

# Cooper & Kirk

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December 30, 2019

## **BY HAND**

Ellen J. Knight  
Senior Director, Records Management Directorate  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Prepublication Security Review of Book Manuscript by Ambassador John Bolton

Dear Ms. Knight:

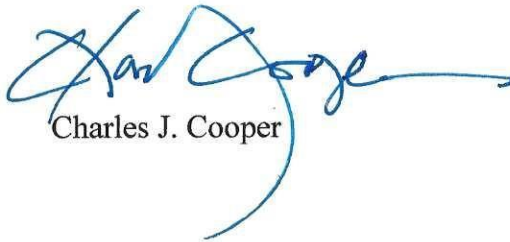
Thank you again for your helpful guidance in our telephone conversation earlier today concerning my submission, on behalf of Ambassador John Bolton, for prepublication security review of the enclosed manuscript of a book that he has prepared relating in large part to his service as National Security Advisor to the President. As I mentioned, Ambassador Bolton has carefully sought to avoid any discussion in the manuscript of sensitive compartmented information ("SCI") or other classified information, and we accordingly do not believe that prepublication review is required. We are nonetheless submitting this manuscript out of an abundance of caution, as contemplated by the nondisclosure agreements that he entered, commencing with those of April 5, 2018 immediately prior to his entry on duty.

I appreciate your assurance that the sole purpose of prepublication security review is to ensure that SCI or other classified information is not publicly disclosed. In keeping with that purpose, it is our understanding that the process of reviewing submitted materials is restricted to those career government officials and employees regularly charged with responsibility for such reviews. Accordingly, we understand that the contents of Ambassador Bolton's manuscript will not be reviewed by or otherwise disclosed to any persons not regularly involved in that process. *See* 28 CFR § 17.18(h) ("Material submitted for pre-publication review will be reviewed solely for the purpose of identifying and preventing the disclosure of sensitive compartmented information and other classified information. . . . Materials submitted for review will be disseminated to other persons or agencies only to the extent necessary to identify classified information.") (Justice Department prepublication review regulation). Ambassador Bolton is relying specifically on this understanding of the prepublication review process in submitting his manuscript for such review.

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Finally, I reiterate that the editorial and publication schedule for the manuscript is highly time sensitive, and so any efforts to complete the review before expiration of the 30-working-day deadline established in the April 5, 2018, agreement will be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We stand ready to be of assistance in any way possible in order to expedite your review.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Cooper