



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 15, 2023

Case No. F-2023-05201/
FL-2023-00062

Hans Bader
Trustee, Bader Family Foundation
1236 N. Stafford Street
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Bader:

This letter is in response to your request dated February 16, 2023, regarding the release of certain Department of State material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State has located 19 responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined all 19 records may be released in part. The Department can also confirm that it met its court ordered processing minimum for this production.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that

are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. To the extent another agency asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney L'Shauntee J. Robertson at lshauntee.robertson@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, F-2023-05201/FL-2023-00062, and the civil action number, 23-cv-01100, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

OK

From: (b)(6)

To: All @state.gov

CC:

Subject: Re: URGENT: DISINFO CLOUD GUIDANCE FLASH CLEARANCE by 10:00

Date: Fri, 10 Feb 2023 14:29:26 +0000

Thanks much. Will delete.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 9:25 AM

All @state.gov

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: URGENT: DISINFO CLOUD GUIDANCE FLASH CLEARANCE by 10:00

(b)(5)

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 9:20:27 AM

(b)(6)

All @state.gov

(b)(6)

Subject: URGENT: DISINFO CLOUD GUIDANCE FLASH CLEARANCE by 10:00

All @state.gov

May I have a re-clear on this guidance. I will turn it into voluntary guidance for today's press briefing so Price has something in case it comes up. The only thing new is the very first line. Please let me know if this is a fact.

BEGIN GUIDANCE

Q: I was looking at the website of the Global Disinformation Index and I saw that the Global Engagement Center, through the now-shuttered Disinfo Cloud, is or was a funder. Could you please provide all records of the GEC's funding of the Global Disinformation Index? How much was sent to them?

A: On background attributable to a State Department Spokesperson:

(b)(5)

If you require official Department records for your inquiry, please see <https://foia.state.gov/request/>."

Approved: R/GEC/FO(b)(6) (ok)

Drafted by: R/GEC/PA (b)(6) ext 70493

Clearances:

L/PDN (b)(6) (ok)

L/PDM (b)(6) (ok)

R/GEC/TET: (b)(6) (ok)

R/GEC/TET: (b)(6) (ok)

R/GEC/Resources: (b)(6) (info)

R/GEC/FAA: (b)(5) (ok)

(b)(6)

Senior PAO
GEC

Sender:	(b)(6)	
Recipient:		All @state.gov

OK

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow up for broader reference - RE: PRESS INQUIRY
Date: Mon, 27 Feb 2023 19:16:25 +0000

Thanks (b)(6) (b)(5)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:04:35 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Quick follow up for broader reference - RE: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:54 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:47 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

Isn't this a separate question?

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:38 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

In the attached correspondence chain from earlier this month, instructions not to respond.

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:28 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

We have responded to Kamensky's original question on our involvement with GDI. (b)(5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 6:18:56 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

Per Gordon's out of office indicating he's on official travel until March 3. I didn't see his messages, but I thought we already responded... so I'm investigating.

(b)(7)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:15 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(6)

I'm copying (b)(6) who would have the pulse on this in GEC. He shouldn't keep bothering you all in Legal Affairs.

You can write him back with the standard response to use the online form for media queries, which is available in the Newsroom: www.state.gov/newsroom, bcc the GEC DL, and GPA Press Duty, and (b)(

(b)(5)

(b)(1)

—SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:01 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Fw: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(1)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: Gabe Kaminsky <(b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 5:12 PM
To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

...

On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 1:04 PM Gabe Kaminsky <(b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com> wrote:
following up

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM Gabe Kaminsky <(b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com> wrote:
following up

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 9:34 AM Gabe Kaminsky <(b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com> wrote:
Following up here

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 12:17 PM Gabe Kaminsky <(b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com> wrote:
Hello,

The National Endowment for Democracy told me today it will no longer fund the Global Disinformation Index:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/disinformation-inc-state-department-backed-group-blacklisting-conservative-news>

Will GEC also commit to not fund GDI?

--

Gabe Kaminsky
Investigative Reporter | *The Washington Examiner*

M: (b)(6)

@gekaminsky



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)	@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: PRESS INQUIRY
Date:	Tue, 21 Feb 2023 17:20:08 +0000

We have closed this out. Responded earlier today.

(b)(6)

From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 10:01 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 10:00 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GPA Press Duty <GPAPressDuty@state.gov>

Cc: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

Hi (b)(6) GEC is on the to line – we'll defer to them to respond to the reporter directly.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:57 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GPA Press Duty <GPAPressDuty@state.gov>

Cc: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(6) will you ask him to put his inquiry through the appropriate channel, i.e. the press inquiry system?

Best,

(b)(6)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 7:46:53 PM

To: (b)(6) GPA Press Duty <GPAPressDuty@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

Thanks, (b)(6) We defer to GEC.

Thanks,
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 7:44 PM

To: GPA Press Duty <GPAPressDuty@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: FW: PRESS INQUIRY

I've added in the GPA Press Duty DL, (b)(6) who can weigh in from the L/PD side, (b)(6) for L/M, and (b)(6) the other L press officer, for her general awareness.

From: Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com>

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 12:18 PM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov;

(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: PRESS INQUIRY

Hello,

The National Endowment for Democracy told me today it will no longer fund the Global Disinformation Index:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/disinformation-inc-state-department-backed-group-blacklisting-conservative-news>

Will GEC also commit to not fund GDI?

--

Gabe Kaminsky

Investigative Reporter | *The Washington Examiner*

M: (b)(6)

@gekaminsky



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: PRESS INQUIRY
Date:	Mon, 27 Feb 2023 18:34:25 +0000

Thanks (b)(6)

I found the correspondence on in my press calls folder and was just about to send it to (b)(6) So, in this case, we are not responding.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:28 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

We have responded to Kamensky's original question on our involvement with GDI. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 6:18:56 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

Per (b)(6) out of office indicating he's on official travel until March 3. I didn't see his messages, but I thought we already responded... so I'm investigating.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:15 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(6)

I'm copying (b)(6) who would have the pulse on this in GEC. He shouldn't keep bothering you all in Legal Affairs.

You can write him back with the standard response to use the online form for media queries, which is available in the Newsroom: www.state.gov/newsroom, bcc the GEC DL, and GPA Press Duty, and (b)(

(b)(5)

(b)(

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:01 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Fw: PRESS INQUIRY

(b)(

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtosexaminer.com>

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 5:12 PM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

...

On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 1:04 PM Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtosexaminer.com> wrote:
following up

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtosexaminer.com> wrote:
following up

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 9:34 AM Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtosexaminer.com> wrote:
Following up here

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 12:17 PM Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtosexaminer.com> wrote:
Hello,

The National Endowment for Democracy told me today it will no longer fund the Global Disinformation Index:

<https://www.washingtosexaminer.com/news/disinformation-inc-state-department-backed-group-blacklisting-conservative-news>

Will GEC also commit to not fund GDI?

--

Gabe Kaminsky

Investigative Reporter | *The Washington Examiner*

M: (b)(6)

@gekaminsky



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)	
To:		all @state.gov
CC:		
Subject:	RE: Please let us know ASAP: Is this correct	
Date:	Fri, 10 Mar 2023 21:02:02 +0000	

(b)(6) please copy me on what you send forward. Thank you.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:48 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Please let us know ASAP: Is this correct

Hi (b)(6),

You can add to what I sent.

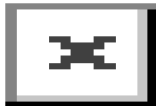
v/r

(b)(6)

Director, Technology Engagements
Global Engagement Center

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:27 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Please let us know ASAP: Is this correct

(b)(6) here's a draft response...

(b)(5)

Thanks.

From: GEC Staff Assistants <GECStaffAssistants@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:15:20 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Please let us know ASAP: Is this correct

Hi (b)(6)

Can we confirm the question below:

From: GEC Staff Assistants
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:14 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Please let us know ASAP: Is this correct

Hi (b)(6)

Please let me know if this statement is accurate. I want to make sure this is captured correctly before we send to the press. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Let me know as soon as possible what you think.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Sender: (b)(6)

all @state.gov

Recipient:

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>;
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Options
Date: Thu, 23 Feb 2023 19:49:33 +0000

I'm good with Vedant's proposal.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Options

+(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Options

+(b)(6)

From: Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:43 PM
 (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Options

all @state.gov

Adding (b)(6) and @ (b)(6) also.

I would do this – from a State Department Spox: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Vedant R. Patel
Principal Deputy Spokesperson
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov | (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Options

Option 1

(b)(5)

Option 2:

RTQ: GEC-Washington Times GDI
Feb. 13, 2023

Case Summary

Name: Valerie Richardson
Media Outlet: Washington Times
Media Outlet (if not listed):
Deadline: 2/13/2023 5:00 PM
Due ASAP:

Description:

Hi, I wanted to get your comment on the Washington Examiner report that the department is funding the Global Disinformation Index, which blacklists conservative media outlets.

Response on background as a State Department Spokesperson

(b)(5)

Option 3

RTQ Washington Examiner 2/16/2023 on rumor Jordan and Gaetz would investigate:

(b)(5)

Option 4:

•(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Senior Congressional Advisor | Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs
U.S. Department of State | Bureau of Legislative Affairs (H/RGF)

(b)(6)@state.gov | (b)(6)

~~SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS~~

~~SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS~~

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~~SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS~~

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Patel, Vedant (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: H20230313-006 Clyde
Date: Thu, 11 May 2023 16:36:36 +0000

Circus.

(b)(6)
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
 (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:34 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: H20230313-006 Clyde

The latest.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: H20230313-006 Clyde

(b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:44 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: H20230313-006 Clyde

(b)(6) can you send the current language we are using for the four letters? Thanks (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:38 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: H20230313-006 Clyde

(b)(5)
 (b)(6)

 (b)(6)

Response Rep.Issa Original

Please advise.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:12 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: H20230313-006 Clyde

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry for the delayed response. I'm looping in (b)(6) Gowing who manages our leg portfolio in GEC, and (b)(6) from H.

(b)(5)

(b)(6) please see the note below regarding one of the many congressional correspondence responses. (b)(5)
 (b)(5) Can you connect with (b)(6) to determine appropriate next steps? Thank you!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:57 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: H20230313-006 Clyde

(b)(6)

Please see below...

From: H_Staffers <H_Staffers@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:48 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov

Cc: H_CCU <H_CCU@state.gov>; H_Staffers <H_Staffers@state.gov>

Subject: RE: H20230313-006 Clyde

H (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you so much!

Best,

(b)(6)

Staff Assistant, H/FO

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:23 AM

To: H_Staffers <H_Staffers@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Cc: H_CCU <H_CCU@state.gov>

Subject: H20230313-006 Clyde

H Staffers, below is a question from Naz. Please see response in the attachment.

Tab 3 (b)(5)



(b)(6)

Correspondence Officer

Bureau of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
To: Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov;<(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]
Date: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 16:07:24 +0000

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Meanwhile, he's asked (b)(6) a question as well. (b)(6) here is our answer to this morning's question.

The GEC provided a grant for \$100K to GDI (Paris-US Tech Challenge) through Park Advisors.

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:50 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

Thanks, (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: 2/7/2023 10:41 AM

To: mediainquiries@state.gov

Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:38 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

Thanks, can we let him know that?

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: 2/7/2023 9:04 AM
To: gecmediacontacts@state.gov; mediainquiries@state.gov
Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:45 AM
To: Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

Hello (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) CC'ing our PAO (b)(6) for awareness.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:01 AM
To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

Hi all, checking back in on this.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Department of State Media Inquiries [mediainquiries@state.gov]

Sent: 2/6/2023 5:18 PM
To: gecpress@state.gov
Subject: Grant ID [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref]

GEC colleagues, do we have anything to offer on this?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]
Sent: 2/6/2023 5:14 PM
To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com
Subject: Confirmation: Grant ID - 00270144

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00270144, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabe Kaminsky
Media Outlet: Washington Examiner
Media Outlet (if not listed):
Deadline:
Due ASAP: Yes

Description:
Hello,

State Department told me the following:

"Park Advisors was GEC's third-party implementer for the Disinfo Cloud project. Grants information is maintained at grants.gov.

"Third-party implementer Park Advisors administered the selection of GDI during the US-Paris Tech Challenge for a \$100,000 grant to apply its disinformation risk measurement across a set of foreign countries and languages, primarily in East Asia but across Europe as well. This included six new languages - Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian and Ukrainian."

Can you please provide the grant ID number so I can find this public grant on the internet, which I have not been able to locate on any federal database? Where is the funding opportunity on Grants. Gov/USA Spending or SAMS?

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77Abz:ref





Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From: (b)(6)

To: [Redacted] all@state.gov

CC: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 15:17:08 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

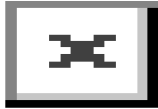
(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let's make sure this is handled through the right POCs.

(b)(6)

Director, Technology Engagements
Global Engagement Center

(b)(6) (o)(b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov



From: (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:06 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov

Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

I'm not sure who provided the below response on behalf of GEC, but I am adding (b)(6) (b) for their awareness and potential response.

Regards,
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:46 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Good morning (b)(6)

We have a few follow-up questions from the Washington Examiner below in response to last week's questions.

Please provide answers - and if we can't provide an answer, please provide a suggested response.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State

All Native Group Contractor

Office: (b)(6) Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

This is strange - we did not receive this inquiry at GEC-Press. We will start working on it right away.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State

All Native Group Contractor

Office: (b)(6) / Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:04 AM
To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Just wanted to follow-up on this inquiry below.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:35 PM
To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Good afternoon,

This journalist has some additional follow-up questions below. Let me know if we have lines for this or if I should let him know that we don't have anything to add.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/1/2023 3:56 PM

To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com

Subject: Confirmation: Press Inquiry - 00269418

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00269418, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: (b)(6)

Media Outlet: Washington Examiner

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline:

Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Hello,

The State Department told me the following in response to my request for information about DisinfoCloud:

Disinfo Cloud is not a group but a platform.

Beginning in 2018, consistent with its authorities, the Global Engagement Center provided grant funding to an implementing partner to develop an online repository, called Disinfo Cloud.

A GEC implementing partner was issued a sub-award of less than \$300K to research, develop, and manage Disinfo Cloud.

Disinfo Cloud served as the GEC's hub from 2018 to 2021 to a dedicated community of USG counter-disinformation technology professionals.

Specifically, I am looking for clarification.

- 1) Which GEC implementing partner was issued a \$300K research award and where is that information?
- 2) Where can I find grants from State to DisinfoCloud or GEC for DisinfoCloud project?
- 3) Were State grants to either for The Global Disinformation Index

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref

Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Recipient: (b)(6)

All @state.gov

GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]
Date:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 14:22:03 +0000

I don't think I got it either. But will look.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

This is very strange - I do not have a record of this email in my inbox - it was sent to GEC-Press so we should have all received it on the distro.

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Specialist

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

All Native Group Contractor

Office: (b)(6)/Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:04 AM

To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Just wanted to follow-up on this inquiry below.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:35 PM

To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: GEC: Press Inquiry [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref]

Good afternoon,

This journalist has some additional follow-up questions below. Let me know if we have lines for this or if I should let him know that we don't have anything to add.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/1/2023 3:56 PM

To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com

Subject: Confirmation: Press Inquiry - 00269418

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00269418, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabe Kaminsky

Media Outlet: Washington Examiner

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline:

Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Hello,

The State Department told me the following in response to my request for information about DisinfoCloud:

Disinfo Cloud is not a group but a platform.

Beginning in 2018, consistent with its authorities, the Global Engagement Center provided grant funding to an implementing partner to develop an online repository, called Disinfo Cloud.

A GEC implementing partner was issued a sub-award of less than \$300K to research, develop, and manage Disinfo Cloud.

Disinfo Cloud served as the GEC's hub from 2018 to 2021 to a dedicated community of USG counter-disinformation technology professionals.

Specifically, I am looking for clarification.

