Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Dear Chairman Engel:

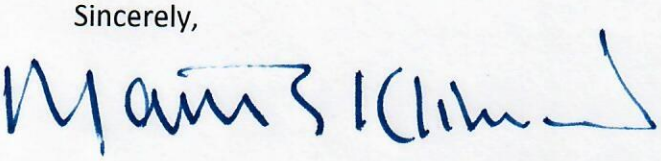
I am writing in response to your September 30, 2020, letter to Deputy Inspector General Diana Shaw, Department of State (Department) Office of Inspector General (OIG). In that letter, you requested information related to our report, *Review of the Department of State's Role in Arms Transfers to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates* (ISP-I-20-19). Specifically, you requested "a list of the topics that OIG sought to discuss with the Secretary regarding OIG's investigation into the use of the 'emergency' authority." This information is provided below pursuant to Congress's broad oversight authority and the duty of Inspectors General to keep Congress fully and currently informed.

The bullet points below reflect the three broad topics that we told the Department we intended to explore in an interview with the Secretary. These topics were communicated orally by former Inspector General Linick and the former OIG Chief of Staff in January 2020 to Marik String, the Acting Legal Adviser in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the Department. At no time did OIG provide the topics to the Department in writing. The three topics are summarized below.

- The circumstances prompting development of options for proceeding with arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates during the spring of 2019;
- The context and timeline of events associated with the May 2019 emergency certification; and
- The Secretary's awareness of the status of efforts to assess and mitigate risk of civilian casualties.

Thank you for your support of OIG. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Director of Congressional Affairs, Ryan Holden, at ryan.d.holden@stateoig.gov or (571) 349-9259.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Matthew S. Klimow
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General

Cc: The Honorable Michael T. McCaul, Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs