

# EXHIBIT B



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 18, 2019  
F-2020-00770

Nitin Shah  
Democracy Forward Foundation  
P.O. Box 34553  
Washington, D.C. 20043

Dear Mr. Shah:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your request dated October 16, 2019, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of State, in which you requested records of communications between investigative reporter John Solomon and the Department of State officials listed in the request.

The Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS) received your FOIA request on October 21, 2019. Your FOIA request was assigned the tracking number at the top of this letter. Please include the tracking number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request. We have classified you as an other-use requester. Your request for a fee waiver has been granted. Your request for expedited processing has been granted.

This Office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Each request is then handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track. Your request has been assigned to the expedited track and will be handled as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

Sincerely,

**NICHOLAS J  
CORMIER**

Digitally signed by NICHOLAS J CORMIER  
Date: 2019.11.18 06:43:34 -05'00'

Nicholas J. Cormier  
Chief, Requester Communications Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services