- 1) Which GEC implementing partner was issued a \$300K research award and where is that information?
- 2) Where can I find grants from State to DisinfoCloud or GEC for DisinfoCloud project?
- 3) Were State grants to either for The Global Disinformation Index

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d70cUY:ref



Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]
Date:	Thu, 16 Feb 2023 20:32:23 +0000

(say it ain't so)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:46 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

Well, Brian may have been confused, because 80% of the story appears to be cut and pasted from the Washington Examiner story. I'll keep you posted.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:38 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

No, we didn't.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:35 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

I figured as much, thanks. One question, the byline is Brian Flood, but this inquiry is from Benen O'Brien. Did you get a separate inquiry from Brian Flood?

I'll flag for GPA Press FO and SPOX. V/r (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:31 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Fw: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

(b)(6),

Here is the e-mail train that shows we responded to Fox before their deadline.

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 9:25 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: Kimmage, Daniel (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

Thanks, (b)(6) I will close this out now with the lines below.

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: 2/14/2023 9:22 PM
To: gecmediacontacts@state.gov; mediainquiries@state.gov
Cc: gec-press@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

If not yet sent, please drop final bullet then send this>

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 7:02 PM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: GEC: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748 [ref: _00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref]

GEC Colleagues,

Please see the inquiry below. Are the lines below still good to deploy?

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/14/2023 6:50 PM

To: (b)(6)@fox.com

Subject: Confirmation: STATEMENT REQUEST: State Department Groups Funding Global Disinformation Index - 00271748

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00271748, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this

e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Benen O'Brien

Media Outlet: FOX News

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline: 2/14/2023 9:30 PM

Due ASAP:

Description:

Hello,

Would the state department like to issue a statement on reports from the Washington Examiner that the Global Engagement Center and the National Endowment for Democracy were funding the Global Disinformation Index?

The reports allege the Global Disinformation Index has been feeding blacklists to ad companies with the intent of defunding conservative media outlets over disinformation.

Here are the articles for more information:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/equality-not-elitism/disinformation-conservative-media-censored-blacklists>

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/equality-not-elitism/disinformation-group-secretly-blacklisting-right-wing-outlets-bankrolled-state-department>

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/equality-not-elitism/disinformation-inc-government-backed-organization-sent-315-000-to-group-blacklisting-conservative-news>

Thank you,

Benen O'Brien

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7HgxS:ref

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: GEC: Confirmation: RE - 00273238 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref]
Date:	Thu, 23 Feb 2023 14:33:32 +0000

Agree on standard language.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:30:52 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: RE - 00273238 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

The letter is deeper in the article - I will let GPA know our recommendation.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Specialist

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

All Native Group Contractor

Office: (b)(6) Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 9:28 AM

To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: FW: GEC: Confirmation: RE - 00273238 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref]

(b)(6)

We have not seen the letter. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

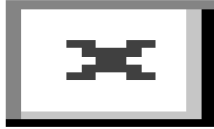
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 9:23 AM

To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC: Confirmation: RE - 00273238 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref]

Here is the article that they are referring to:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/disinformation-inc-james-comer-state-department-funding-blacklisting-conservatives>



[Disinformation Inc: James Comer demands records on State Department funding group blacklisting conservatives](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/disinformation-inc-james-comer-state-department-funding-blacklisting-conservatives)

This is part of a Washington Examiner series on self-styled 'disinformation' tracking groups that are blacklisting and trying to defund conservative media. Here is where you can read other stories in the series.

www.washingtonexaminer.com

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 9:15 AM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: GEC: Confirmation: RE - 00273238 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref]

Good morning,

Please see the inquiry below from the Washington Examiner on GDI.

FYI - This story was already published by Mr. Kaminsky BEFORE he submitted his inquiry. Any comment we can provide is appreciated,

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/23/2023 9:08 AM

To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com

Subject: Confirmation: RE - 00273238

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll

be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00273238, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabriel Kaminsky

Media Outlet:

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline:

Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Can State comment on Comer's letter to State today on global disinformation index?

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7NTII:ref

Sender:	(b)(6)	@state.gov>	
Recipient:	(b)(6)	@state.gov>; (b)(6)	@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref: _00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]
Date:	Tue, 2 May 2023 14:20:55 +0000

Press office – please use the following reply:
We can confirm that we are in receipt of the letter.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 9:58 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

Sorry, I thought (b)(6) were on the email when we received the letter. (b)(5)

(b)(5)
From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:07:20 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

(b)(5)
From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 8:06:15 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 8:05:22 PM
To: Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

(b)(6) Gabe Kaminsky with *Washington Examiner* is asking for confirmation that we received today's letter from McCaul, Issa, et al. regarding GEC. Do you clear the following draft response?

- (b)(5)

~~—SBU— DELIBERATIVE PROCESS—~~

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 4:49 PM
To: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: GEC/H - Quick Q: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

GEC, (b)(6)
 Thanks,
 (b)(6)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gabe Kaminsky (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com]
Sent: 5/1/2023 4:29 PM
To: mediainquiries@state.gov
Subject: Re: Confirmation: Press Inquiry - 00284996 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref]

attached

On Mon, May 1, 2023 at 4:28 PM Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov> wrote:

Hello Gabe,

Does the letter you're referencing concern USAGM? Or is it another topic?

Thanks,
Press Office, DOS

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]
Sent: 5/1/2023 3:31 PM
To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com
Cc: gecmediacontacts@state.gov
Subject: Confirmation: Press Inquiry - 00284996

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00284996, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabriel Kaminsky
Media Outlet:
Media Outlet (if not listed):
Deadline:
Due ASAP:

Description:
Hello,

I've learned that Rep. McCaul just wrote to the State Department over funding and raising censorship concerns.

Can you confirm receipt of this letter?

Thank you.

--

Gabe Kaminsky
Investigative Reporter | The *Washington Examiner*
M:(b)(6)
[@gekaminsky](https://twitter.com/gekaminsky) <<https://twitter.com/gekaminsky>>

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d85E4S:ref

~~-SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS~~

~~-SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS-~~

~~-SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS-~~

~~-SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS-~~

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]
Date:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 20:19:10 +0000

Oh thx (b)(6) That sounds right to me.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:01 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

(b)(6)

That works for me. I'll update the guidance, but wait to hear from (b)(6) before sending.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 2:53 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for the call just now, adding (b)(6) to whom I would defer on this, as discussed. (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Best.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 2:13 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Fw: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

As discussed.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 11:18 AM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Parente, Joseph A (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

+Parente, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 11:02 AM

To: Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

Adding GEC PAO (b)(6).

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:34 AM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

Good morning GEC-- Sending over below proposed response to Daily Caller query for your review, advice, and approval. Best, (b)(6)

Question:

I was looking at the website of the Global Disinformation Index and I saw that the Global Engagement Center, through the now-shuttered Disinfo Cloud, is or was a funder. Could you please provide all records of the GEC's funding of the Global Disinformation Index? How much was sent to them?

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/9/2023 10:15 AM

To: (b)(6)@dailycallernewsfoundation.org

Subject: Confirmation: Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747

Case Summary

Name: Ailan Evans

Media Outlet: Daily Caller

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline:

Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Hi all,

Hope you're doing well. This is Ailan Evans with the Daily Caller News Foundation, I was looking at the website of the Global Disinformation Index and I saw that the Global Engagement Center, through the now-shuttered Disinfo Cloud, is or was a funder.

Could you please provide all records of the GEC's funding of the Global Disinformation Index? How much was sent to them?

Thanks,



ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov
CC:	gecmmediacontacts@state.gov <gecmmediacontacts@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]
Date:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 17:37:16 +0000 (GMT)

Ok. No prob. Standing by. (b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov]

Sent: 2/9/2023 12:32 PM

To: gecmmediacontacts@state.gov; mediainquiries@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

GPA colleagues, please continue to hold on response. Will get back to you when I can.

(b)(6)

From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 11:02 AM

To: Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

Adding GEC PAO (b)(6)

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:34 AM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: GEC Query- Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref]

Good morning GEC-- Sending over below proposed response to Daily Caller query for your review, advice, and approval. Best, (b)(6)

Question:

I was looking at the website of the Global Disinformation Index and I saw that the Global Engagement Center, through the now-shuttered Disinfo Cloud, is or was a funder. Could you please provide all records of the GEC's funding of the Global Disinformation Index? How much was sent to them?

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]

Sent: 2/9/2023 10:15 AM

To: (b)()@dailycallernewsfoundation.org

Subject: Confirmation: Funding for the Global Disinformation Index - 00270747

Case Summary

Name: Ailan Evans

Media Outlet: Daily Caller

Media Outlet (if not listed):

Deadline:

Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Hi all,

Hope you're doing well. This is Ailan Evans with the Daily Caller News Foundation, I was looking at the website of the Global Disinformation Index and I saw that the Global Engagement Center, through the now-shuttered Disinfo Cloud, is or was a funder.

Could you please provide all records of the GEC's funding of the Global Disinformation Index?
How much was sent to them?

Thanks,



ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d7C9Dh:ref



Sender:	Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov; gecmmediacontacts@state.gov <gecmmediacontacts@state.gov>

From:	GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
To:	Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov
Subject:	Re: FW: Re: Confirmation: RE: Disinformation - 00270237 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77wUh:ref]
Date:	Wed, 8 Feb 2023 14:06:52 +0000

Yes, that is correct.

Thanks,

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:02 AM

To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>

Subject: RE: FW: Re: Confirmation: RE: Disinformation - 00270237 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77wUh:ref]

Good morning,

Following up on this clarification.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer | Office of Press Relations
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

----- Original Message -----

From: Department of State Media Inquiries [mediainquiries@state.gov]

Sent: 2/7/2023 11:57 AM

To: gecpress@state.gov

Subject: FW: Re: Confirmation: RE: Disinformation - 00270237 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77wUh:ref]

Good afternoon,

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer | Office of Press Relations
U.S. Department of State
(b)(6)@state.gov

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gabe Kaminsky [(b)(6)]@washingtonexaminer.com]
Sent: 2/7/2023 11:41 AM
To: mediainquiries@state.gov
Subject: Re: Confirmation: RE: Disinformation - 00270237 [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77wUh:ref]

Thanks but please can you clarify who actually received the funds. Park who gave it to GDI?

On Tue, Feb 7, 2023 at 11:39 AM Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov> wrote:
Good morning,

We can offer you the following on background, attributable to a State Department spokesperson:

The GEC provided a grant for \$100K to GDI (Paris-US Tech Challenge) through Park Advisors.

