



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 18 2016

The Honorable
Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

You have asked for additional information regarding the status of Cheryl Mills' security clearance. The Department maintains a database of all active and non-active security clearances granted by the Department for employees and certain contractors. In addition, the Department has access to other databases containing security clearance information for Federal Government personnel. In the fall of 2015, the Department queried the database and found no record of an active security clearance for Ms. Mills. I conveyed that understanding to you in a letter on October 9, 2015. Subsequently, our understanding is that Ms. Mills received an inquiry from your Committee concerning her clearance, which caused her representatives to contact the Department for clarification. The Department gathered additional information, described below, and determined that an administrative error had caused the Department erroneously to remove Ms. Mills' clearance from the database. We conveyed this to your staff promptly. We regret the error in our October 9 letter.

Ms. Mills maintained Top Secret clearance during her employment at the Department, first as Counselor and Chief of Staff, and subsequently as the Special Envoy to Haiti. Her appointment at the Department ended in February 2014. Subsequently, pursuant to the Department's standard practice, an administrative process was initiated to terminate Ms. Mills' clearance because, pursuant to Section 2.1 of Executive Order 12968, she had left the position that required her to have access to classified information. As a result, Ms. Mills' clearance was listed as terminated as of May 2014.

However, on January 31, 2014, prior to Ms. Mills departure from the Department, former Secretary Clinton designated Ms. Mills to assist in her research consistent with Section 4.4 of Executive Order 13526 (a routine practice

for former senior officials). Due to an administrative error, the Department did not process the former Secretary's designation. Accordingly, although former Secretary Clinton properly designated Ms. Mills to retain clearance, the database reflected that Ms. Mills' clearance was terminated.

When these facts came to the Department's attention, we promptly updated the database. As noted above, we also promptly notified your staff of the discovery.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Frifield". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Julia" and last name "Frifield" clearly legible.

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated.

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy