected to use parliamentary tactics at Westminster to disrupt the gathering and put pressure on the government over its refusal to push back the 31 October Brexit deadline.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-pushes-for-a-compromise-pm-to-oust-boris-johnson-1-5013650>

Davidson era ends as Carlaw declares: ‘We must leave EU, deal or no deal’ (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservative leadership has drawn a line under the Ruth Davidson era and scrapped its opposition to a no-deal Brexit, making clear it is “time for us to go” with or without a European Union withdrawal agreement. And Jackson Carlaw, the interim party leader, who indicated he is set to bid for the top job on a permanent basis, denied Prime Minister Boris Johnson was an English nationalist but was, rather, a “passionate, wholehearted” Unionist. “I stand behind him four-square, as do all my parliamentary colleagues,” said Mr Carlaw at the Scottish fringe event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. Ms Davidson was a staunch Remainer, who, as she left her role as head of the Scottish Tories, made clear they would “not support” a no-deal Brexit.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17935304.jackson-carlaw-breaks-ruth-davidson-line-swings-scots-tories-behind-boris-johnson-no-deal-brexit/>

Boris Johnson throws down gauntlet to SNP (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

Boris Johnson has told Nicola Sturgeon to stay away from a UN climate summit in Glasgow, and united the Scottish Conservatives behind a no-deal Brexit. In a defiant message to critics who accuse him of inflammatory rhetoric the prime minister said he would “stick to his guns” in using military metaphors against them. He told a Scottish reception at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that he would unite the UK after delivering Brexit on October 31. Jackson Carlaw, interim leader of the Scottish Tories, aligned with the UK party and reversed his predecessor Ruth Davidson’s opposition to leaving the EU without an agreement. Mr Johnson promised to drape the Union flag around COP26, a UN climate change conference to be held in Glasgow in November next year.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-throws-down-gauntlet-to-snp-pmtcc6x0f>

Cherry says her critics inside party driven by misogyny (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The woman tipped as the next SNP leader has said she experienced attacks from within the party driven by a “huge streak of misogyny”. Joanna Cherry, QC, a key figure behind Boris Johnson’s defeat in the Supreme Court last week, said some party members resented her for being a “successful, forthright woman”. She also confirmed she would consider a run at the leadership once there is a vacancy. The Edinburgh South West MP’S stock is riding high after she led a Scottish legal challenge to the Prime Minister’s prorogation of Parliament alongside 74 other MPS and peers. That fight, and a similar one by activist Gina Miller south of the Border, led to the Court’s unanimous ruling that the “extreme” five-week suspension was unlawful.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17935017.cherry-says-critics-inside-snp-driven-misogyny/>

Images of new Trump golf resort plans released (BBC News)

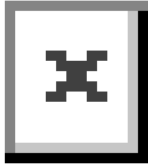
The Trump Organisation has released images of its plans for a new housing development at its Aberdeenshire golf resort. Plans for 550 houses at the Menie Estate, as well as shops and food outlets, were approved last week. Dubbed The Trump Estate, it features a range of properties from cottages to larger homes costing more than £1m. It will also have its own town hall. A second golf course at the resort was previously given the go-ahead.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49870020>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:



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UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press
Date:	Thu, 17 Oct 2019 08:48:35 +0000

Will do!

UNCLASSIFIED

From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:47 AM
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press

I'm on the run between things so go ahead. (b)(5)

(b)(5):

From:	(b)(6)
Date:	17 October 2019 at 09:25:44 BST
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Legal bid at Court of Session to stop MPs debating Brexit deal planned (BBC NEWS) POL

Anti-Brexit campaigners are considering launching a legal bid to stop the UK government from putting its proposed withdrawal agreement before Parliament. They believe it contravenes legislation preventing Northern Ireland forming part of a separate customs territory to Great Britain. MPs are due to debate the agreement at a special Commons sitting on Saturday. Campaigner Jo Maugham QC initially announced plans to petition Scotland's highest civil court on Thursday. He later tweeted to say he would "pause and reflect and take soundings from those I trust" before going to court at 12:00. If Mr Maugham goes ahead with the legal challenge, he expects it to be heard at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50076186>

Tony Blair met Ruth Davidson to question her on risk of Scottish referendum (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson and Tony Blair have met to discuss the prospect of Brexit causing a second referendum on Scottish independence. The talks between the former Scottish Conservative leader and Labour's longest-serving prime minister took place in a hotel in Edinburgh. Much of the 45-minute conversation, held over a coffee and Diet Coke, was dominated by Mr Blair questioning Ms Davidson about a vote on secession. Mr Blair, 66, whose team approached the Tory MSP, did not meet Richard Leonard, the Scottish Labour leader, during his trip.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/tony-blair-met-ruth-davidson-to-question-her-on-risk-of-scottish-referendum-p8znb66wm>

SNP spent more on by-election than Brexit (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP has been criticised for spending more on a by-election in Shetland than on the Brexit referendum. New figures from the Electoral Commission show the party spent £99,000 on the Holyrood by-election in August, compared with £90,000 on the referendum on leaving the European Union in 2016. The SNP'S Shetland candidate came second to Liberal Democrat Beatrice Wishart in the poll. The Scottish Liberal Democrats have hit out at the SNP over the election spending figures, which show the party spent 12.8 per cent of the total allowed on the Brexit poll.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-spent-more-on-shetland-by-election-battle-than-brexit-referendum-1-5024899>

MSPs turn to data watchdog over Sturgeon's private emails (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's information commissioner has been urged help MSPs who want to investigate Nicola Sturgeon for using a private email account for state business. Labour wrote to the first minister and Daren Fitzhenry, the independent official responsible for enforcing freedom of information law, after The Times reported that civil servants had been ordered in 2015 to contact Ms Sturgeon on her SNP account for "urgent" business outside office hours. Elaine Smith, the Labour MSP, and Donald Cameron of the Conservatives urged Ms Sturgeon to publish all emails related to her role as first minister.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/msps-turn-to-data-watchdog-over-sturgeons-private-emails-twxqfnwqt>

Scots firms lag behind FTSE index (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

FTSE-listed Scottish companies performed worse than the overall UK index in the third quarter. Shares in Scottish companies fell after profit warnings from Irn-Bru's maker, AG Barr, and the aviation services company John Menzies. An unexpectedly high number of PPI claims at Clydesdale Bank hurt the shares of its owner, CYBG. The FTSE all-share index rose 0.3 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but shares of Scottish-headquartered companies fell by an average of 2.6 per cent over the same period, research from Brewin Dolphin showed. Over the first nine months of 2019, shares of Scottish FTSE-listed companies climbed 6.8 per cent compared with a 10.4 per cent rise in the broader index.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-firms-lag-behind-ftse-index-zcxtb9pvv>

UNCLASSIFIED

From (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:58 AM
To (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks fine

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:44 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP conference: Nicola Sturgeon says indyref2 'must happen next year' (BBC NEWS) POL

A second referendum on Scottish independence "must happen next year", Nicola Sturgeon has told the SNP conference. Ms Sturgeon confirmed that she will ask the UK government for formal consent by the end of this year. She said Westminster had "no right" to block the request, and its opposition to indyref2 is "not sustainable". But she stressed any referendum had to be legal if the result was to be recognised internationally. She said this was because her aim was not merely to deliver a referendum - but to deliver independence.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50036176>

Union 'at breaking point' if UK crashes out (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The United Kingdom would be pushed to breaking point by a no-deal Brexit, a think tank has said as a poll found that most Scottish voters would then back independence. The Institute for Government said that since Boris Johnson became prime minister there had been a decline in engagement with the devolved governments. In a report called No-deal Brexit and the Union the IFG said: "A no-deal Brexit would be a high stakes gamble with the future of the Union." Short-term planning for a no-deal departure from the European Union had diverted attention from longer-term questions about the relationship between Westminster and devolved governments, it said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/union-at-breaking-point-if-uk-crashes-out-l76qhlwrm>

Op-ed: Sturgeon cautious but party wants to gamble on independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

There is a restlessness about the SNP just now. The party's annual conference in Aberdeen felt like the bedroom of a teenager grounded by their mum: tetchy and irritable, kicking its heels, killing time, wishing it was elsewhere. The Nationalists have been denied agency. This is not a good place for any party to be. Progress is contingent. They are unable to move forward on their own terms. And that rankles. Nicola Sturgeon tried to deny this inertia. In her big speech closing the conference she insisted, contrary to all evidence, that there were cracks in the Tory government's refusal to agree to a new referendum on independence. Really? I see none, and her aides later struggled to justify her belief that the enemies of a referendum were preparing to throw in the towel.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-conference-sturgeon-cautious-but-party-wants-to-gamble-on-independence-0vpprvlmg>

Alex Salmond was SNP's greatest leader, says MP tipped to succeed Nicola Sturgeon (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

One of the frontrunners to lead the SNP after Nicola Sturgeon has praised Alex Salmond as the "greatest leader the party's ever had". Joanna Cherry admitted that she barely knew the first minister and had only sat down with her on one occasion. Ms Cherry, the MP who successfully challenged the five-week prorogation of parliament by Boris Johnson, refused to rule out a leadership bid when the vacancy arises. "I don't know her very well," Ms Cherry told Holyrood magazine. "She's running the country; I'm

down in Westminster. And Ian Blackford [the SNP leader at Westminster] has been very supportive of me and I'm really glad about that. "But if you think about how big the parliamentary party is in London, and at Holyrood, it would be difficult for Nicola to meet us all and be friends with all of us, she's got the country to run. So, I'm not complaining that I'm not Nicola's best mate."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/salmond-our-ever-greatest-leader-says-mp-tipped-to-succeed-sturgeon-62w078zn2>

Brexit uncertainty blamed for sales slowdown in Scotland (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Scots have pulled back on buying non-essential items, according to the latest survey of retailers. The Scottish Retail Consortium said food sales continue to rise, and at a faster rate than the UK as a whole. But non-food purchases saw a steep drop last month, down by more than 5% when compared with September 2018. Political and economic uncertainty ahead of the planned Brexit date on 31 October is being blamed for caution among shoppers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50064186>

Ruth Davidson leads mental health group after Jeremy Kyle and Love Island reality show deaths (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Former Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson is to chair ITV's new mental health advisory Group, created following the deaths of participants of the Jeremy Kyle Show and Love Island. Ms Davidson, who is still an MSP after quitting as leader partly due to Brexit, has taken up the unpaid role designed to protect the mental wellbeing of participants and audiences on ITV shows. A former BBC journalist, Ms Davidson said she is "excited" to chair the mental health group which will advise both ITV and STV about the production of shows and which will "have a huge role in setting the broadcaster's overall mental health strategy".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-leads-mental-health-group-after-jeremy-kyle-and-love-island-reality-show-deaths-2rcr0x7xs>

US soldiers 'must be held accountable' for Black Watch captain's death (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The widow of an army captain killed by a forklift truck on a military base in Iraq said the US soldiers responsible must be "held accountable". Dean Sprouting, who served with the Black Watch, was hit by the vehicle while out jogging in January 2018. The soldiers faced three charges including negligent homicide but an American Brigadier General ruled these be dropped. Capt Sprouting's wife said it was as if her husband's life "didn't matter." Linda Sprouting spoke following a military inquest into her husband's death in Oxford last week.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-50054685>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:39 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Got it, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 10:22 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5)
(b)(5)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:11 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? I included Massie (b)(5)

Nicola Sturgeon: 'No shortcut route to Scottish independence' (BBC NEWS) POL

Scotland's first minister has insisted that a legal referendum is the only way for the country to win independence. Nicola Sturgeon dismissed claims that the SNP winning a majority of Scottish seats in a general election would be enough for independence to be declared. She said there was "no easy or shortcut route to independence" and that a future referendum had to be "beyond any doubt in terms of its legitimacy". But she insisted that independence was now closer than ever. The SNP leader was speaking to BBC Scotland's political editor Brian Taylor ahead of her party's three-day conference, which opens in Aberdeen on Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002776>

Kezia Dugdale quits Scottish Labour over Brexit (BBC NEWS) POL

Former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has quit the party over its stance on Brexit, the BBC has learned. Ms Dugdale terminated her party membership in July, shortly after she stood down as an MSP. She has told friends she did not vote for the party in May's European election, while still a Labour MSP. Political correspondent Nick Eardley told BBC Scotland's Podlitical podcast that it is not known who, if anyone, Ms Dugdale did vote for. Ms Dugdale led Scottish Labour for two years before quitting the post in August 2017. She continued to sit as an MSP until June of this year, when she left politics to take a job with the John Smith Centre at Glasgow University.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50002775>

Brexit tycoon John Mills fears voters will ignore cost of independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A Brexit tycoon businessman who donated £1.65 million to the Labour Party fears that Scots are prepared to vote for independence even if it leads to economic hardship. John Mills, founder of the retail giant JML, said the party had lost its way under Jeremy Corbyn by appealing to a narrow section of the electorate. Its hard-left stance was driving voters to the SNP, he said, where they were being enticed by independence regardless of the potential economic shock. In his book *Left Behind: Why Voters Deserted Social Democracy and How to Win Them Back* he said that Labour faced an "existential threat" from

populist parties. Mr Mills, a former chairman of Vote Leave, said Brexit and support for Scottish independence were driven by “revulsion against the ruling elite in London”.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brexit-tycoon-john-mills-fears-voters-will-ignore-cost-of-independence-sjrjw3bzt>

First Minister ‘ignoring’ Prestwick scandal (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of “ignoring” the “growing scandal” of the state-owned Glasgow Prestwick Airport’s financial relationship with the US military, amid allegations it is waiving service fees for US Armed Forces aircraft at a cost to taxpayers in excess of £1m. Patrick Harvie MSP, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, said the airport was effectively being used as a “cut price petrol station” for the US Air Force. He added that Holyrood should not have to be “reliant on investigative journalists uncovering the facts of what’s going on” at Prestwick.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-accused-of-ignoring-prestwick-us-military-scandal-1-5021355>

Op-ed: Patrick Harvie flies to the moral high ground – Alex Massie (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Despite formidable competition, Patrick Harvie might just be Holyrood’s leading grandstander. No ground is high enough for the Green co-leader’s righteousness. Yesterday he asked that “the whole chamber” join him “in expressing solidarity with the Kurdish people, who have been betrayed and abandoned by the US and are now enduring an assault by Turkey, a Nato member”. Watch out President Erdogan, Patrick Harvie has his eye on you. Mr Harvie can see links unseen by others, however.