Regards,
State Department Press Office

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]
Sent: 2/7/2023 10:08 AM
To: [(b)(6)]@washingtonexaminer.com
Subject: Confirmation: RE: Disinformation - 00270237

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00270237, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabriel Kaminsky
Media Outlet:
Media Outlet (if not listed):
Deadline:
Due ASAP: Yes

Description:

Of the \$250,000 awarded through the US Paris Tech Challenge, how much from GEC went to the Global Disinformation Index?

ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d77wUh:ref

Sender:	GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Recipient:	Department of State Media Inquiries <MediaInquiries@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

From:	(b)(6)	
To:		All @state.gov
CC:		
Subject:	Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]	
Date:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 20:42:40 +0000	

I think (b)(6) knows the deadline, but I'm adding (b)(6) to make sure...

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:40 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

Hi (b)(6),

We need to have the responses soonest at the reporter's deadline is 5pm today. I have tried to contact (b)(6) via phone and didn't have any luck.

Thanks,

(b)(6)
Public Affairs Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
All Native Group Contractor
Office: (b)(6) / Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:01 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

That's awesome (b)(6) - thanks for your help!

(b)(6)
Public Affairs Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
All Native Group Contractor
Office: (b)(6) / Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:59 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

Hi (b)(6) I've given (b)(6) some possible language - over to her to send it to you.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:38 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

Raising these questions in your inboxes - we also have the other queries from earlier today - thanks!

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
All Native Group Contractor
Office: (b)(6)



From: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:33 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

Hi (b)(6)

Please see the questions below - again from the Washington Examiner - they need a response by 5pm today - thanks!

From: Department of State Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:25 AM
To: GEC Media Contacts <GECMediaContacts@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Disinformation Funding [ref:_00D30mqyv._5003d75uFq:ref]

Good morning GEC Press colleagues,

Noting the 5pmET deadline tonight, as well as this outlet, please advise on what you recommend we share on these questions below. Thank you!

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Press Officer / Global Public Affairs
U.S. Department of State

----- Original Message -----

From: Media Inquiries System [noreplymediainquiry@state.gov]
Sent: 2/6/2023 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6)@washingtonexaminer.com
Subject: Confirmation: Disinformation Funding - 00270064

Thank you for your inquiry. It has been received by the State Department Office of Press Relations. We'll be in touch with you soon. For your reference, your inquiry ticket number is 00270064, and a summary of your inquiry has been included below. If you'd like to follow-up on this inquiry, you may reply to this e-mail.

Case Summary

Name: Gabriel Kaminsky
Media Outlet: Washington Examiner
Media Outlet (if not listed):
Deadline: 2/6/2023 5:00 PM
Due ASAP:

Description:
Hello,

Through the National Endowment for Democracy and DisinfoCloud (GEC), the State Department has given hundreds of thousands to Global Disinformation Index.

1) Can State comment on these grants to GDI, which has been labeling websites as "disinformation" domestically?

2) Can State provide the exact number that went to GDI?

ref: 00D30mqyv_5003d75uFq:ref

Sender:	(b)(6)	all @state.gov
Recipient:		

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>
Subject:	March 9, "Twitter Files" Accusations Against the Global Engagement Center
Date:	Tue, 11 Apr 2023 19:24:13 +0000

Michael,
On background as a State Department Spokesperson

Claims that the GEC is part of a "disinformation industry" that seeks to censor the views of American Citizens who disagree with Administration Policy.

- The GEC's mandate is to coordinate with other federal agencies to direct, lead, synchronize and coordinate the efforts of the U.S. government to understand the sources and trends of foreign malign actors' attempts to spread disinformation and propaganda outside of the United States.
- The GEC builds overseas partner capacity to recognize and counter malign influence; supports the research and exposure of foreign actors' propaganda and disinformation activities and methods; and supports quality, independent, and factual information for vulnerable audiences outside the United States.

Quote: Special Envoy Rubin before State Department Reporters 3/13/23

"The GEC has been getting a little attention in an unusual way. Let me just say, first of all, that as a former Senate staffer that congressional oversight is important. I believe in it.

"It is also important to understand what the GEC does and doesn't do. We are here to counter foreign disinformation. We operate against the efforts by Russia and China, Iran, and others who misuse or manipulate the information environment to our detriment.

"We believe that disinformation and information manipulation is a serious threat to our national security. We address it through multiple means, but we address it internationally. That's what we do; we counter it internationally.

"We are not trying to decide what is true. That is a metaphysical question that I wouldn't know how to begin to address. We don't content moderate. Those people who suggest that just don't understand what it is that we do. What we do, as I said, is counter foreign disinformation and information manipulation. I believe it is a threat that is growing. It is serious; that is why Secretary Blinken asked me to come back and work on it. I've been working with him and with Ned and others to try to step up our game in this space because it's a real, real problem all over the world.

"Let me explain the most recent example of that. Clearly in the Ukraine context, China and Russia have aligned themselves in the information domain. China and Russia both have a false casus bello for this war and have falsely described the effects of this war -- that's a near complete alignment in the information space. That's a problem that I work on. That's in my area (inaudible) and is an example of why this information domain threat is so serious."

Questions and Answers

Question: Does the GEC pressure private U.S. companies to suppress or ban on-line content?

Answer:

- No, we don't tell social media companies what to do.
- The GEC's mission is to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation.
- Social media companies and platforms develop and apply their own terms for users, their content moderation decisions are independent.
- The GEC does not focus on U.S. social media accounts.

Question: How does the GEC counter foreign malign influence?

