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Fw: State Department Has Libya Emails Clinton Did Not Produce

Grafeld, Margaret P <GrafeldMP@state.gov>

Fri, Jun 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM

To: "paul.wester@nara.gov" <paul.wester@nara.gov>

Paul,

I'm following up on my voicemail this morning regarding the alleged revelations in the press coverage below. In view of the pressing demands for our court-ordered production schedule for the emails on Tuesday, as well as of the aggressive ongoing review efforts, we (on our staff) have not yet had an opportunity to fact check this information, but will do so soonest and keep you posted.

Regards and best wishes for a good weekend!

Peggy

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From: Howard, Hugh**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 09:01 AM**To:** Grafeld, Margaret P; Stein, Eric F; Hackett, John; Houser-Jackson, Celeste; Fischer, William P**Subject:** State Department Has Libya Emails Clinton Did Not Produce

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The New York Times

June 26, 2015 Friday

Late Edition - Final

State Department Has Libya Emails Clinton Did Not Produce

BYLINE: By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

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SECTION: Section A; Column 0; National Desk; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 845 words

WASHINGTON -- The State Department said on Thursday that 15 emails sent or received by Hillary Rodham Clinton were missing from records that she has turned over, raising new questions about whether she deleted work-related emails from the private account she used exclusively while in office.

The disclosure appeared to open the door for Republicans on Capitol Hill to get more deeply involved in the issue. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, who is running for president, said he planned to send a series of questions to the State Department about the missing emails and about why it allowed her to use the personal account.

Republicans said that the State Department's statement was likely to increase pressure on the House speaker, John A. Boehner of Ohio, to subpoena the server in Mrs. Clinton's home that housed the account.

Mrs. Clinton has said that she gave the State Department about 50,000 pages of emails that she deemed to be related to her work as secretary of state and deleted roughly the same number. She said the messages she deleted were personal, relating to topics like yoga, family vacations and her mother's funeral.

Her longtime confidant and adviser Sidney Blumenthal, responding two weeks ago to a subpoena from the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, gave it dozens of emails he had exchanged with Mrs. Clinton when she was in office. Mr. Blumenthal did not work at the State Department at the time, but he routinely provided her with intelligence memos about Libya, some with dubious information, which Mrs. Clinton circulated to her deputies.

State Department officials then crosschecked the emails from Mr. Blumenthal with the ones Mrs. Clinton had handed over and discovered that she had not provided nine of them and portions of six others.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, who is running for president, said that she had given the State Department "over 55,000 pages of materials," including "all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

The chairman of the House committee, Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, said that many of the emails that Mrs. Clinton had not handed over showed that "she was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal, who was passing unvetted intelligence information about Libya from a source with a financial interest in the country."

"It just so happens these emails directly contradict her public statement that the messages from Blumenthal were unsolicited," he said. Mr. Blumenthal identified the source of his information as Tyler Drumheller, a former high-ranking C.I.A. official, according to a person with knowledge of his testimony to the Benghazi panel. Mr. Drumheller was part of a group that sought to do business in Libya.

Supporters of Mrs. Clinton have argued that the committee's mission has crept far beyond its original scope: to investigate the Benghazi attacks, which killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. Republican committee members have said that they are within their right to look into her email use because the resolution that created the panel directed them to examine how the administration complied with previous inquiries into the attacks. Mrs. Clinton's emails relating to the attacks were not handed over to any of the panels conducting those inquiries.

Other panels in Congress may consider investigating the matter. Mr. Graham, who oversees a Senate subcommittee with sway over the State Department's budget, said that the department "seems to have a system that is not working very well" in regards to its production of documents to Congress.

"I'm going to ask them whether they think Mrs. Clinton has handed over everything she should and what they are going to do about it," he said. "And if they give me runaround responses, we'll drag them up on Capitol Hill and make them answer these questions in public."

While the State Department acknowledged that it did not have several of Mrs. Clinton's emails, it also told the Benghazi committee that it had not turned over other messages of hers. The department said that it had not

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done so because the contents of those messages fell outside the requests made by the committee.

"The State Department is working diligently to review and publish the 55,000 pages of emails we received from former Secretary Clinton," it said in a statement.

That statement is unlikely to satisfy the committee, which believes it has been clear in its requests. Members of the panel have contended that the State Department has withheld documents to protect Mrs. Clinton and grind the investigation to a halt. State Department officials have said that one of the reasons it has taken so long to produce documents is that the department's record-keeping system is cumbersome. They have also said that the committee has not been specific enough in its requests.

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URL: <http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/26/us/state-dept-gets-libya-emails-that-clinton-didnt-hand-over.html>

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The Washington Times

June 26, 2015 Friday

Hillary Clinton Benghazi emails withheld from State, panel says

BYLINE: By Stephen Dinan, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: POLITICS

LENGTH: 690 words

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton didn't turn over all of her work-related emails to the department despite her claims to have done so, the Benghazi investigative committee charged Thursday in a statement raising new questions about the Democratic presidential candidate's email practices.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Republican and the Benghazi panel chairman, said the State Department informed his panel that it did not have in its possession some emails related to Benghazi and Libya that Mrs. Clinton had exchanged with longtime confidant Sidney Blumenthal, and which he turned over to the committee.

If true, it suggests that Mrs. Clinton either did not perform a full search, intentionally shielded some messages, or had some other hiccup when she claimed to have belatedly complied with federal law and turned back to the department some 30,000 messages from her time as secretary.

The Associated Press said there were 15 messages that the State Department said it couldn't find in its own records that Mrs. Clinton provided.

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server - especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third-party arbiter," Mr. Gowdy said.

Mrs. Clinton set up her own email server at one of her homes, in New York, and used an account she issued herself, rather than an account on State Department servers, to conduct business during her four years in office.

She said the arrangement was done out of convenience.

Federal law requires that officials ensure their emails, which are considered potential government records, be stored on official servers for archival purposes. Mrs. Clinton did not comply with that requirement until nearly two years after she left office, and only after the Benghazi investigative panel discovered her unique email arrangement.

At a dramatic press conference and in follow-up communications from her attorney, she said she had gone through all of her messages and decided which of the more than 60,000 from that period were personal and which were related to government business.

She said she found 30,000 that she deemed official and turned them over to the State Department in paper form. She said another 32,000 were private and she expunged them, then wiped her server clean.

A court has ordered the department to make all of the official messages public, and the department had already turned over several hundred related to Benghazi and Libya more generally, so the committee could complete its probe into the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2012, which killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

However, Mr. Gowdy said, the emails Mr. Blumenthal exchanged with Mrs. Clinton during her time in office were business-related but weren't part of the set that the State Department sent.

He demanded that the department say whether it had withheld the emails, or whether Mrs. Clinton never turned them over in the first place.

The messages Mr. Blumenthal produced also contradict Mrs. Clinton's claim that his advice was "unsolicited."

"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work. This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record," Mr. Gowdy said.

The messages in question don't go to the heart of the Benghazi attack, Democrats said.

Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night, nor did a spokesman for Rep. Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the Benghazi committee.

A Clinton campaign spokesman told The Associated Press that they believe she fulfilled her obligations.

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"She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal," spokesman Nick Merrill told the wire service.

They also questioned whether some of the messages Mr. Blumenthal turned over were really emails, saying they appeared to be formatted as other types of documents.

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