Prestwick airport is owned by the Scottish government and counts the US Air Force amongst its few customers. So, Mr Harvie wanted to know: “If the first minister is against Scotland being used as a nuclear submarine base for the United Kingdom, why should we be any happier about being used as a cut-price petrol station for the US Air Force?”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/patrick-harvie-flies-to-the-moral-high-ground-h7z3215jz>

Standard Life Aberdeen axes roles in Edinburgh (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

One of Scotland’s biggest financial services company is to axe up to 70 jobs in its IT department – with most of the cuts coming north of the Border. Workers at Standard Life Aberdeen – which was created from the merger of Aberdeen Investment and Standard Life two years ago, were summoned into a meeting yesterday afternoon and told that IT services would be outsourced to Us-headquartered IT services company Cognizant. The majority of the department’s staff – 42 contractors and five permanent staff – will lose their jobs by the end of the year. Staff were told about 25 people will be retained in their current roles, while a further 27 could be moved over to work for Cognizant.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/standard-life-aberdeen-to-axe-scottish-jobs-days-before-christmas-as-it-services-outsourced-1-5021687>

School trips to Mossmorran chemical plant need risk review (BBC NEWS) ECON

Risk assessments for school trips to a Fife chemical plant need to be “improved” after “weaknesses” were found, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said. ExxonMobil’s pond dipping classes at Mossmorran need to be “appropriately managed”, the regulator said. It is a top-tier Comah site, which means it stores hazardous substances. Fife Council said it would “implement any HSE recommendations that could improve future risk assessments”. More than 20,000 pupils from local schools have taken part in wildlife classes at a pond created on the Cowdenbeath site over the past 15 years. Risk assessments used for the school trips were obtained from Fife Council under the Freedom of Information Act.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50000353>

Good Brexit could bring investment 'wall of cash' (BBC NEWS) ECON

Scottish firms could release a "wall of cash" for investment if Brexit is "done well", a business leader has said. Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) president Tim Allan said investment had been "stymied" by uncertainty over the UK's departure from the EU. But he added that money that been held back could be released once Brexit was completed. His comments came as an SCC economic study found a decline in overall business performance in the last year. Mr Allan said this had happened "as companies take on board extra uncertainties caused by the tortuous progress of the Brexit process".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-50007802>

Doctor revokes help with vaginal mesh removal after 'delays' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

An American surgeon due to travel to Scotland to try to help women suffering after vaginal mesh operations says he has rescinded his offer after "delays and disrespectful behaviours". Dionysios Veronikis said Scottish doctors missed an "obvious opportunity" to meet him to discuss the planned trip when he was in the UK last month. He also claimed that Catherine Calderwood, the chief medical officer for Scotland, failed to make contact with him because she had forgotten to use an international dialling code. Dr Veronikis, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who has pioneered mesh removal surgery, made the allegations in a letter to Neil Findlay, a Scottish Labour MSP who has campaigned with affected women. He said that if there had been no delays "three patients who made the journey to St Louis could have been operated on Scottish soil".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/doctor-revokes-help-with-vaginal-mesh-removal-after-delays-znrqb96t0>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good, thanks!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

UK Brexit plan not shown to SNP Govt (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Mike Russell has accused the UK government of leaving Edinburgh in the dark over its Brexit plans ahead of a cross-border meeting today. The Brexit Secretary will chair the first Joint Ministerial Council on EU Negotiations to be held in Edinburgh with UK and Welsh ministers. The gathering comes as relations

between the UK and devolved governments hit a new low after Boris Johnson submitted his Brexit deal plans to the EU without consultation. Mr Russell yesterday told MSPs there had been “no correspondence” between the UK and Scottish governments in advance of the proposals.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17957867.uk-brexit-plan-not-shown-snp-govt/>

More politicians and less politics ‘would make Holyrood better’ (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland could benefit from having more MSPs, the group that set up the devolved parliament has said. The steering group, which includes Henry McLeish, a former first minister, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, a former deputy, and Sir George Reid, a former presiding officer, said that “immense” pressure on MSPs may make it necessary to increase their number. They admitted it was unlikely to be popular. “If we are serious about looking to our parliament to lead on the big issues of the day and to do so in a collaborative, mature, cross-party way, this should not be automatically discounted from discussions,” the group said. Two decades after the establishment of the Scottish parliament, the group considered whether parliament had lived up to expectations.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/more-politicians-and-less-politics-would-make-holyrood-better-tlcl8t5rt>

Ruth Davidson looks to aid work after life as MSP (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Ruth Davidson is “hugely interested” in taking on aid and development work when she leaves politics. The former leader of the Scottish Conservatives has said she is unlikely to stand for re-election as an MSP. She resigned as the party’s leader in August. Yesterday Ms Davidson visited Erskine Stewart’s Melville Junior School in her Edinburgh constituency for the launch of the Halo Trust’s Breaking Boundaries initiative, a landmine clearing programme. Last year Ms Davidson spent four days in Kabul with the charity, which is based in Dumfriesshire. “I’ve got another 18 months to finish at the Scottish parliament so I’ll be working as the MSP here in Edinburgh Central where we stand today,” she said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ruth-davidson-looks-to-aid-work-after-life-as-msp-xxmx88cvq>

Arts and academia unite to publish manifesto for independence (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Dozens of influential figures from Scottish culture and academia have drawn up a prospectus of “guiding principles” for independence including the introduction of a written constitution. The 50 signatories — mostly avowed independence supporters such as the actor Brian Cox, the historian Sir Tom Devine, the crime novelist Val McDermid and the poet and playwright Liz Lochhead — say that failing to achieve separation from the UK would mean the population “relinquish their right to decide their own destiny”. The “declaration of independence” comes as Brexit negotiations appear to be collapsing, with Downing Street sources suggesting that a deal with the European Union is now impossible. About 62 per cent of Scots voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/arts-and-academia-unite-to-publish-manifesto-for-independence-8qhghqhtdd>

Loganair inks United Airlines deal for Scots to travel 'seamlessly' to US (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) ECON

Loganair has reached a deal with one of the world’s biggest airlines which will allow passengers “seamless” travel from Scotland to the US. The Glasgow-headquartered carrier has secured an “interline agreement” with US group United Airlines which will enable customers to travel via Glasgow and Edinburgh onwards to the United States with through-check in service and protection in case of delay.

The US airline operates direct flights from Scotland to its hubs at New York's Newark Airport, O'Hare Airport in Chicago and Dulles Airport outside Washington DC. Loganair's agreement also applies to customers travelling via Manchester and Dublin.

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/loganair-inks-united-airlines-deal-for-scots-to-travel-seamlessly-to-us-1-5020650>

Bethany Haines scours Syria for father beheaded by Isis (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist)

The daughter of a Scottish aid worker beheaded by Islamic State has vowed to return to Syria "100 times" to find her father's body. During a ten-day trip to the Middle East Bethany Haines, 22, visited the site where it is believed that David Haines was executed. Mr Haines, 44, a humanitarian aid worker from Perth, was captured in March 2013 and held for 18 months before being beheaded by Mohammed Emwazi in September 2014. Images of the killing were turned into Isis propaganda. Emwazi, otherwise known as Jihadi John, also killed Alan Henning, another British aid worker; James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American journalists; and Peter Kassig, a US aid worker.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/bethany-haines-scours-syria-for-father-beheaded-by-isis-2gc9bwnh3>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 9:53 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today? I left out the stuff on Blair as I thought the Daily would cover it, but let me know if that's not right...!

Scottish judges to rule on Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Three Scottish judges are due to announce later whether a court can sign a Brexit extension letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. Lord Carloway said the judges will give their decision at 11:00 BST. The court also heard an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49975066>

PM's Brexit tactics are inspired by Trump, leading Scots judges told (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

A senior lawyer has told Scotland's highest civil court that the prime minister's Brexit strategy is inspired by the tactics of President Trump. Aidan O'Neill, QC, said that Boris Johnson was telling the Scottish courts one thing and the media another. Addressing the Inner House of the Court of Session, he urged judges to forbid Mr Johnson from leaving the European Union without a deal. He said that government lawyers had indicated to the courts that Mr Johnson would seek an extension to remain in the EU if he could not agree an exit deal, then briefed journalists through his aides that he was ready to defy parliament and leave without agreement. "One shouldn't be taken in by any kind of schtick that the

prime minister is simply an overgrown schoolboy playing at being prime minister, as if he was Just William leading his cabinet band of outlaws," Mr O'Neill said.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/pms-brex-it-tactics-are-inspired-by-trump-leading-scots-judges-told-srb5prmzx>

Warning of sectarian tensions in Scotland under no-deal Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Sectarian troubles in Northern Ireland caused by a no-deal Brexit could be mirrored in Scotland's Catholic and Protestant communities, the Scottish Government has warned. The potential for violent disorder was highlighted in civil contingency plans published by the Scottish Government, which also said the old port at Stranraer may have to be turned into emergency parking for 300 lorries. It also said some container goods may have to be moved through Grangemouth and Greenock Ocean Terminal if there are blockages at Dover, with a Northern Isles freight ferry earmarked "as a last resort for importing critical supplies in the event UK measures fail". Deputy First Minister John Swinney told MSPs he had also set up a special group to monitor shortages of medicines and there would be a £7 million fund for councils to alleviate financial hardship. He said the economic shock of a no-deal Brexit on October 31 could push Scotland into recession, with a 5 per cent rise in prices, principally food, tipping 130,000 people into poverty.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17955286.warning-sectarian-tensions-scotland-no-deal-brex-it/>

Inverclyde eviction threat facing retail giant Amazon (BBC NEWS) ECON

Amazon has said it will fight a court's decision to uphold an eviction notice from its landlord at a distribution warehouse in Inverclyde. The site is owned by the M7 property investment firm which gave the online giant six months' notice to quit in February. Amazon challenged the move at the Court of Session, arguing it was entitled to a year's notice. But the courts backed M7, though the US firm has said it will appeal again. About 300 people work at the Gourock site and Amazon says it remains "business as usual" for them and customers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49980400>

Op-ed: Whisky tariff war gives a flavour of life after Brexit under WTO rules (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Producers of Scotch whisky are used to taking the long view. The spirit they distil can take a very long time, maturing in casks, before a bottle can be sold. Single malts that command the most elevated prices can be decades in the making. That long view, however, has endured periods of intense shorter-term turbulence. I witnessed at first hand the great Scotch whisky takeover battles of the 1980s: Guinness's hostile capture of Arthur Bell in Perth in 1984, led by Ernest Saunders, quickly followed by his rout of the industry leader, the multi-brand Distillers Company, still reeling from its earlier involvement in the thalidomide scandal. An inevitable wave of distillery closures and capacity rationalisation followed. More recently, Scotch has been enjoying a renaissance.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/whisky-tariff-war-gives-a-flavour-of-life-after-brex-it-under-wto-trading-rules-cv98zhjgg>

Matheson pressed on Prestwick ties (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Transport secretary Michael Matheson has stressed the Scottish Government is "not hiding behind anything" amid growing scrutiny of Glasgow Prestwick Airport's financial dealings with the US military. Scottish Liberal Democrats MSP Mike Rumbles asked Mr Matheson how much was allegedly waived in service fees for US armed forces aircraft on stopovers at the hub, and when he knew of the allegations, but the cabinet secretary did not directly address the questions. In a heated exchange at Holyrood, Mr

Matheson said the state-owned airport was run at arms-length from the government, and that Prestwick decided on “specific commercial deals”.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-not-hiding-from-prestwick-airport-allegations-1-5019917>

American woman who killed North Berwick pensioner after driving on wrong side of road spared jail sentence (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

An American woman who killed a pensioner after driving on the wrong side of the road has been spared a jail sentence. Caroline Bourgois Emmet – the granddaughter of composer Irving Berlin – emerged on to a main road from an estate in East Lothian and drove for more than half a kilometre on the opposing carriageway before a fatal collision with another car. She crashed into the other vehicle in which Elizabeth Henderson was a back seat passenger, on the A198 between North Berwick and Tranent on July 19 in 2017, after leaving the Archerfield Estate. Mrs Henderson, 83, of North Berwick, died two days later in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after she suffered multiple pelvis and limb fractures and internal bleeding.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/american-woman-who-killed-north-berwick-pensioner-after-driving-on-wrong-side-of-road-spared-jail-sentence-1-5020163>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 9:31 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Court asked to consider Brexit delay letter to EU (BBC NEWS) POL

Judges are to consider whether a court can sign a Brexit extension request letter on behalf of the government. The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, is being asked to act directly if Boris Johnson refuses to request a delay. The letter is a key provision of what is known as the Benn Act, by which MPs hope to prevent a no-deal Brexit. The court will also hear an appeal against a ruling that Mr Johnson can be trusted to apply the law. Lord Pentland said following an earlier hearing that there could be "no doubt" that the prime minister had agreed to abide by the law.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49959172>

Time for some ‘panic’ over Scottish independence referendum says Whitehall official (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

Downing Street is too complacent about the danger of a second independence referendum a senior Whitehall official has said, with a lack of “panic” at the most senior levels about the strengthening trend in polling on Scottish independence. The last three polls on Scottish independence voting intention have put support for leaving the UK at between 49 per cent and 52 per cent, when the don't knows are removed. An online poll at the start of August conducted by Lord Ashcroft also put independence in the lead for the first time in two and a half years, while polling expert Professor Sir John Curtice has said that “it can no longer be presumed that Scotland would vote ‘no’ again in an independence ballot”.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/time-for-some-panic-over-scottish-independence-referendum-says-whitehall-official-1-5018708>

Edinburgh council cannot verify All Under One Banner's claim about nationalist rally turnout (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Council officials have been accused of suppressing attendance figures for a Scottish independence rally amid claims that a crowd of 200,000 paraded down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. All Under One Banner, the organiser of Saturday's event, said that 200,000 marched, which would put attendance on a par with the Glastonbury Festival. The claim was published by some news outlets and shared by senior nationalist politicians on social media. A Force For Good, a unionist organisation, filmed the march and said that it counted 11,286 heads. It has published the footage online to allow observers to verify its figures. Last year the organisation counted 12,789 people when All Under One Banner said that 100,000 people had marched.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-council-cannot-verify-all-under-one-banners-claim-about-nationalist-rally-turnout-jtngm6bq2>

Ditching pound after Scottish independence 'would be a gamble with livelihoods' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL/ECON

Proposals to stop using the pound and adopt a new currency after Scottish independence would "be a gamble with people's livelihoods", it has been claimed. Pamela Nash, the chief executive of Scotland in Union, said that a vote in favour of independence in a second referendum would put financial exports with the rest of Britain at risk. The SNP has maintained that a new currency would only be adopted when it was in the interests of the country. Analysis by Scotland in Union suggests that the export of financial services to the rest of the UK was valued at £9.1 billion in 2017.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ditching-pound-after-scottish-independence-would-be-a-gamble-with-livelihoods-5ttxcnt8>

Boris Johnson 'must convince Donald Trump to save 3,000 Scottish jobs by dumping malt whisky tariff' (The Telegraph) ECON

Boris Johnson must use his friendship with Donald Trump to save thousands of Scottish jobs by convincing the US President to scrap tariffs on single malt whisky, a former Scottish Secretary has argued. David Mundell warned 3,000 jobs and £228 million of revenue could be lost if the Trump administration presses ahead with the introduction next week of a 25 per cent trade tariff on Scotch, following a dispute with the EU over aircraft subsidies. Asking an urgent question in the Commons, he cited the figures as industry estimates of the losses that could be incurred and said Mr Johnson must "intervene directly" with Mr Trump.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/07/boris-johnson-must-convince-donald-trump-save-3000-scottish/>

Scottish Tory leadership race may start within weeks (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish Tories are likely to begin a leadership contest to find Ruth Davidson's successor within weeks if a general election is pushed back to the spring. At an awayday in North Queensferry yesterday Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, sided with those who were pushing for a snap leadership vote. The Times revealed last week that some Tory MSPs believed that a spring election would allow time to install a permanent leader. Jackson Carlaw had been due to remain interim leader until Britain left the EU but angered much of his front bench by reversing the party's position to support a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Murdo Fraser, the party's finance spokesman, spoke out about his

opposition to a no-deal Brexit yesterday. It is understood that Mr Fraser, seen as a leadership frontrunner, said on the awayday that ties should be loosened between the Scottish and UK parties. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tory-leadership-race-may-start-within-weeks-7bncqsgbq>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:25 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this?

Sturgeon's EU experts warn of disastrous slump after no-deal (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Britain is facing years of economic pain and poisonous debate if Boris Johnson drags the country out of the European Union without a deal, advisers to Scotland's first minister have warned. Nicola Sturgeon's advisory council said the prime minister's latest Brexit proposals were not credible and had no realistic prospect of success. The first minister stepped up plans for a second Scottish independence referendum yesterday as the SNP said it "will never consent to this extreme Tory Brexit". Sir Anton Muscatelli, principal of Glasgow University and chairman of the Standing Council on Europe, warned in an open letter that no-deal would not be a clean break but would signal the start of a prolonged and potentially fractious trade negotiation with acrimonious EU member states.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/snp-rejects-extreme-brexit-deal-7zg2n223s>

Op-ed: Open letter on Brexit - Sir Anton Muscatelli (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

I am writing this open letter on behalf of members of the Standing Council on Europe, which I chair. At our latest meeting we were able to look at the UK government's proposals to the EU and unfortunately our assessment was very far from positive. The EU has signalled its willingness to give the proposals a fair hearing but in our view it is already clear they do not offer any realistic prospect of helping secure a compromise. They go back on commitments made by the UK government in December 2017 and are far removed from what is known to be the EU's position. In particular it is deeply concerning that these proposals appear not to honour the Good Friday agreement and therefore risk jeopardising the fragile peace on the island of Ireland, the importance of which is obvious to all. The proposals also seem to show a worrying move away from the commitment to maintain high and equivalent levels of environmental and labour standards, and competition policy that benefits consumers.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/open-letter-on-brexit-sir-anton-muscatelli-jbgbwwnnd>

Sturgeon savages Carlaw over his conversion to hard Brexit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nicola Sturgeon has launched a withering attack on her likely opponent at the next Holyrood election, accusing Jackson Carlaw of putting his personal ambitions before his country and party in order to suck up to Boris Johnson. The First Minister said the Eastwood MSP had changed from enthusiastic Remainer to no-deal Brexiter in "a heartbeat" as he tried to become his party's full-time leader. "Shame on him for

that," she said. Mr Carlaw, who represents one of the most Remain constituencies in the UK, has previously warned against a no-deal in case it imperilled the Union. It was a position he shared with previous Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson, who quit in August citing a "conflict" over Brexit after Mr Johnson said he was ready for a no-deal Brexit. However at the Tory conference in Manchester this week, Mr Carlaw flipped his position and swung the Scottish Tories behind accepting no-deal, despite only being an interim leader.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17945806.sturgeon-savages-carlaw-conversion-no-deal-brexit/>

'Everyone a loser' from US tariff on malt whisky (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

Plans for a major tariff on Scottish malt whisky by the US as part of a trade war with Europe have been condemned as damaging to business and "profoundly worrying" for the industry. Nicola Sturgeon led the criticism, saying that the 25 per cent tariff due to come into force later this month was "in no one's interests". The World Trade Organisation has given the US the green light to impose charges on up to £6.1 billion of goods from the EU, including malt whisky, as retaliation for illegal subsidies the bloc gave to Airbus.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/everyone-a-loser-from-us-tariff-on-malt-whisky-v05gclqtp>

Op-ed: Tit-for-tat trade (BBC News) ECON

Why pick Scotch? Isn't Donald Trump half Scottish, with a love for its golf courses, or at least the ones that belong to him? The selection of premium end whisky from the president's late mother's homeland as retaliation for UK subsidies to Airbus may not have registered as one of the details crossing the Oval Office desk. But it came as no surprise to the Scotch whisky industry. It saw the risk that came with the European Commission's choice, in 2017, of American whiskey in its retaliation in another trade dispute. That one was about steel, with President Trump putting up trade barriers against Chinese imports of subsidised steel, and doing a lot of damage to trading relations with others by imposing import levies on them as well.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49927808>

Investigation: How the US military is using Prestwick Airport 'for free' (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is waiving service fees for inbound US military aircraft as part of an alleged practice designed to increase traffic at the beleaguered airport and safeguard its lucrative commercial relationship with the US Defence Department, multiple sources familiar with its operations have told The Scotsman. The heavily-indebted airport, at the centre of a US Congressional investigation over the US military's financial ties with Prestwick and US president Donald Trump's nearby Turnberry resort, is alleged to have waived the so-called service fees for several hundred flights by branches of the US Armed Forces. Sources with direct knowledge of US military business at Prestwick said the cost to the airport and, as a result, Scottish taxpayers, runs into seven figures. The airport, a publicly owned asset operated on a fully commercial basis, has repeatedly declined to answer a series of questions put to it by The Scotsman regarding the allegations it is waiving the service fees.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/prestwick-airport-waiving-fees-for-us-military-aircraft-1-5017211>

Brewers tap into huge Chinese tourism boost (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) ECON

The international marketing was carefully targeted to portray Scotland as a country of rugged castles and breathtaking scenery but Chinese visitors, it seems, would rather go to the pub. Visit Scotland has published a study of Chinese tourists after the number of visitors rocketed in recent years. An estimated 200,000 went through the gates of Edinburgh Castle last year compared with fewer than 1,000 two

decades ago. Sampling Scottish delicacies, including whisky, craft beer, haggis, seafood, gin and ale, was the top attraction, ahead of historical sites and shopping. Hazel Sellar, Visit Scotland's market manager for China, said that visitors were clamouring to try quality food and drink in surroundings that were quintessentially Scottish.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/brewers-tap-into-huge-chinese-tourism-boost-hzf3r7wgc>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:59 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Great, thanks!

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:48 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

I think take the ex-MP one out otherwise good to go.

From: (b)(6)
Date: 3 October 2019 at 09:30:01 BST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Single malt Scotch whisky targeted by United States tariffs (BBC News) ECON

Single malt Scotch whisky exported to the United States is to face a tariff of 25% from 18 October. The new duty is part of a raft of measures being imposed by the US in retaliation against EU subsidies given to aircraft maker Airbus. Other goods being targeted include cashmere sweaters, dairy products, pork, olives, biscuits, books, and some machinery. Scotch whisky exports to the US last year were worth \$1.3bn (£1bn). The US was given the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5bn (£6.1bn) of goods it imports from the EU following a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling on Wednesday. It is the latest chapter in a 15-year battle between the US and the EU over illegal subsidies for planemakers Airbus and rival Boeing.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-49915034>

Scottish Tories round on Jackson Carlaw to install leader before election (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scottish Conservatives will move to oust Jackson Carlaw as interim leader of the party next week and hold a snap contest to replace Ruth Davidson. There will be an away day for Tory MSPs in North Queensferry on Monday where Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, the party director, is expected to give an update on the process for selecting a new leader. It is understood that a group of senior politicians is likely to argue that the process should be sped up as the chances of a general election by the end of the year have fallen. Three new contenders are considering bids for the top job. Jamie Greene, 39, the transport spokesman, is understood to have used the UK party conference in Manchester to sound out members. He allegedly asked Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, for support. Sources close to Mr Greene said that he had not decided whether to run.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-tories-round-on-jackson-carlaw-to-install-leader-before-election-qdsgztwzv>

Michael Gove 'ignored Scottish plea to see Brexit policing plan' (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland's justice secretary is angry that police were "blindsided" by ministers at Westminster who refused to share sensitive Brexit planning. Humza Yousaf wrote a month ago to Michael Gove, minister for no-deal planning, seeking clarity on public order preparations but had no reply. Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing, said on Tuesday that Police Scotland had been denied access to plans to handle civil disruption. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's position, he said. Mr Yousaf said: "It is imperative that Scottish ministers have the opportunity to discuss the impact of leaving the EU on devolved operational law enforcement issues."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/michael-gove-ignored-scottish-plea-to-see-brexit-policing-plan-qmx0xcpdv>

Turn 'left-wing' bank holiday into Union celebration, urges Alister Jack (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The Scottish secretary has suggested that Britain should turn an existing bank holiday into a day for celebrating the Union. Alister Jack said that one of the "left-wing" days off work could be replaced with a "Union Day". He was responding to a question at an event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. "We could get rid of one of the left-wing [bank holidays]. Bring in a Union Day. It is popular," Mr Jack said to laughter from the crowd. He argued that Westminster had "retreated" from Scotland too much during the 12 years of SNP government at Holyrood and urged British ministers to spend more time north of the border.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/turn-left-wing-bank-holiday-into-union-celebration-says-alister-jack-mmh6dqst8>

Scottish welfare state is thriving, says UN (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Scotland is on "a very different trajectory" to the rest of the UK when it comes to social security, according to a UN poverty expert. Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, said that the spirit of the welfare state was "alive and humming" north of the border, but was waning elsewhere. Mr Alston, 69, an Australian international human rights law professor, visited Britain last year to produce a report which said that austerity policies introduced in 2010 were continuing to have tragic social consequences. It also claimed that the Scottish government's attempts to reduce the impact of social security cuts, such as the two-child benefit cap, were not sustainable. However, he told an event at the University of Edinburgh: "Scotland is spending a lot of money on mitigating what they see as the least humane policies that come from London. All of this indicates that Scotland is, at least for now, on a very different trajectory than England when it comes to the social protection of its population."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-welfare-state-is-thriving-says-un-mhq8gmpfk>

Ex-MP Michelle Thomson nominated for East Lothian seat (BBC News) POL

A former SNP MP who quit the party following an investigation into alleged mortgage fraud has been nominated as a candidate for the East Lothian seat. Michelle Thomson was reported to prosecutors regarding the alleged fraud after being elected as an MP in 2015. But in August 2017 the Crown Office confirmed there was insufficient evidence to launch criminal proceedings. Ms Thomson always denied any wrongdoing and rejoined the SNP last October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49911191>

Fracking to be banned in Scotland indefinitely, leak reveals (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) ECON

Fracking will today finally be banned by the Scottish Government after six years of painstaking deliberations – only to face claims it is still not going far enough. SNP ministers had been due to announce they had finalised their position on the controversial gas extraction technology in a statement to MSPS at Holyrood this afternoon. However, the development was revealed accidentally on a government website yesterday. “On 03 October 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed its final policy position of no support for unconventional oil and gas,” it said.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17943929.fracking-banned-scotland-indefinitely-leak-reveals/>

Trump’s bid for Turnberry villas rejected (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist)

The Trump Organisation’s plans to build swathes of housing and luxury holiday villas at its Turnberry resort have been rejected. The US president’s son, Eric, personally oversaw proposals to rezone vast tracts of farmland surrounding the historic venue for housing. However, planners at South Ayrshire Council have turned down the firm’s attempts to have the prime agricultural land redesignated. The Trump Organisation’s plans for a major expansion of its flagship Scottish resort by building swathes of housing and luxury villas have been thwarted, further jeopardising efforts by the US president’s company to stem multimillion-pound losses at its most prestigious overseas property.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/trump-s-plans-for-major-expansion-of-turnberry-resort-rejected-1-5016324>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

(b)(5) Otherwise looks good!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:24 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Jack says Scottish Tories have been 'brought into line' over no-deal exit (The Herald, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservatives have been "brought into line" with the UK party following interim leader Jackson Carlaw's endorsement of a no-deal Brexit, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has said. Mr Carlaw abandoned former leader Ruth Davidson's opposition to a no-deal Brexit on Sunday, saying the Scottish Tories would back Boris Johnson to take the UK out of the EU on 31 October. There were reports Mr Carlaw's shadow cabinet were left in a "cold fury" over not being consulted, but Mr Jack claimed MSPs had been told about the move, as had Ms Davidson. "He's bringing the Scottish Conservatives into line with the rest of the UK party," Mr Jack told STV.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17939977.nicola-sturgeon-hits-scottish-tories-brought-line-uk-government/>

Jackson Carlaw accused of misleading Scottish Tories over no-deal support (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Jackson Carlaw has been accused of misleading his party when he reversed the Scottish Conservatives' opposition to a no-deal Brexit. The interim leader has come in for criticism from opponents and colleagues after taking the decision without consulting his shadow cabinet. It emerged last night that he told an event at the Tory conference in Manchester that he had spoken to his senior MSP group. The Times revealed yesterday that some in his frontbench team were left in a "cold fury" by his move. Mr Carlaw was asked at the event on Sunday what discussions he had held with colleagues and whether his MSP team was "on board".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/jackson-carlaw-accused-of-misleading-scottish-tories-over-no-deal-support-qldz379p5>

Scottish police chief Will Kerr alleges Brexit planning snub (The Times, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

Police Scotland has been denied access to sensitive plans to handle civil disruption after Brexit, a senior officer said as he accused UK ministers of stoking tensions with irresponsible language. The force has only seen arrangements that are heavily focused on the south of England, with little recognition of Scotland's distinct constitutional and legal position, according to Will Kerr, deputy chief constable for local policing. "We have, frankly, at times struggled to access some of the more sensitive elements, or layers, of those planning assumptions," he told the Holyrood justice committee. "Some of those planning assumptions have tended, at times, to be quite London or south of England-centric, and we've been constantly reinforcing the different legal and constitutional arrangements in Scotland."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-police-chief-will-kerr-alleges-brexit-planning-snub-and-warns-over-language-tqh7h8fcv>

UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle to Scotland was 'a mistake', says Tory MP (The Scotsman, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

A Scottish Tory MP has labelled the UK handing control of Edinburgh Castle over to Scotland as part of the devolution settlement in the 1990s a "mistake". Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, labelled the national landmark one of the "fantastic assets" of the United Kingdom, but lamented the fact it can no longer be used for UK Government functions. On a panel alongside Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, and DUP leader Arlene Foster, the parliamentarian was speaking during the Policy Exchange segment at this year's Conservative Party Conference on Monday about how the union can be strengthened after Brexit.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-handing-control-of-edinburgh-castle-to-scotland-was-a-mistake-says-tory-mp-1-5015478>

Call for elections reform over 'missing' voters (BBC News) POL

Campaigners have warned that a snap UK election could leave hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland unable to vote. It follows research showing that the register of people entitled to vote was out of date. The Electoral Reform Society said the issue could affect up to 745,000 Scots who were either not on the list or were registered at the wrong address. They are calling for an overhaul of the registration system.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49897699>

Burger King milkshake tweet 'encouraged' anti-social conduct (BBC News) POL

A Burger King tweet alerting customers it was "selling milkshakes all weekend" has been banned for condoning and encouraging anti-social behaviour. The fast food firm's post came after a number of European election candidates had milkshakes thrown at them. And a McDonald's in Edinburgh stopped selling the drinks before Nigel Farage addressed a rally in the city. Burger King defended the tweet, calling it a "tongue-in-cheek reaction to recent events".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49895800>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Scotland Press

How's this for today?

Scots Tories want election in spring after Salmond trial (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

Nervous Scottish Conservatives are urging Boris Johnson to go for a spring General Election to avoid Scotland's wintry weather and take electoral advantage of 'SNP turmoil' surrounding the forthcoming Alex Salmond trial. The plea to the Prime Minister came as the party's annual conference in Manchester heard another major spending announcement: a plan to raise the National Living Wage to £10.50 an hour by 2024, unveiled by Chancellor Sajid Javid as he sought to move the conference spotlight away from allegations over Mr Johnson's private life. The further sign that an election is on its way has prompted Scottish Tory MPs to urge the PM to rule out a December poll and wait until next year to go to the country, preferably in the spring. Some party insiders argue that, apart from avoiding the effects of a bad winter in Scotland, holding an election in March 2020 could bring electoral benefits for the Conservatives in their battle with Nicola Sturgeon's SNP following the high-profile Salmond court case. One senior Scottish Tory source told *The Herald*: "Irrespective of the outcome of the trial, the Nationalists will be in turmoil."

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17937580.scots-tories-back-spring-election-capitalise-snp-turmoil-following-salmond-trial/>

Sidelined Tory MSPs angered by Jackson Carlaw's reversal on Brexit (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist) POL

The interim leader of the Scottish Conservatives has left his MSPs in a “cold fury” by reversing the party’s position and supporting a no-deal Brexit without consulting them. Jackson Carlaw, who has been interim leader north of the border since Ruth Davidson stepped down, alienated shadow cabinet colleagues when he announced his support on Sunday for leaving the EU on October 31 whether or not a deal has been agreed. His stance is a significant departure from that of Ms Davidson, who said in July that she would not under any circumstances support Britain leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement. Mr Carlaw, who issued a note to all staff and MSPs after replacing Ms Davidson telling them to drop the word “interim” from his job title, told activists at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that the “endless drift” of failing to agree a deal was more damaging than the potential impact of leaving without an agreement.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sidelined-tory-msps-angered-by-carlaw-s-reversal-on-brexit-5gv65tlcs>

Major military exercise Joint Warrior set for Scotland (BBC News) POL

Thousands of military personnel are to take part in a major UK-led military exercise starting this week. Joint Warrior is held twice a year, in spring and autumn. Starting on Saturday and continuing until 17 October, the second of this year's exercises will involve warships, submarines and aircraft. Most of the training takes place around Scotland's north, north west and north east coasts and will include live-firing at ranges such as Cape Wrath.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-49877455>

MI5 spied on Manny Shinwell, the Labour titan feared to be a Communist (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

A Labour cabinet member was spied on by the security services for decades, declassified files have shown. Manny Shinwell, a Scottish MP, was suspected of being a communist sympathiser and had his post and phone calls intercepted by police and MI5. The former Red Clydesider who became chairman of the Labour Party was monitored even while serving as defence minister in Clement Attlee’s government from 1945 to 1951. The files, which have been stored in the National Archives in Kew, London, also show that the US authorities raised concerns about Shinwell, who died in 1986 when he was 101.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mi5-spied-on-manny-shinwell-the-labour-titan-feared-to-be-a-communist-dzksrmd2w>

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:37 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: RE: Scotland Press

Looks good – thanks!

Official
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:20 AM

To: (b)(6)
 Subject: Scotland Press

How's this?

SNP pushes for a compromise caretaker PM to oust Johnson (*The Scotsman*, circulation 20,000, centrist) POL

The SNP will warn Labour and the Liberal Democrats they must compromise on a candidate to lead a "government of national unity" as pressure builds to oust Boris Johnson and ensure that Brexit is delayed. Opposition leaders will meet today to discuss how to thwart a no-deal Brexit, with the parties deadlocked over who should lead a caretaker administration after a vote of no-confidence in Mr Johnson's government. With Conservatives in Manchester for their party conference, opposition MPs are expected to use parliamentary tactics at Westminster to disrupt the gathering and put pressure on the government over its refusal to push back the 31 October Brexit deadline.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-pushes-for-a-compromise-pm-to-oust-boris-johnson-1-5013650>

Davidson era ends as Carlaw declares: 'We must leave EU, deal or no deal' (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The Scottish Conservative leadership has drawn a line under the Ruth Davidson era and scrapped its opposition to a no-deal Brexit, making clear it is "time for us to go" with or without a European Union withdrawal agreement. And Jackson Carlaw, the interim party leader, who indicated he is set to bid for the top job on a permanent basis, denied Prime Minister Boris Johnson was an English nationalist but was, rather, a "passionate, wholehearted" Unionist. "I stand behind him four-square, as do all my parliamentary colleagues," said Mr Carlaw at the Scottish fringe event at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. Ms Davidson was a staunch Remainer, who, as she left her role as head of the Scottish Tories, made clear they would "not support" a no-deal Brexit.

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17935304.jackson-carlaw-breaks-ruth-davidson-line-swings-scots-tories-behind-boris-johnson-no-deal-brexit/>

Boris Johnson throws down gauntlet to SNP (*The Times*, circulation 29,000, centrist)

Boris Johnson has told Nicola Sturgeon to stay away from a UN climate summit in Glasgow, and united the Scottish Conservatives behind a no-deal Brexit. In a defiant message to critics who accuse him of inflammatory rhetoric the prime minister said he would "stick to his guns" in using military metaphors against them. He told a Scottish reception at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester that he would unite the UK after delivering Brexit on October 31. Jackson Carlaw, interim leader of the Scottish Tories, aligned with the UK party and reversed his predecessor Ruth Davidson's opposition to leaving the EU without an agreement. Mr Johnson promised to drape the Union flag around COP26, a UN climate change conference to be held in Glasgow in November next year.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boris-johnson-throws-down-gauntlet-to-snp-pmtcc6x0f>

Cherry says her critics inside party driven by misogyny (*The Herald*, circulation 25,900, centrist) POL

The woman tipped as the next SNP leader has said she experienced attacks from within the party driven by a "huge streak of misogyny". Joanna Cherry, QC, a key figure behind Boris Johnson's defeat in the Supreme Court last week, said some party members resented her for being a "successful, forthright woman". She also confirmed she would consider a run at the leadership once there is a vacancy. The Edinburgh South West MP's stock is riding high after she led a Scottish legal challenge to the Prime Minister's prorogation of Parliament alongside 74 other MPs and peers. That fight, and a similar one by

activist Gina Miller south of the Border, led to the Court’s unanimous ruling that the “extreme” five-week suspension was unlawful.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17935017.cherry-says-critics-inside-snp-driven-misogyny/>

Images of new Trump golf resort plans released (BBC News)

The Trump Organisation has released images of its plans for a new housing development at its Aberdeenshire golf resort. Plans for 550 houses at the Menie Estate, as well as shops and food outlets, were approved last week. Dubbed The Trump Estate, it features a range of properties from cottages to larger homes costing more than £1m. It will also have its own town hall. A second golf course at the resort was previously given the go-ahead.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-49870020>

(b)(6)

**Programs & Engagement Manager
U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh**

T: (b)(6)
M:
E:



Follow us on Twitter - @USAinScotland

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender: (b)(6)
Recipient:

From:	"Manero, David G (London)" (b)(6)
	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Potential Visitor
Date:	Fri, 19 Jul 2019 17:01:26 +0000

Thanks. Will advise any leads on our end...

V/R,
 Rear Admiral David Manero
 Senior Defense Official/
 Defense Attache
 United States of America

On 19 July 2019 at 17:43:56 BST, Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6) wrote:

Colleagues,

Flagging that we may/may have a VVIP visitor coming to Turnberry, Scotland in late August (the week before the VP's visit to London). No confirmation as yet, and please keep this close-hold. If the visit does happen, (b)(6) will be overall control officer, and Ellen Wong will be deputy control officer. If you hear anything further on this visit, please let this group know. Thanks,

Yael
Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Manero, David G (London)" (b)(6)
	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
Subject:	Re: CG Edinburgh Update – February 7
Date:	Mon, 11 Mar 2019 21:08:39 +0000

On Mon, 11 Mar 2019 at 17:27, (b)(6) wrote:

Hi Yael –

Events/Ongoing Activities:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

- ECON – We’ve been participating in a number of events on expanding U.S.-Scotland trade and investment held by the Scottish North American Business Council (SNABC) and Scottish government and quasi-government entities. The Scottish Government has identified the United States as its top target market for trade and investment expansion so is eager to collaborate on events.

I will give opening remarks at the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) biennial conference in Edinburgh March 21-24.

We are resuming outreach to schools, starting with a school in Fife, the region that is co-hosting Tartan Day with us this year. Using the PAS London presentation as a base, we are tailoring it for a Scottish student audience.

Cable XXX provides an analysis of the current political situation in Scotland.

Visitors:

- Thanks to the London Consular Section for sending (b)(6) to cover while I was on leave.

USSS arrived in Edinburgh to advance Eric Trump's visit to Edinburgh and the Turnberry resort later this week.

Specialists from OBO and RSO have also visited the CG (b)(7)(F) (b)(7)(F) (b)(6) will make her introductory visit to Edinburgh March 20-21.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 31, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated September 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified four additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all four records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Austrian, Courtney E (London)" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: UPDATE: Front Office Travel
Date:	Fri, 8 Feb 2019 08:45:35 +0000

☺.

Realized after I hit send that you are on the London Section Head distro

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 8:45 AM
To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: UPDATE: Front Office Travel

Thanks, I got it! Looks like we'll have a busy summer/fall – the good thing is that up here, we'll have a chance to learn to work as a team before we have the visits ☺

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Austrian, Courtney E (London)
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 8:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: UPDATE: Front Office Travel

(b)(6)

Not sure you got this – and as Scotland referenced ☺

Courtney

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 11:13 AM
To: London Section Heads <LondonSectionHeads@state.gov>
Cc: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: UPDATE: Front Office Travel

All, I wanted to provide an update on the status of plans for Front Office travel in the coming months. Below and attached are a **list of the visits** we are tracking, along with Control Section/Officer, dates, and possible engagements. Some are still tentative or in the development stages, but wanted you all to be aware of our planning. Please let me know if you have any edits, updates, or corrections. If your section has suggestions for engagements on these visits or ideas for other visits in the coming months, either for the Ambassador and DCM, please reach out.

Particularly for the sections and officers preparing for the four possible visits in March – Cambridge, Cornwall, Liverpool/N. Wales, and Dover - please **identify a control officer** as soon as possible and pass us that name, and please start coordinating with other sections that are working on that visit to build a schedule. If other sections have suggestions for valuable meetings in those areas, please reach out to the control officer or to us.

I am also attaching a document with updated guidance and a **checklist for control officers** for Front Office travel, please share this with control officers and we welcome any feedback.

As a reminder, tomorrow is my last day in the Front Office and (b)(6) **will take over** as Staff Assistant Monday, including coordinating these visits, so please keep her in the loop on all planning.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

U.S. Embassy London
 Executive Office - Staff Assistant
 Phone: (b)(6)
 Email: (b)(6)

	Dates	Location	Control	Engagements
AMB	Tue, Feb. 12	Oxford South East	PA (b)(6) ESTH (b)(6) PA (b)(6)	- Harwell Space Campus (ESTH) - Oxford University Lunch, Lab, Tour, Entrepreneurship Center (PA) - Radio Interview (PA)
AMB	Mon, Mar. 4	Cambridge East England	PA	- Cambridge University

				(PA) - Cambridge Churchill Archives (PA)
AMB	Fri, Mar. 15	Cornwall	ESTH	- Fisheries (ESTH) - Penzance Fishing Minister George Eustice MP (ESTH) - Rodda's Creamery/Farm Shop (FAS) - Eden Project (FAS)
AMB	Mon, Mar. 25	Liverpool & North Wales North West	POL/ ECON	- Liverpool Merseyside Port new import facility (FAS) - Liverpool First U.S. Consulate (POL/PA) - N Wales Coastal Towns, Politicians, and Business Groups (POL, ECON) - KraftHeinz in Wigan (FCS)
DCM	Mar. (TBD)	Dover South East	ECON	- Port (ECON)
AMB	Mon-Tue, Apr. 29-30	Portsmouth, Southampton & Havant South East	DAO (b)(6) PA, POL	- Portsmouth Base Tour, Briefing, and Reception (DAO) - Portsmouth RN Ship Ride (DAO) - Portsmouth USCG Barque Eagle late April (DAO) - Portsmouth HMS Victory (DAO, PA) - Southampton University (PA)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Havant Lockheed & Eaton Factories (POL) - Havant Alan Mak MP (POL)
AMB	TBD	Manchester North West	PA (b)(6) & FCS (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor Andy Burnham (POL) - Lincoln Statue (PA) - Univ Manchester Graphene Institute (ECON/ESTH) - Manchester Metropolitan Univ (PA) - IWM North (PA) - Media City (PA/ECON/FCS) - P&G, Google, Kellogg's (FCS) - KraftHeinz in Wigan (FCS) - Kingsland Drinks wine importer and bottler (FAS) - Financial Sector (ECON) - Football Teams (PA)
AMB	Late June/ Early July	Hamilton Bermuda	Hamilton (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independence Day - Meetings with Local Officials
AMB	Mon-Tue, Jun. 3-4	Isle of Man	POL (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isle of Man TT Race (POL) - Parliament and Chief Minister (POL) - Business Dinner (POL/FCS)

AMB	Late June	Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol South Wales, South West		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardiff Business Council (ECON) - Cardiff Independence Day (ONE) - Rolls-Royce Liftworks F-35B Facility (DAO, ODC) - Defence Equipment and Sales CEO (ODC)
AMB	Fri, Jul. 19	RIAT Gloucestershire	DAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Royal International Air Tattoo
AMB	Mon, Aug. 12	Edinburgh	Edinburgh (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dunfermline Tiffany window installation
AMB	Fri-Sun, Sep. 13-15	Gleneagles Scotland	Edinburgh (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solheim Cup Golf Tournament - Highlands visit
AMB	Later in 2019	North East Newcastle & Sunderland		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newcastle Labour Chief Whip Nick Brown MP (POL) - Newcastle George Washington Home (PA) - Newcastle MLK Day/MLK Project (PA) - Sunderland Caterpillar Plant (FCS)
AMB	TBD	Andover South East	DAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commander Field Army Training (DAO) - Exercise (DAO)
AMB	Thanksgiving 2019	Glasgow	Edinburgh (b)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HMNB Clyde/Faslane (DAO) - BAE Systems Govan Shipyards (DAO) - SNABC Thanksgiving Celebration

Official - SBU
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Official - SBU
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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, December 28, 2018 2:54 PM

To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Manero, David G

(London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: INVITATION: Beyond London Ambassadorial Travel Planning Meeting

All,

The Ambassador reviewed and approved the attached list of proposed visits in the spring (as well as two longer-term trip). The dates for each trip are being held on the Ambassador’s calendar, please let me know as soon as possible if you think that timing will not work for any reason.

I have include the lead section(s), please let me know when you have a control officer for the visit. Please work with other sections when setting the agenda (PA for press, POL for MPs or other political contacts, FCS for U.S. businesses, etc.). I’m including the suggested engagements, but those are guidelines only, I can work with the control officer on shaping and clearing a draft agenda. I can also work with the control officer early on regarding transportation, reporting, gifts, thank you notes, etc.

Thank you again for your input and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)

U.S. Embassy London
 Executive Office - Staff Assistant
 Phone: (b)(6)
 Email: (b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 4:09 PM
To: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Manero, David G
(London)(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: INVITATION: Beyond London Ambassadorial Travel Planning Meeting

All,

The DCM will chair a meeting to kick off planning the Ambassador’s Beyond London travel for the spring, on **Tuesday, December 11 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Superior Conference Room on the 8th floor. If you are not able to attend, please send someone to represent the section.

We will focus on January-April travel. Below, I have included the visits the Ambassador has already done, relevant dates in spring, as well as trips that have been proposed previously. Please come prepared to flesh out these proposed visits or make any other suggestions for locations, dates, hooks, etc. (If possible, please send me an email with a quick summary of any proposed engagement by noon on Tuesday, and I will add it to our agenda.)

Thank you and please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

(b)(6)
U.S. Embassy London
Executive Office - Staff Assistant
Phone: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)

Previous Visits

- Manchester (October 2017) Conservative Party Conference
- Belfast and Edinburgh (October 2017)
- Cambridge (November 2017) Remembrance Day
- Cardiff (November 2017)
- Portsmouth (December 2017) Queen Elizabeth Carrier Commissioning

- Cheltenham (January 2018) GCHQ
- Newcastle (January 2018) MLK
- Washington, DC (January 2018)
- Cardiff (March 2018)
- Edinburgh, Glasgow, Islay (May 3-4, 2018)
- Salisbury (May 9, 2018) Porton Down
- Germany (May 22-23, 2018) EUCOM
- Birmingham (June 7-8, 2018) BAB Gala
- Belfast (June 29, 2018) Independence Day
- RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall (July 2, 2018)
- Edinburgh (July 3, 2018) Independence Day
- Turnberry, Scotland (July 13-15) POTUS
- Farnborough (July 16, 2018) Air Show
- Leeds (July 25, 2018) Menwith Hill
- Aberdeen, Peterhead, Edinburgh (August 2-3, 2018) Fishing, Oil, Tattoo
- Lisbon (September 16-17, 2018) EUR COM Conference
- Dover & Ramsgate (September 25, 2018) Fishing, Port
- Birmingham (October 2-3, 2018) Conservative Party Conference
- DC & NYC (October 18-22, 2018) HMS QEII
- Sheffield & Selby (October 24-25, 2018) Boeing & Drax
- Brussels (October 29, 2018) USNATO & USEU
- Northwood (October 30, 2018) JFC
- Plymouth (November 16, 2018) USS New York
- Belfast (November 23, 2018) Hockey Tournament

Dates to Keep in Mind:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Jan. 1-2 | (b)(6) |
| Jan. 16-18 | Global COM Conference (DC) |
| Jan. 15, 22, 29 | Possible State of the Union dates (DC) |
| Jan. 21 | MLK Day (Newcastle?) |
| Jan. 31 DOE | WH Reception (Hold) |
| Feb. 14 | Valentine’s Day WH Reception (Hold) |
| Feb. 16-23 | (b)(6) |
| Feb. 18 | President’s Day |
| Feb. 25 | Moelis WH Dinner (Hold) |
| Feb. 26 | BAPG/BAB Dinner |
| Mar. 26 | Getty WH Reception (Hold) |
| Mar. 29 | Brexit Day |
| Apr. 3-24 | Spring Term Break |
| Apr. 19 | Good Friday |
| Apr. 22 | Easter Monday |
| Apr. 29 | USCGC Barque Eagle in Portsmouth |

Proposed Trips:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Austrian, Courtney E (London)"	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)	

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Manero, David G (London) (b)(6)
	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
	Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
CC:	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter
Date:	Sat, 7 Sep 2019 11:56:43 +0000

There was an article in the Scotsman newspaper (circulation 20,000) related to this issue (criticism was mostly aimed towards the Scottish government).
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-owned-prestwick-airport-paid-9m-by-trump-administration-1-4954141>

**Scottish Government-owned Prestwick Airport paid £9m by Trump administration
 The publicly-owned Prestwick Airport has received more than £9m from Donald Trump’s administration in the past two years to refuel hundreds of US Armed Forces aircraft, an investigation by The Scotsman can reveal.**

The loss making state-owned hub, which was put up for sale earlier this month by the Scottish Government, has received close to 650 orders since October 2017 for jet fuel. Contract details drawn up by a US Defence Department agency indicate the deal could ultimately secure Prestwick’s parent company an additional £8m, while a new contract is set to extend the arrangement until autumn 2024. But a slew of US federal government procurement records and defence agency contracts analysed by The Scotsman show that between 3 October 2017 and 23 March this year, Prestwick has received more than £9.02m.

In all, some 64 pages of US government procurement records detail 644 separate orders placed for aviation turbine fuel by the energy division of the US Defence Logistics Agency (DLA), a Virginia-based body which manages the global supply chain for the US Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The lucrative deal with the US military is now the beleaguered airport’s single biggest revenue stream by some considerable distance. In the first three months of 2019, for instance, the DLA authorised payments to Prestwick worth £1.4m. That is more than twice the revenue generated via passenger services in the entirety of 2017/18.

No details are available of the aircraft that were refuelled or the nature of their engagement, but the payments spiked in October and November last year, a period which coincided with intensive US airstrikes in Afghanistan and Somalia, according to data collated by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism

From: Manero, David G (London) (b)(6)
Date: 7 September 2019 at 12:24:36 BST
To: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6) Johnson, Robert W (London)
<JohnsonRW4@state.gov>, (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>, Austrian, Courtney E (London)
(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter

- AMB


Just out late last night and saw it about 20 min ago myself. (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Very Respectfully,
Rear Admiral David Manero
Defense Attaché
United States of America
U.S. Embassy London

(b)(6)
From: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:19:21 PM
To: Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6) Manero, David G (London)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter

FYI re: press about US military use of Turnberry resort and a Congressional inquiry into it. First I've heard about this.

 **POLITICO (@politico)**
9/7/19, 1:35 AM
An overnight stay at the property raised conflict-of-interest concerns and is part of a House probe into military spending at and around the Trump retreat politi.co/2Lxc3CQ

Sender: (b)(6)
Manero, David G (London) (b)(6)
Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Recipient: Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

From:	"Manero, David G (London)" (b)(6)
To:	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
	Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter
Date:	Sat, 7 Sep 2019 11:28:24 +0000

Just saw it this AM as well. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Very Respectfully,
 Rear Admiral David Manero
 Defense Attaché
 United States of America
 U.S. Embassy London

(b)(6)

From: Manero, David G (London)
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:24:35 PM
To: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6) Johnson, Robert W (London)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter

- AMB

Just out late last night and saw it about 20 min ago myself. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Very Respectfully,
Rear Admiral David Manero
Defense Attaché
United States of America
U.S. Embassy London

(b)(6)

From: Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)

Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:19:21 PM

To: Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6) Manero, David G (London)

(b)(6)


(b)(6); Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Tweet by POLITICO on Twitter

FYI re: press about US military use of Turnberry resort and a Congressional inquiry into it. First I've heard about this.

 **POLITICO (@politico)**
 9/7/19, 1:35 AM
 An overnight stay at the property raised conflict-of-interest concerns and is part of a House probe into military spending at and around the Trump retreat [politico.co/2Lxc3CQ](https://politico.com/2Lxc3CQ)

Sender:	"Manero, David G (London)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Lempert, Yael (London) (b)(6)
	Johnson, Robert W (London) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

Austrian, Courtney E (London) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Donald Trump Set to Make Return Trip to Scotland Later This Year - The National
Date:	Tue, 4 Sep 2018 10:22:26 +0000

All,

Following the article in *The Sunday Times* over the weekend that HMG is preparing for a visit by POTUS to Scotland later this year (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trump-back-to-blast-balls-at-turnberry-dg6pw7k2x>), *The National* newspaper up here has printed a story of its own about this.

A blurb will be included in CG Edinburgh's usual Scotland press round-up, but the full article is below FYI.

Thanks,

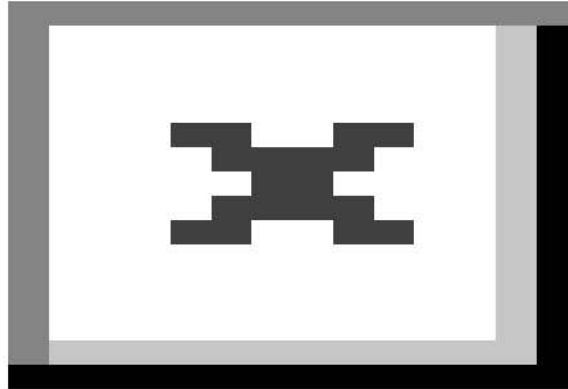
(b)(6)

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/16683615.donald-trump-set-to-make-return-trip-to-scotland-later-this-year/>

Donald Trump set to make return trip to Scotland later this year



By [Andrew Learmonth](#) @andrewlearmonth Journalist



Donald Trump could make another golf trip



DONALD Trump could be heading back to Scotland within the next two months, according to government sources.

The golf-loving controversial President of the United States of America is due to visit Ireland in November, and it's believed he could use the opportunity to hop over to Scotland for a round at either his Aberdeen or Turnberry club.

The tycoon, whose mother Mary came from the Isle of Lewis, played a round a golf in Ayrshire in July, after meeting with the Queen and Theresa May during a "working visit" to the UK.

Sources in Government told The Sunday Times they are preparing for the possibility that Trump will fly the relatively short distance across to Turnberry, and while they said details of his visit are not likely to be finalised till nearer the time, they believe he may then fly on to Balmedie.

Green MSP Ross Greer, who was among those protesting at Turnberry in July, said: "Oh no, not again.

"We came face to face with him in July and we will do so again if he tries to slink back for a round of golf at the UK taxpayers' expense.

“This time instead of footing the cost for the most expensive round of golf in history, the UK government should have the mettle to send him the bill.”

It’s estimated the cost of Trump’s visit to Ayr, cost **Police Scotland** around £5 million.

Trump is due to visit Dublin for talks with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar after attending Armistice Day centenary commemorations in France on November 12.

The president’s last visit to Scotland led to calls for an investigation into US government payments to the Trump Turnberry resort.

Senior Democrats, including Elizabeth Warren, say that during his stay, the president made no public appearances and played two rounds of golf.

This is understood to have cost American taxpayers over \$68,000 for hotel rooms, phone lines, rental cars and a “VIP visit”, they said.

The trip’s total price tag could reportedly increase up to \$1.2m as costs have still to be assigned to two remaining open contracts that the US Government owes SLC Turnberry Ltd

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)





United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated October 31, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified four additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all four records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	"Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)"(b)(6)
To:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
CC:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este
Date:	Mon, 9 Apr 2018 18:04:26 -0400

Thanks. Good to know. Washington Post, Salon, and others have inquired today as well here. AP has this article:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/newswires/news/world/trump-company-asked-panama-president-hotel-spat-article-1.3923309>

(b)(5)

-Paco

Francisco Perez
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Panama
Tel: (b)(6)
Cell

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 4:40 PM
To: Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama) (b)(6) Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)
(b)(6)
Cc: Baumann, Elias S (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 3:57 PM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

From: (b)(6)
Date: April 9, 2018 at 3:28:36 PM EDT
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: FW: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

For awareness only; reporter asking Emb. MVD about Trump Tower – Punta del Este.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kendrick, Mark E (Montevideo)
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 3:27 PM
To: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Inquiry from TalkingPointsMemo.com about Trump Tower- Punta del Este

WHA Press, I just spoke on the phone from a DC based reporter from Talking Points Memo (not affiliated with Bill O'Reilly) about the Trump Tower in Punta del Este. She asked whether anyone had asked the Public Affairs Office about the Trump Tower in relation to the problems the Trump Tower in Panama City- Rep of Panama is having there. PAS has not received any inquiries about any Trump property since the Washington Post inquired about Eric Trump's visit to Punta del Este in December 2016. (b)(5) Thanks- Mark

<https://talkingpointsmemo.com/>



Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6) Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) < Baumann, Elias S (Panama) <

From:	"Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: DECISION: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA
Date:	Wed, 13 Jun 2018 21:04:01 -0400

I will call matt to suggest (b)(6) and I join the group
 Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 8:49 PM
To: Craft, Kelly
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: DECISION: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA (b)(6)

Ambassador,
 Please see below proposal that Gov Bevin join you and (b)(6) mid-way through dinner with Terry Gill and Vivek Sarin. Gov Bevin has a dinner commitment with EU Ambassadors that will end approx 8:00 PM. Assume he would join only for coffee/dessert at that point?
 Is this what you want? I don't understand why they suggested dinner w Gov Bevin on a night he has dinner with EU Ambassadors. Keep "as is" or explore another night for dinner with Gov Bevin?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 5:08 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Christopher Quinlivan, (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Hi (b)(6)

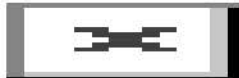
I spoke with (b)(6) this afternoon and she went ahead and made reservations at Café Milano (Prospect St) for a party of 5 (Ambassador Craft, (b)(6) Governor Bevin, Terry Gill and Vivek Sarin) at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 21. Please note, Terry Gill and Vivek Sarin will join Ambassador Craft and (b)(6) (b)(6) at the restaurant at 7:00 pm and Governor Bevin will join immediately following a dinner commitment with the EU Ambassadors, which will conclude at approximately 8:00 pm.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if we need to make any adjustments.

Thanks,

(b)(6)
 Commercial Officer
 U.S. Commercial Service
 U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
 U.S. Consulate General Toronto
 480 University Avenue, Suite 602

Toronto, ON, Canada
Office: +1 (416) 595-5412 (b)(6)
(b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



Apply Now for the SelectUSA Investment Summit!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Christopher Quinlivan
(b)(6)
Subject: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Thanks for flagging the lateness of the hour on Thursday's dinner, which I'll bring to AMB's awareness.

Yes, Ambassador & (b)(6) are staying at the Trump Intl Hotel in Washington.

AMB Craft will be joined by (b)(6) for dinner. She suggests Café Milano, and reservations will need to be made please.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9:13 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Christopher Quinlivan
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for the reminder regarding the proposed venue. Here's the latest response from Karen Yates:

“Regarding the meeting/possible dinner with Ambassador Craft and Governor Bevin on Thu Jun 21st, they would be delighted to meet! We have a commitment up to 7:30a/8:00p and we could definitely meet afterwards for a late dinner, or perhaps just beverages. Depending on the Ambassador’s schedule at that time will determine the location of the meeting/dinner. We are sensitive to making logistics convenient for Ambassador Craft. I believe she is staying at the Trump hotel in Washington? Can you confirm? It will just be Governor Bevin, Terry Gill and Vivek Sarin in attendance from our side. Can you also confirm the other attendees that will attend with Ambassador Craft, if any? I will take the lead and schedule a time/place once we have clarified more details within the next one to two business days. Thank you for your flexibility and I look forward to following up with you tomorrow.”

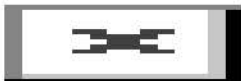
I’d appreciate your input in order to respond to Karen.

Best,

(b)(6)

Commercial Officer
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
U.S. Consulate General Toronto
480 University Avenue, Suite 602
Toronto, ON, Canada
Office: +1 (416) 595-5412 (b)(6)

(b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



Apply Now for the SelectUSA Investment Summit!

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 7:09 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Christopher Quinlivan
Subject: Dinner w Gov Bevin / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Good morning, (b)(6)

In his June 8 email below to Vivik, Chris Q wrote: "please let Governor Bevin know that Ambassador Craft would be delighted to have dinner with him on the evening of Thursday, June 21, after the Summit reception. You had mentioned perhaps dinning at the Trump Hotel. Please provide details once known, so they may be added to Ambassador's calendar." Restaurant selection was already offered to the Governor's team, so follow-up should take place there first.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

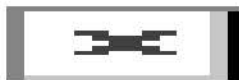
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 4:46 PM
To: Christopher Quinlivan
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Thanks Chris, will do.

Hi (b)(6) Please confirm if you have any details / preference regarding the venue for the dinner with Gov. Bevin on Thursday, June 21 from 7-8 pm. If not, I can reach out to the Governor's staff to ask if they have any suggestions and circle back with you to confirm.

Best,

(b)(6)
Commercial Officer
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
U.S. Consulate General Toronto
480 University Avenue, Suite 602
Toronto, ON, Canada
Office: +1 (416) 595-5412 (b)(6)
(b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



Apply Now for the SelectUSA Investment Summit!

From: Christopher Quinlivan
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 4:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) 'Ottawa-Exec@state.gov' <Ottawa-Exec@state.gov> (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Hi (b)(6)

Regarding the investor meeting with Governor Bevin, please do reach out to (b)(6)

Regarding the dinner, you should coordinate with (b)(6) I've copied Ottawa Exec.

-Chris

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 3:15 PM
To: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Hi Chris:

Should I follow up with (b)(6) to confirm the venue / logistical details for the dinner between AMB Craft and Gov. Bevin? Should I also follow up with her regarding the meeting with Gov. Bevin and the Canadian delegation – haven't had much luck through Vivek.

Thanks,

(b)(6)
Commercial Officer
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
U.S. Consulate General Toronto
480 University Avenue, Suite 602
Toronto, ON, Canada
Office: +1 (416) 595-5412 (b)(6)
(b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada





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From: Christopher Quinlivan
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6)@ky.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you for your message. It looks like there will be several opportunities for the Ambassador to engage the Kentucky delegation. Our thanks to you and the rest of the Kentucky team for your thoughtful coordination. Regarding Governor Bevin's remarks on the morning of June 22, we will be sure to add this to the Ambassador's schedule. Because the Canadian delegation members will have separate schedules, I am not able to confirm if delegations members will also attend.

Sincerely,
-Chris

Christopher Quinlivan
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs (Senior Commercial Officer)
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
Embassy of the United States of America
Ottawa, Canada
Office: +1 613 688-5217; (b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



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From: (b)(6)@ky.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 10:47 AM
To: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6) Sarin, Vivek K (CED)
(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@thinkkentucky.eu>

Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Christopher, I apologize for not reaching out yesterday, Vivek will be unable to attend the reception in Canada due to prior scheduling commitments in Kentucky prior to leaving for SelectUSA. He is very appreciative of the invitation to attend the reception, and sends best wishes for a success event. He looks forward to connecting with Ambassador Craft and the Canadian delegation while attending the SelectUSA conference.

I have copied (b)(6) from our staff as they have been coordinating the schedule of events which includes the confirmed attendance of Ambassador Craft at the Kentucky booth late Thursday afternoon (Jun 21), and the Canadian delegation attending Governor Bevin's speaking engagement on Friday morning (Jun 22). Thank you for your confirmation on dinner Thursday evening (Jun 21) with Ambassador Craft! (b)(6) had a conference call with (b)(6) this morning to finalize details and we were still waiting on confirmation. This is great news! Thank you. We will adjust our schedules and communicate logistical details as they become available.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

(b)(6)

*Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development*

Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

From: Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 10:23 AM

To: Sarin, Vivek K (CED) <vivek.sarin@ky.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@ky.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Dear Vivek,

As promised, I wanted to get back to you to let you know that Ambassador Craft would be happy to offer you a lift from Toronto to Washington. We anticipate she will be departing Toronto late morning on Wed, June 20. Hopefully you received the information I sent you on the June 19 reception for your consideration. If not please let me know and I will resend.

Please let (b)(6) copied, if you confirm that you will utilize transport on the Craft's aircraft, as the pilot will have simple documents that you must complete before travel.

Also, please let Governor Bevin know that Ambassador Craft would be delighted to have dinner with him on the evening of Thursday, June 21, after the Summit reception. You had mentioned perhaps dining at the Trump Hotel. Please provide details once known, so they may be added to Ambassador's calendar.

In addition to the Ambassador's Office Management Specialist (b)(6) I have also copied her Staff Assistant (b)(6) and Foreign Service Officer (b)(6) who will be with the Ambassador throughout this trip to DC and serve as her Control Officer.

(b)(6) contact info is (b)(6)
(b)(6) Office Mobile).

Sincerely,
-Chris

Christopher Quinlivan
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs (Senior Commercial Officer)
U.S. Commercial Service
U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration
Embassy of the United States of America
Ottawa, Canada
Office: (b)(6)
export.gov/Canada
buyusa.gov/Canada



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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 11:49 AM
To: (b)(6) @ky.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
Christopher Quinlivan (b)(6)
Subject: Introduction / AMB Craft's schedule during Select USA

Dear (b)(6)

Ambassador Craft will be flying into Washington from Toronto on Wednesday, June 20, and there is some flexibility in her arrival time. We currently estimate it may be around mid-day, and this could change depending on how scheduling shapes up.

On Friday, June 22, I understand there is a 12:15 pm keynote address taking place at Select USA, but I am unaware of any other scheduling that may include Ambassador Craft after that. We anticipate she

would depart Washington mid-afternoon'ish, and I understand that Governor Bevin may be flying to Kentucky with the Ambassador at that time.

If the Governor would like to suggest any scheduling with Ambassador Craft during these dates, or how adjusting her arrival or departure time to/from Washington may allow her to fit something else into the schedule, please feel welcome to provide us details ASAP.

With our thanks,

(b)(6)

Office Manager to Ambassador Craft
U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada
Tel: (b)(6)

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) @ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 5:43 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Introduction

Best of Luck in your endeavors! Thank you for the information. I was hoping to find out the time of arrival and departure into Washington DC for SelectUSA. We are trying to coordinate meetings with Ambassador Craft and need to know how to suggest times to participating parties.

Thank you for your help!

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development
Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 3:16 PM

To: (b)(6) @ky.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Introduction

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your email. The Ambassador will be in Washington for SelectUSA from June 20-June 22. I will be leaving the team before SelectUSA, so I am looping in my colleagues (b)(6) (b)(6) who will be the appropriate POCs.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@ky.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:28 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Introduction

(b)(6) I would like to take this opportunity to e-introduce myself. I am (b)(6) Executive Assistant to Vivek Sarin, Executive Officer at the Cabinet for Economic Development in Frankfort, Kentucky. I also support Secretary Terry Gill at the Cabinet as well.

Vivek and Ambassador Craft often speak regarding different events, some involving Governor Matt Bevin. It would be beneficial for us to have each other as a point of contact for information exchange as we/they try and coordinate calendars and upcoming events. Most notably: SelectUSA, June 20 – June 22. Vivek asked me to touch base to see if you could inform us of Ambassador Craft’s arrival and departure dates into Washington, DC? Thank you for any information you can share.

It was nice to e-introduce. I’ll wait for your reply.

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Cabinet for Economic Development
Office: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@ky.gov



<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/>

Sender: "Craft, Kelly" (b)(6)
Recipient: (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: 35% APPLIED / Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.
Date:	Thu, 14 Feb 2019 20:04:44 +0000

Thank you!

Sent from my iPad Powered by Coal!

On Feb 14, 2019, at 2:28 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

(b)(6)

To close the loop on your email, I spoke with the Trump Intl Hotel internal reservations, and they will apply the 35% off to your reservations for 5 nights, April 19-23 (checking out April 24).

They will email me an amended confirmation, but I wanted to let you know this discount was applied. Thank you for sending it to me!

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 10:49 AM
To: (b)(6) kelly (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.

FYI

Sent from my iPhone powered by Coal!

Begin forwarded message:

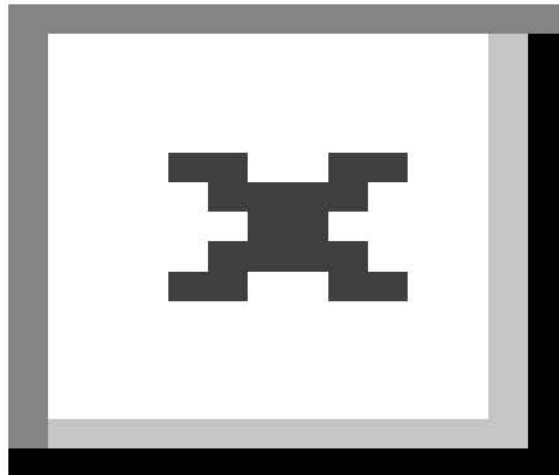
From: "Trump Card" <marketing@trumphotels.com>
Date: February 1, 2019 at 10:20:59 AM EST
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Exclusive Offer at Trump Washington, D.C.

CAUTION: This is an email from an external sender. Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or responding.

[View in browser](#)

H (b)(6)

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Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)
	Craft, Kelly (b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)
To:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels
Date:	Wed, 20 Sep 2017 11:16:45 -0400

Nope, when you can

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Subject: RE: Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels

I'm on a call right now. Will be done in a bit. Should I get off now?

Elias S. Baumann
Management Counselor
United States Embassy Panama

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Baumann, Elias S (Panama); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Subject: RE: Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels

Going to call you on this now, Elias

From: Baumann, Elias S (Panama)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels

Roxanne, (b)(6)

Please see this note from our charge card coordinator. I've highlighted the Panama portion below. We do not have any records of making payment here in Panama in 2017. If someone came TDY and used their government charge card to pay, we wouldn't have any record of that. We have a rate of \$158 at the Trump and our per diem rate is \$173. So, the Trump is still on our list of hotels which is quite long (attached). I've gone back to Janice to ask her if she has any info on the charge below.

(b)(5)

Let me know if you'd like any more info.

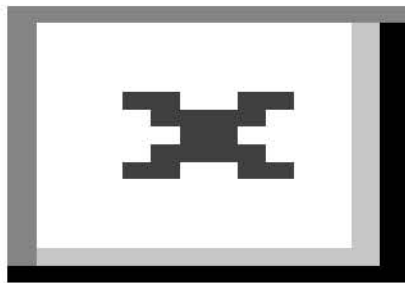
Thanks,

Elias

Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels

- By [Eric Katz](#)
- September 18, 2017
- [113 Comments](#)

April 18, 2017 [15 Comments](#)



Alex Brandon / AP

A handful of federal employees used their government charge cards to book rooms at several different hotels operated by the Trump Organization, according to documents obtained by a government watchdog group.

The White House's National Security Council paid \$1,092 in March for a two-night stay at the Trump-owned Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, according to the documents obtained through a public records request by Property of the People. Also in March, the State Department's embassy in Panama paid \$632 for a stay at Trump's hotel in Panama City, while the Coast Guard in June paid \$186 for a stay at Trump's Las Vegas hotel. Coast Guard employees also charged to their government cards \$62 worth of food or drink at the federally owned, Trump Organization-operated hotel in Washington, D.C.

The federal spending raises questions about possible violations of the “domestic emoluments clause” of the Constitution, according to Property of the People. Clause seven of article two of the Constitution prevents the president from receiving “any other emolument from the United States” aside from the salary determined by Congress. Leadership of the organization releasing the documents called on the Justice Department to investigate a potential constitutional violation, saying, “These transactions, charged to official government charge cards, reflect a clear violation of the Domestic Emoluments Clause and raise grave questions about the extent to which President Trump’s refusal to divest from his businesses has caused and is continuing to cause violations of the Constitution.”

» **Get the best federal news and ideas delivered right to your inbox. [Sign up here.](#)**

Because the NSC and other federal employees paid the standard rate with no discount, the business owned by Trump and operated by a revocable trust received and earned a profit off of payments from government agencies. Property of the People Director Ryan Shapiro said the documents show “perhaps the clearest evidence yet” that Trump is involved in a constitutional conflict of interest.

“These invoices are strong evidence of a constitutional violation and they warrant a thorough investigation by the Department of Justice,” Shapiro said.

The Mar-a-Lago rates were also higher than the federal government typically allows for its traveling employees. Federal employees are generally restricted by the per diem rates set by the General Services Administration, which in Palm Beach in March was \$182. The National Security Council paid \$546 per night.

The revelation comes as another watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, accused the Trump administration of defying a court order in limiting the information it released about Mar-a-Lago visitors. CREW, in conjunction with the National Security Archive and the Knight First Amendment Institute, sued for the visitor logs at the resort where Trump has spent many weekends since his inauguration.

A court ordered the Secret Service through the Justice Department to turn over its logs from Jan. 20 through March 8 by Sept. 15, but the agency provided only a [list](#) of those accompanying the Japanese prime minister during his February visit. The remaining records, Justice said, “relate to the president’s schedules” and therefore are not subject to

the Freedom of Information Act. Noah Bookbinder, CREW's executive director, said it would continue to fight in court for more information.

"The government seriously misrepresented their intentions to both us and the court," Bookbinder said. "This was spitting in the eye of transparency."

Elias S. Baumann
Management Counselor
United States Embassy Panama

Official - Privacy/PII
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Baumann, Elias S. (Panama)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6) Perez, Francisco Paco (Panama); (b)(6)
Subject: Federal Employees Used Government Charge Cards to Expense Rooms at Trump Hotels

Hello Post.

It seems US Embassy Panama was mentioned in an article a couple of days ago and is now raising some questions. If you have not seen the article already here is a link to it:

http://www.govexec.com/oversight/2017/09/federal-employees-used-government-charge-cards-expense-rooms-trump-hotels/141101/?oref=govexec_today_nl

Does anyone have any information on this?

Thank you.

(b)(6) *Regional Key Program Administrator*
Nisga'a Data Systems
A/LM/AQM/BOD
1701 N. Ft. Myer Dr., SA-06, Suite 627, Arlington, VA 22209
Ph: (b)(6) Fax: (b)(6)

TRAINING IS MANDATORY!

Training is required to participate in the Purchase Card Program, to include refresher training which is required every three (3) years.

Online training is now available through FSI.

The links for training are listed below:

Approving Official and Cardholder Training

Program Coordinator Training

Billing Official Training

Ethics Training is required Annually!

Need more Purchase Card Information? CLICK HERE!

For assistance with PMARS: ILMS Help Desk, ILMS@state.gov

Citi Landing Page

For Instructions on accessing online statements here.

For password reset and/or username assistance, please contact:

Technical support/password resets

1-800-790-7206 option "1" or collect 904-954-7850.

Official - Privacy/PII

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Baumann, Elias S (Panama) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00059

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As we noted in our letter dated November 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified two additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney, Sian Jones, at sian.jones@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00059, and the civil action number, 19-cv-03759, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: John S. Kavulich
Sent: Wed, 14 Aug 2019 09:04:30 -0400
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Who Might President Trump Meet At The UN In September? Will He Trade The Lotte For Trump Tower? A Hamburger At "21"? With Chairman Kim?
Attachments: President Trump UN Schedule For September 2019.pdf
Importance: Normal

First Published 11 August 2019

<https://www.cubatrade.org/blog/2019/7/27/vngko7d73jgpdjtp15j1clsiucm9mv>

**Who Might President Trump Meet With At The United Nations In September 2019?
 Fourteen Meetings Which Would Be Optimal Optically
 A New Form Of "Shock-And-Awe"
 Trump Tower To Replace Lotte**

I will Extend My Hand. Will You Extend Your Hand?

The "21" Club For A Hamburger With Chairman Kim?

The annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City will commence on 17 September 2019, with The Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, expected to deliver his remarks on 24 September 2019.

What is known- President Trump gravitates towards rupturing tradition and re-engineering decisions of Oval Office predecessors. Less certain is the impact by those surrounding him- and those to whom he reaches outward and those who reach him through television.

President Trump will use the speech at the UNGA to discuss reductions in United States military deployments (Afghanistan, Syria), advertise new/revised bilateral and multilateral trade agreements/efforts (South Korea, Japan, USMCA, China, EU, United Kingdom); express concern about a renewal of a global arms race, but reconfirm a commitment by the United States to counter any threat; lament problems with and offer solutions for the United Nations, WTO, EU, and NATO (accepting credit for increasing burden-sharing among members); list countries where the UN should focus attention; mention the efforts of this daughter relating to women's issues; laud United States military prowess and equipment exports; and describe how and recommend that other countries follow the commercial, economic and political lead of the United States so that their countries may be as muscular and respected as the United States has become since his inauguration on 20 January 2017- he will name the successes and name the failures, which will include both friend and foe.

The President's September 2019 speech to the UNGA will be the set-up for his September 2020 speech to the UNGA- which will be less than six weeks prior to the 3 November 2020 election.

The September 2020 speech will be his list of accomplishments delivered on a global stage unavailable to his opponent. He will take personal credit for the positives and reject personal responsibility for the failures. He will project that the United States is again respected; while some in the audience will receive that message as the United States has since 20 January 2017 become more bullying, more threatening, more menacing, and more feared rather than respected. The event will assuredly not be boring.

G7 Meeting

Prior to arriving in New York City in September 2019, the President will steadily increase meetings at The White House with heads of state and heads of government.

The President will have been energized from attending the 45th G7 Summit held in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France, from 24 August 2019 to 26 August 2019.

There are reports that the United States is evaluating a proposal to expand the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States, and leadership of the EU). There are officials who believe the G7 has become an anachronism by not including China and India, the second-largest GDP (China) and fifth-largest GDP (India) and the largest (China) and second largest (India) by population. It should be the G9. And, the argument by the Trump Administration that China should no longer be considered a developing country by the WTO is strengthened by including China within an expanded G7. One perspective for China in the G9: more difficult for China to misbehave on the global stage.

UNGA In September 2019

The President wants to be perceived as the global leader who can be a catalyst to bring together parties with disagreements- regardless of whether the United States has a direct or indirect interest in an issue: North Korea (South Korea and Japan), Syria (Iran, Russia and Turkey), Ukraine (Russia), Afghanistan (Pakistan), Kashmir (India, Pakistan), Venezuela (Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Russia, Turkey) among others.

President Trump has demonstrated an insatiable energy to engage with leadership of other countries.

This September, his schedule and time spent in New York City may be one of the most robust of any occupant of the Oval Office.

He may use his three-story penthouse in **Trump Tower** as he has used his *Mar-a-Lago* Club in Palm Beach, Florida: For high-profile intimate meetings and meals. Trump Tower is preferred to a suite or meeting room at the [South Korea-owned] Lotte New York Palace Hotel located less than five blocks from Trump Tower.

Is there a better optic for the President than welcoming world leaders to the lobby of Trump Tower- from where he announced his campaign in 2015? He would be in his comfort zone- and that's important.

The President accepts criticism that meetings may be photo opportunities, but he believes that once a photograph is taken, it's permanent and provides a better foundation from which to move forward than lack of that moment.

This White House staff may object, members of his Cabinet may demure, careerists at departments and agencies may urge caution, members of the United States Congress may deride, allies across the borders and across the seas and oceans may feel exasperated... yet all will energize him.

The President continues to believe that there are elements within the permanent-class of the United States government who work energetically to undermine his policies; and he believes that other heads of state and heads of government with whom he believes to have personal relationships, or could have, are also undermined by the permanent-class within their respective governments which is a reason commercial, economic and political agreements have been delayed. Those governments include China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Turkey, and Venezuela among others.

From the perspective of President Trump, a strong leader has no fear in meeting with those with whom there are disagreements; a weak leader recoils from a challenge. Would President Trump chase-down at the United Nations a head of government or head of state for a conversation? He might well. The President is a disciple of the school of dexterity.

President Trump will also continue to remind heads of state and heads of government that predictive modeling analysis was wrong in 2016... and could be wrong again in 2020. And, whomever takes of oath of office on 20 January 2021 will likely have a United States Senate controlled by the Republican Party and a United States House of Representatives controlled by the Democratic Party and an national electorate nearly evening divided. So, a country embracing a “*wait-him-out*” strategy might be catastrophically wrong; and imagine his mood to be accommodative during his second, and final term in office?

The UNGA will be approximately thirteen (13) months- 407 days until the 2020 Presidential Election, so the Trump Administration will want to demonstrate a global mastery of events- and try to craft solutions to be announced. The President will continue to, when necessary, separate his relationship with a head of government or head of state with that of actions by the United States government. President Trump’s schedule may include, among others, individual high-profile meetings with:

H.E. Miguel Diaz-Canel, President of the Republic of Cuba; H.E. Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran; H.E. Kim Jong-Un, Chairman of the Presidium, North Korea; H.E. Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria; H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia; H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China; H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey; H.E. Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine; H.E. Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela; Mr. Juan Guaido, Interim President of Venezuela

Venezuela- A meeting with President Maduro and self-declared Interim President Guaido to resolve the commercial, economic and political issues impacting Venezuela. An expanded gathering might include H.E. Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil, H.E. Ivan Duque, President of Colombia, President Putin, President Diaz-Canel, and President Xi.

Cuba- A meeting with President Diaz-Canel to discuss bilateral relations and commercial, economic and political issues impacting Cuba and Venezuela.

Syria- A meeting with President al-Assad, President Putin, President Rouhani, and President Erdogan to resolve the commercial, economic and political issues impacting Syria.

Iran- Despite statements to the contrary, efforts are continuing for a meeting with President Trump and President Rouhani.

Kashmir- A meeting with H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Afghanistan- A meeting with H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan. The President would enthusiastically support using his speech at the UNGA to announce the signing of a formal withdrawal of most United States military forces from Afghanistan.

Russia- A meeting with President Putin to discuss renewal of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Reunification Of Ireland- A meeting with The Honorable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and The Honorable Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach of Ireland to discuss the reunification Ireland with UK-controlled Northern Ireland.

United Kingdom/United States Trade Agreement- Prime Minister Boris Johnson has an interest in a United States-United Kingdom bilateral trade agreement ready to be implemented at 12:01 am on 31 October 2019. President Trump would seek to support Prime Minister Johnson. At minimum, the United

States and the United Kingdom would adopt a medium-term bilateral trade agreement that mimics existing EU-based terms.

USMCA- A meeting with H.E. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, and The Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to reiterate their support for enacting the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

China- A meeting with President Xi to discuss the bilateral trade agreement and issues relating to the WTO. A goal of President Trump is for the United States to be perceived as seeking a resolution rather than as an obstacle to a resolution. President Trump will continue to separate his relationship with President Xi from the United States relationship with China.

Ukraine- A meeting with President Zelensky and President Putin to seek a resolution to some Russia-Ukraine bilateral issues- prisoner exchanges, return of vessels, border integrity.

Turkey- A meeting with President Erdogan to discuss military issues, regional issues, and bilateral issues including NATO, Syria and Venezuela. President Trump wants to determine a means to retain the financial and employment benefits from the export of the F-35 aircraft to Turkey and opportunities for the export of the Patriot missile system.

North Korea- The United States continues to identify means of transporting Chairman Kim from North Korea to the United States to attend the UNGA. Two options considered include the use of a United States government aircraft C-32 (military version of the commercial version of the Boeing 757) with seating for fifty-five passengers or an aircraft chartered by the United States government- perhaps an Air China Boeing 747-400 combo aircraft or Singapore Airlines Airbus A350-900 aircraft. The C-32 would require a refueling stop as its range is approximately 5,500 nautical miles and the distance from Pyongyang to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) is 6,002 nautical miles. The Boeing 747-400 and Airbus A350-900 can travel nonstop from Pyongyang to JFK (or Joint Base Andrews in Maryland near Washington DC where the Boeing VC-25 is stored- when the President is aboard, the Boeing 747-200 aircraft has the call-sign *Air Force One*). President Trump could invite Chairman Kim to Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue and to have a (well-done) hamburger at The "21" Club Restaurant.

John S. Kavulich
President
U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc.
New York, New York

Telephone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

Internet: www.cubatrade.org

Twitter: @CubaCouncil

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/u-s--cuba-trade-and-economic-council-inc-

Facebook: www.facebook.com/uscubatradeandeconomiccouncil

U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc.

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New York, New York

FL-2020-00059 12/29/2022 5

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/uscubatradeandeconomiccouncil

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/u-s-cuba-trade-and-economic-council-inc-

Who Might President Trump Meet With At The United Nations In September 2019? Fourteen Meetings Which Would Be Optimal Optically A New Form Of “Shock-And-Awe” Trump Tower To Replace Lotte I will Extend My Hand. Will You Extend Your Hand? The “21” Club For A Hamburger With Chairman Kim?

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U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc.

FL-2020-00059

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12/29/2022

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There are reports that the United States is evaluating a proposal to expand the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States, and leadership of the EU). There are officials who believe the G7 has become an anachronism by not including China and India, the second-largest GDP (China) and fifth-largest GDP (India) and the largest (China) and second largest (India) by population. It should be the G9. And, the argument by the Trump Administration that China should no longer be considered a developing country by the WTO is strengthened by including China within an expanded G7. One perspective for China in the G9: more difficult for China to misbehave on the global stage.

UNGA In September 2019

The President wants to be perceived as the global leader who can be a catalyst to bring together parties with disagreements- regardless of whether the United States has a direct or indirect interest in an issue: North Korea (South Korea and Japan), Syria (Iran, Russia and Turkey), Ukraine (Russia), Afghanistan (Pakistan), Kashmir (India, Pakistan), Venezuela (Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Russia, Turkey) among others.

President Trump has demonstrated an insatiable energy to engage with leadership of other countries.

This September, his schedule and time spent in New York City may be one of the most robust of any occupant of the Oval Office.

He may use his three-story penthouse in **Trump Tower** as he has used his *Mar-a-Lago* Club in Palm Beach, Florida: For high-profile intimate meetings and meals. Trump Tower is preferred to a suite or meeting room at the [South Korea-owned] Lotte New York Palace Hotel located less than five blocks from Trump Tower.

Is there a better optic for the President than welcoming world leaders to the lobby of Trump Tower- from where he announced his campaign in 2015? He would be in his comfort zone- and that's important.

The President accepts criticism that meetings may be photo opportunities, but he believes that once a photograph is taken, it's permanent and provides a better foundation from which to move forward than lack of that moment.

This White House staff may object, members of his Cabinet may demure, careerists at departments and agencies may urge caution, members of the United States Congress may deride, allies across the borders and across the seas and oceans may feel exasperated... yet all will energize him.

The President continues to believe that there are elements within the permanent-class of the United States government who work energetically to undermine his policies; and he believes that other heads of state and heads of government with whom he believes to have personal relationships, or could have, are also undermined by the permanent-class within their respective governments which is a reason commercial, economic and political agreements have been delayed. Those governments include China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Turkey, and Venezuela among others.

From the perspective of President Trump, a strong leader has no fear in meeting with those with whom there are disagreements; a weak leader recoils from a challenge. Would President Trump

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chase-down at the United Nations a head of government or head of state for a conversation? He might well. The President is a disciple of the school of dexterity.

President Trump will also continue to remind heads of state and heads of government that predictive modeling analysis was wrong in 2016... and could be wrong again in 2020. And, whomever takes of oath of office on 20 January 2021 will likely have a United States Senate controlled by the Republican Party and a United States House of Representatives controlled by the Democratic Party and an national electorate nearly evening divided. So, a country embracing a “wait-him-out” strategy might be catastrophically wrong; and imagine his mood to be accommodative during his second, and final term in office?

The UNGA will be approximately thirteen (13) months- 407 days until the 2020 Presidential Election, so the Trump Administration will want to demonstrate a global mastery of events- and try to craft solutions to be announced. The President will continue to, when necessary, separate his relationship with a head of government or head of state with that of actions by the United States government. President Trump’s schedule may include, among others, individual high-profile meetings with:

H.E. Miguel Diaz-Canel, President of the Republic of Cuba; H.E. Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran; H.E. Kim Jong-Un, Chairman of the Presidium, North Korea; H.E. Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria; H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia; H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China; H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey; H.E. Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine; H.E. Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela; Mr. Juan Guaido, Interim President of Venezuela

Venezuela- A meeting with President Maduro and self-declared Interim President Guaido to resolve the commercial, economic and political issues impacting Venezuela. An expanded gathering might include H.E. Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil, H.E. Ivan Duque, President of Colombia, President Putin, President Diaz-Canel, and President Xi.

Cuba- A meeting with President Diaz-Canel to discuss bilateral relations and commercial, economic and political issues impacting Cuba and Venezuela.

Syria- A meeting with President al-Assad, President Putin, President Rouhani, and President Erdogan to resolve the commercial, economic and political issues impacting Syria.

Iran- Despite statements to the contrary, efforts are continuing for a meeting with President Trump and President Rouhani.

Kashmir- A meeting with H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Afghanistan- A meeting with H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan. The President would enthusiastically support using his speech at the UNGA to announce the signing of a formal withdrawal of most United States military forces from Afghanistan.

Russia- A meeting with President Putin to discuss renewal of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

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Reunification Of Ireland- A meeting with The Honorable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and The Honorable Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach of Ireland to discuss the reunification Ireland with UK-controlled Northern Ireland.

United Kingdom/United States Trade Agreement- Prime Minister Boris Johnson has an interest in a United States-United Kingdom bilateral trade agreement ready to be implemented at 12:01 am on 31 October 2019. President Trump would seek to support Prime Minister Johnson. At minimum, the United States and the United Kingdom would adopt a medium-term bilateral trade agreement that mimics existing EU-based terms.

USMCA- A meeting with H.E. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, and The Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to reiterate their support for enacting the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

China- A meeting with President Xi to discuss the bilateral trade agreement and issues relating to the WTO. A goal of President Trump is for the United States to be perceived as seeking a resolution rather than as an obstacle to a resolution. President Trump will continue to separate his relationship with President Xi from the United States relationship with China.

Ukraine- A meeting with President Zelensky and President Putin to seek a resolution to some Russia-Ukraine bilateral issues- prisoner exchanges, return of vessels, border integrity.

Turkey- A meeting with President Erdogan to discuss military issues, regional issues, and bilateral issues including NATO, Syria and Venezuela. President Trump wants to determine a means to retain the financial and employment benefits from the export of the F-35 aircraft to Turkey and opportunities for the export of the Patriot missile system.

North Korea- The United States continues to identify means of transporting Chairman Kim from North Korea to the United States to attend the UNGA. Two options considered include the use of a United States government aircraft C-32 (military version of the commercial version of the Boeing 757) with seating for fifty-five passengers or an aircraft chartered by the United States government- perhaps an Air China Boeing 747-400 combo aircraft or Singapore Airlines Airbus A350-900 aircraft. The C-32 would require a refueling stop as its range is approximately 5,500 nautical miles and the distance from Pyongyang to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) is 6,002 nautical miles. The Boeing 747-400 and Airbus A350-900 can travel nonstop from Pyongyang to JFK (or Joint Base Andrews in Maryland near Washington DC where the Boeing VC-25 is stored- when the President is aboard, the Boeing 747-200 aircraft has the call-sign *Air Force One*). President Trump could invite Chairman Kim to Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue and to have a (well-done) hamburger at The "21" Club Restaurant.

From:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
To:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Panamá- China disinformation?
Date:	Tue, 21 Nov 2017 09:28:17 -0500

Here's the translation

**Official
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:18 AM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama) (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) INR-EAP <INR-EAP@state.gov> (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

Cleaned up Google Translate:

* The previously unknown details of the agreement between China and Panama *

China promises Panama an unprecedented economic scenario, and the reason is very simple according to China's foreign minister Wang Chao: "it's one thing to have commercial relations with Latin America and another thing to be part of the Silk Road."

The difference is that commercial relations of the continent will have a meeting point: * Panama *, considered by the Chinese President as * most favored nation *, this important.

For China, opening diplomatic relations with Panama was always a priority, so much so that, according to analysts of the Russian information network RT, since the West became aware of the talks between the Chinese government and Panama at the end of 2014, there appeared the Papers of Panama, the Clinton List, and the problems with OECD and France. But the Panamanian government continued with the negotiations. Western intelligence was aware without the Panamanian government knowing, it was something like an open secret of the main commercial powers of the world.

The last coordinated attack on Panama was a few days ago with the Panamanian official delegation already in China when it came to light a dark report by the Reuters network attacking a Trump hotel in Panama associated with drug trafficking, but focused more than anything in attacking Panama.

China recognizes that these new diplomatic relations would bring jealousy and some pitfalls because having Panama for China changes the global economic landscape, and Europe, the US and Canada are somewhat relegated to the American continent in some way.

With this, China completes one of the most important pieces within the commercial puzzle necessary to continue growing, and with Panama as a partner, the * jewel of the commercial crown of the Americas *, China ensures the orderly supply and Coordinated raw materials, also it politically increases its influence in the region of more growth in the world of developing economies.

So Panama will enter an unprecedented growth phase never seen in that small but powerful country, the two main Chinese banks will open for the first time in its history in a foreign country, it is as if the US federal reserve opened a branch In Panama.

China does not skimp on anything and makes sure that Panama is in optimal conditions to achieve its mission, from bullet trains, thermoelectric plants, bridges, roads, container supermarkets and cruise ships, mega cargo and passenger airports, dams for power generation, power plants, natural gas, assembly and distribution center of automobiles manufactured in China.

China promises to revolutionize the agriculture of Panama with large areas of agricultural crops and equipment, equipment and repair centers of agricultural equipment of last generation, distribution of manufacturing products, electronics and trade for the entire region, buildings, offices of commercial representation, hotels, restaurants, shipping lines of pleasure and cargo, convention and business centers, construction of artificial islands.

China has proposed the creation of a new ultramodern city on Isla Del Rey, one of the largest in the American Pacific with 240 square kilometers, five times larger than the city of Panama that would have ultra luxury hotels with casinos and amusement park ecological for Chinese tourism.

Another aspect that benefits China is the tens of thousands of prosperous Panamanian Chinese who speak simultaneously Chinese, Spanish and English, and who favor business relations, something unique to Panama, in addition to its strategic location known as the "Choke Points" strategy. there are the platforms of the Colon and Panama Pacifico free zones, unique in America.

The West observes astonished what was believed to be practically impossible two years ago, China and Panama are playing everything for everything, and the question is, is Panama ready?

Mark Smitsson for Estrategic Review.
Google Translate for Business:Translator ToolkitWebsite Translator

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:22 AM
To: (b)(6) Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

For those of us who have wasted our adult lives immersed in Asian languages, could we have a one or two sentence English summary of the Spanish? 😊

Official
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 11:27 PM
To: (b)(6); Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); INR-EAP; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

Looping in (b)(6) who covers Panama for WHA/CEN and (b)(6) from INR/EC

Official
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 11:55 AM
To: (b)(6); Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); INR-EAP; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

+Panama Desk Officer and WHA/CEN INR

Official
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); INR-EAP
Subject: RE: Panamá- China disinformation?

(b)(6)

Looping in EAP/PD colleagues as well, who have been in touch with the GEC folks on this end, as well as the INR/EAP team. We'll see what we can find out.

Best,
(b)(6)

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From: Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 7:51 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Panamá- China disinformation?

(b)(6) the article below is circulating among our high level contacts on social media. The byline is "Mark Smitsson para Estrategic Review," which doesn't seem to exist.

Any chance you could help us figure out the origin? I'll also ask the GEC but I don't know if they have any China experts yet.

Thanks,
Roxanne

Conoce las interioridades hasta ahora desconocidas del acuerdo entre China y Panamá
China promete a Panamá un panorama económico sin precedentes, y la razón es muy simple de acuerdo al ministro de relaciones exteriores de China Wang Chao: "una cosa es tener relaciones comerciales con Latinoamérica y otra es ser parte de la Ruta de la Seda*"

La diferencia esta en que todas esas relaciones comerciales del continente tendrán un punto de encuentro: *Panamá* , considerada por el Presidente Chino como *nación mas favorecida* , esto no es cualquier cosa.

Para China el abrir relaciones diplomáticas con Panama siempre fue una prioridad, tanto así que según analistas de la cadena informativa rusa RT, desde que occidente se percató de las conversaciones entre el gobierno Chino y de Panamá a finales de 2014, surgieron sospechosamente los Papeles de Panamá, luego la Lista Clinton, los problemas con OCDE y Francia y aun así, el gobierno panameño continuo con las negociaciones mientras la inteligencia occidental estaba al tanto sin que el gobierno panameño lo supiera, era algo así como un secreto a voces de las principales potencias comerciales del mundo.

El último ataque coordinado fue hace unos días con la delegación oficial panameña ya en China a mediados de este noviembre cuando salió a la luz publica un oscuro informe de la cadena Reuters atacando supuestamente un hotel de la cadena Trump en Panamá y el narcotráfico pero se enfocaba mas que todo en atacar a Panamá.

China reconoce que estas nuevas relaciones diplomáticas traerían celos y algunos escollos pues con Panamá ahora cambia el panorama económico mundial y Europa , EEUU y Canada quedan un poco relegados en el continente americano de alguna manera.

Con esto China completa una de las piezas mas importantes dentro del rompecabezas comercial necesario para seguir creciendo, finalmente y tras innumerables intentos, ahora con Panamá como socio, la *joya de la corona comercial de las Américas* , China se asegura el suministro ordenado y coordinado de materias primas y de sus exportaciones, ademas políticamente aumenta su influencia en la región de mas crecimiento en el mundo de economías en desarrollo.

Así las cosas Panamá entrara en una fase de crecimiento sin precedentes jamas visto en ese pequeño pero pujante país, los dos principales bancos chinos abrirán por primera vez en su historia en un país extranjero, es como si la reserva federal de Estados Unidos abriera una sucursal en Panamá.

China no escatima nada y se asegurara de que Panamá este en optimas condiciones para lograr su cometido,

desde trenes balas, termoeléctricas, puentes, carreteras, superpuertos de contenedores y de cruceros, mega aeropuertos de carga y pasajeros, represas para generación eléctrica, plantas de gas natural, ensamblaje y centro de distribución de automóviles fabricados en China.

China promete revolucionar el agro de Panamá con grandes extensiones de siembras y acopios agrícolas, equipos y centros de reparación de equipos agrícolas de ultima generación, distribución de productos de manufactura, electrónica y comercio para toda la región, edificios oficinas de representación comercial, hoteles, restaurantes, líneas navieras de placer y de carga, centros de convenciones y de negocios, construcción de islas artificiales.

China ha propuesto la creación de una nueva ciudad ultramoderna en la Isla Del Rey, una de las mas grandes del pacifico americano con 240 kms cuadrados, cinco veces mas grande que la ciudad de Panamá que tendría hoteles se ultra lujo con casinos y parque de diversiones ecológicos para el turismo chino.

Otro de los aspectos que benefician a China son las decenas de miles de chinos panameños prósperos que hablan simultáneamente chino, español e ingles, y que favorecen las relaciones comerciales, algo único de Panamá, ademas de su ubicación estratégica conocidas como estrategic Choke points, también están las plataformas de las zonas libres de Colon y Panama Pacifico, únicas en America.

Occidente observa atónito lo que se creía prácticamente imposible hace dos años, China y Panamá se están jugando todo por el todo, y la pregunta es, Panama esta preparado?

Mark Smitsson para Estrategic Review.

Sender:	"Cabral, Roxanne J (Panama)(b)(6)
Recipient:	Bory, Adrienne C (Panama)