Answer:

- The GEC leverages research, data analytics, technology, and a network of partner nations, academia, and civil society groups to identify and expose foreign malign influence and propaganda and build international societal resilience to malign influence.
- The GEC's programs include building up resiliency of overseas audiences, exposing origins of foreign malign influence, training independent journalists in vulnerable countries, and promoting critical thinking to overseas audiences through online programming.

Question: Does the GEC meet with American private sector social media companies?

Answer:

- The GEC does maintain dialogue with social media platforms to support its mission and better understand techniques, trends and origins of foreign malign influence and propaganda.

Question: Did the GEC fund the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) to censor and "blacklist" conservative voices in the United States?

Answer:

- The GEC did not fund GDI to study, analyze, or report on social media platforms or accounts inside the United States.
- The GEC's work with GDI was limited to counter-foreign malign influence efforts in East Asia and Europe.
- The GEC's award with GDI started in October 2021 and ended on March 5, 2022.

Question: You claim you did not fund GDI's blacklist, but isn't all money fungible? Couldn't they have used your funding for something else?

Answer:

- No.
- Under the terms of the award, the funding could not be used for any other GDI project or purpose and only covered activities on GEC's project from October 27, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

Question: Did the GEC fail to adequately vet grant recipients? Even if GEC's GDI grant was only for activities in Europe and Asia, it should have done due diligence to ensure the organization wasn't censoring Americans.

Answer:

- The GEC – as with the Department and other federal entities -- has a thorough and deliberate vetting process for all grant recipients, including the Global Disinformation Index.
- The State Department's Office of Inspector General reviewed the U.S.-Paris Tech Challenge and highlighted the Tech Challenge program in a "Spotlight on Success" in its 2022 report on the GEC.

Question: Did the GEC suppress narratives around the origins of COVID-19 and censor Americans who believe the virus began at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Answer:

- No, as already discussed, the GEC does not suppress narratives.

Question: Does the GEC work with Silicon Valley and "Big Tech" to censor free speech?

Answer:

- Decisions about the suspension or removal of particular content and/or accounts are made by the social media platforms themselves, according to their own policies.
- The GEC maintains information-sharing relationships with these platforms to share analyses of malign actors' information manipulation originating overseas directed at audiences outside of the United States.

Question: Did the GEC develop the Hamilton 68 dashboard, which maps disinformation-spreading accounts and allegedly tracked U.S.-based conservative accounts? Additionally, a former GEC contractor left the GEC to lead the Hamilton 68 project a month before its public release.

Answer:

- The GEC has no contractual relationship with Hamilton 68 nor its current version, Hamilton 2.0.
- The GEC did not provide funding directly or indirectly to Hamilton 68.
- The GEC did not work with Hamilton 68 or collaborate on the development of this tool.

Question: Did the GEC ask Twitter to suspend 5500 accounts that it believed were “Chinese... accounts” engaged in “state-backed coordinated manipulation?”

Answer:

- On May 11, 2020, the GEC shared a sample of 5,500 accounts with Twitter but incorrectly characterized them as “suspicious” in an initial communication with Twitter.
- During a meeting with Twitter the following day, the GEC corrected the record and explained that the accounts were used to demonstrate how the GEC constructed the networks necessary to run the analysis.
- At no time, did the GEC request that Twitter take action on these accounts.

Question: How long did it take for the GEC to discover its error and tell Twitter?

Answer:

- 24 hours.
- On May 11, 2020, GEC shared 5,500 accounts via email with Twitter to demonstrate the underlying methodology for GEC’s analysis.
- In that email correspondence, the GEC incorrectly labeled the 5,500 accounts as “suspicious.”

- 24 hours later, the GEC met with Twitter and corrected the record on May 12, 2020.

Question: Did the GEC use the Atlantic Council's DFRLab to fund programming to suspend the Twitter accounts of American citizens?

Answer:

- No.
- The GEC has no insight into the activities of DFRLab related to these accusations.
- As with other accusations, the authors commenting on this seem to have conflated unrelated activities.
- The GEC had a separate relationship with the Atlantic Council, which moderated the GEC's online U.S.-Paris Tech Challenge in 2021, but this activity had nothing to do with Twitter.

Question: Has the GEC been used to interfere in U.S. elections?

Answer:

- No. The role of the GEC is to identify foreign state and non-state foreign malign influence aimed at undermining or influencing the national security of the United States, its allies, and partners.

Question: How does the GEC determine what is disinformation and what is an exaggeration or policy difference?

Answer:

- The GEC determines that a foreign statement or article of information is "disinformation" based on its:
 1. satisfying the GEC's operating definition for foreign malign influence, which is "false or misleading foreign-based information that is deliberately created or spread with the intent to deceive or mislead," as
 2. evidenced through contradiction by authoritative sources and a totality of the circumstances analysis that takes into consideration an array of

characteristics that includes the credibility, motivations, state actor affiliations, and messaging history of the disinformation source.

- Exaggeration, or the promotion of a policy position by a foreign actor antithetical to U.S. interests or policy could fall under the rubric of “propaganda,” defined within the GEC as, “true, partially true, or false information intended to advance an actor’s interests by influencing the attitudes, perceptions, or behaviors of an audience.”
- By law, the GEC focuses on networks of foreign actor disinformation and propaganda aimed at undermining or influencing the policies, security or stability of the United States and U.S. allies and partner nations, not on individuals just because they are critical of U.S. policies.

Question: Does the GEC employ a surreptitious approach to “counter-disinformation,” sending companies like Twitter voluminous reports on foreign “ecosystems” — in practice, blacklists?

Answer:

- No. When engaging with social media companies, the GEC clearly states that no action is requested.
- Data is shared solely in the hopes of comparing notes and engaging in a methodological discussion.
- The GEC employs replicable open-source methods to analyze how threat actors, like the PRC and Russia, are likely leveraging large networks of fake accounts to game suggestion algorithms and inorganically amplify propaganda or foreign malign influence.

Question: Is the GEC an incubator for the domestic “censorship-industrial complex?”

Answer:

- The GEC focuses on countering foreign malign influence and propaganda from Russia, the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Iran, and foreign terrorist organizations and violent extremists such as ISIS and al-Qa’ida that create, disseminate, and amplify intentionally false or misleading information to

manipulate public perception and undermine the United States' national security.

Question: Does the GEC fund a secret list of subcontractors?

Answer:

- No.
- The GEC, in coordination with the programming office and the potential recipient, is responsible for determining whether disclosing award information on www.USASpending.gov would threaten national security, jeopardize the safety of a recipient or its beneficiaries, or when private, and therefore protected, information about individuals would be revealed.

Question: Did the GEC ask Twitter to review 499 accounts as “foreign” disinformation, for reasons that include using Signal to communicate and tweeting the hashtag, #IraniansDebateWithBiden?

Answer:

- No.

Question: Do the GEC and GEC-funded contractors also target left-friendly movements like the *gilets jaunes* (yellow vests), socialist media outlets like Canada's *Global Research*, even the Free Palestine movement?

Answer:

- The GEC does not seek to diminish the organic conversation – but our adversaries certainly see an opportunity to achieve their political objectives by coopting these movements.
- Hostile foreign governments do target social movements in other countries. It is our mandate to learn how these foreign governments are trying to manipulate public opinion of these movements with foreign malign influence.

Question: Does the GEC hide its grant award recipients?

Answer:

- No. The majority of the GEC's awards are publicly available.
- The GEC, in coordination with the programming office and the potential recipient, is responsible for determining whether disclosing award information on www.USASpending.gov would threaten national security interests, jeopardize the safety of a recipient or its beneficiaries, or when private information about individuals would be revealed.

Question: Does the GEC play up cyber-threats for political and financial gain?

Answer:

- This claim is an outright fabrication.
- The GEC's work is funded and directed through bipartisan Congressional legislation and appropriations.

(b)(6)

Senior PAO

GEC

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From:	Jim Ainsworth (b)(6)@gmail.com>
To:	RubinJ@state.gov
Subject:	ALERT! Biden Federal Government To Create New 'Disinformation' Office
Date:	Sun, 7 May 2023 22:19:07 -0400

ALERT! Biden Federal Government To Create New 'Disinformation' Office

Deep state is attempting to resurrect another Ministry of Truth after disastrous DHS rollout of Disinformation Governance Board.

Foreign Malign Influence Center will support State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC), which the Twitter Files have shown targeted and censored conservative voices on social media.

Infowars.com

May 7th, 2023 1:45 PM CT



Image Credit: Anna MoneyMaker/Getty Images

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) formed a new office to oversee the intelligence community's efforts to fight "disinformation" and foreign influence campaigns in the United States, Director Avril Haines announced Thursday.

In a hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee, Haines unveiled the Foreign Malign Influence Center (FMIC), which would be focused on "foreign malign influence" aimed at U.S. elections but also "public opinion within the United States."

"Congress put into law that we should establish a foreign malign influence center in the intelligence community. We stood that up and it encompasses our election threat executive work essentially looking at

foreign influence and interference in elections, and deals with disinformation more generally,” Haines said.

The center was created after approved funding by Congress in September 2022 but little was known about how it would operate.

From *The Intercept*:

From its perch atop the intelligence community, the FMIC has been designated the U.S. government’s primary authority for analyzing and integrating intelligence on foreign influence, according to a brief entry on ODNI’s website. The FMIC’s acting director, Jeffrey K. Wichman, is a former CIA executive who previously served as chief of analysis for the agency’s Counterintelligence Mission Center.

“Exposing deception in defense of liberty” is the center’s motto, ODNI’s website says. It enjoys access to “all intelligence possessed or created pertaining to FMI [foreign malign information], including election security.”

Haines said the FMIC would work with the State Department’s Global Engagement Center (GEC) to fulfill its mission, which the Twitter Files revealed works as a malicious censorship arm of the federal government.

“What we have been doing is effectively trying to support the Global Engagement Center and others throughout the U.S. government in helping them to understand what are the plans and intentions of the key actors in this space: China, Russia, Iran, etc.,” she said.

Specifically, the “GEC funded the Global Disinformation Index (GDI), a foreign data-driven advocacy organization, which ‘created blacklists of U.S. domestic media voices to cripple U.S. citizen journalists’ advertising revenue,” according to House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (TX), Foreign Affairs Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee Chair Brian Mast (FL), and GOP Reps. Chris Smith (FL), Darrell Issa (CA), Maria Salazar (FL), Keith Self (TX), Cory Mills (FL), and Ken Buck (CO),” Breitbart reported.

This comes ten months after the Department of Homeland Security scrapped its planned “Disinformation Governance Board” in the wake of massive public backlash.

This is just another attempt by the government to establish a Ministry of Truth that will be weaponized, not against “foreign adversaries,” but against the American people.

Watch Haines’ full testimony:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Yxzp6Wvr0k>

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