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GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

SOPHIA A. LAFARGUE
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The Committee is in receipt of the Department's May 17, 2023 letter offering a new proposed accommodation in response to the Committee's March 28, 2023 subpoena compelling you to produce in unredacted form "[t]he Dissent Channel cable sent on or about July 13, 2021, reportedly signed by 23 State Department officials and the official response to it."¹

We appreciate the Department's invitation for Ranking Member Meeks and me to review the Dissent Channel cable and response with the names of the signatories redacted. The Department's letter offers to make these documents available to view at the State Department "at your convenience."² I am available to view the documents as soon as possible.

In light of this invitation, I will pause efforts to enforce the Committee's subpoena pending my review of the documents. Please note, however, that the subpoena remains in full force and effect, and the acceptance of this accommodation does not waive any of the Committee's rights regarding the subpoena.

¹ *Subpoena from the U.S. House of Rep. Comm. on Foreign Affs. to Antony Blinken, Sec'y of Dep't of State*, 118th Cong. 4 (Mar. 28, 2023).

² Letter from Naz Durakoglu, Assistant Sect'y, U.S. Dep't of State, to Michael T. McCaul, Chairman, U.S. House of Rep. Comm. on Foreign Aff. (May 17, 2023).

Additionally, as Chairman of the Committee, I am leading these oversight efforts, but not to the exclusion of other Members of the Committee who are undoubtedly entitled to review the contents of the dissent cable and response. As such, I must insist on the Department allowing other Members to review the dissent cable and response.

Please make arrangements with Committee staff to schedule a time for me to view the Dissent Channel cable and official response as soon as possible.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

CC:

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee