



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

June 7, 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in response to your subpoena dated May 25, 2013, seeking records regarding the Benghazi talking points (defined as “the talking points prepared for Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya on September 11-12, 2012, and used by Ambassador Susan Rice during her September 16, 2012, appearances on CBS, NBC, ABC, Fox and CNN”), sent to or received by ten specified current and former Department employees.

We and other agencies have acknowledged the Congressional interest in the evolution of the talking points prepared for media appearances by Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and provided to Ambassador Rice prior to her media appearances on September 16. Based upon your letter of May 28, 2013, we understand that the Committee believes it is critical that it receive the various iterations of the Benghazi talking points provided in advance of Ambassador Rice’s September 16, 2012, media appearances and the related e-mails.

Enclosed are the documents that we have identified in searching for records up to the time of Ambassador Rice’s television appearance. We will supplement this response if we identify additional responsive documents. We are providing hard copies of responsive records with redactions to omit the names of Department employees (other than those identified in the subpoena) under the rank of Assistant Secretary, although we will make this redacted material available for review at the Department of State. Certain additional redactions of non-responsive text in multi-subject documents, and of the names of certain other agency personnel, have also been made in a small number of documents.

The Honorable

Darrell Issa, Chairman,

House Committee on Oversight,

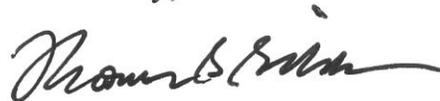
and Government Reform,

United States House of Representatives.

The Department has made consistent efforts to accommodate your Committee's oversight interest in the facts and circumstances surrounding the Benghazi attacks. Over the past eight months, we have made Department witnesses available for hearings and briefings before your Committee and provided over 25,000 pages of documents for your review. We have continued to work cooperatively to address your Committee's requests for information. This cooperation includes the May 15 letter seeking talking points documents, where we sought to accommodate your request by providing 100 pages of interagency documents related to the preparation of the talking points. On May 28, we received your letter attaching the subpoena. As noted in our May 20, 2013, letter accompanying the production of interagency talking points documents, we expected to continue our cooperation with the Committee and would have welcomed the opportunity for further discussions before receiving your subpoena.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions concerning this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Gibbons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas B. Gibbons  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

cc: Elijah E. Cummings