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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

February 28, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Nielsen:

The Committee has been examining relationships between the FBI, Mr. Christopher Steele, and others who may have provided information or participated in the creation of his dossier. The Steele dossier was commissioned by the co-founder of Fusion GPS, Glenn Simpson, and funded by the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton Campaign. In his Committee interview, Mr. Simpson referenced a Russian oligarch allegedly close to the Kremlin, Oleg Deripaska, and testified that Mr. Deripaska was “not able to travel to the United States because he’s banned for suspicion of ties to organized crime.”¹

In 2009, Mr. Deripaska hired Adam Waldman, a political consultant, to assist with acquiring a visa after the State Department allegedly denied his applications.² That same year, Mr. Waldman registered as a foreign agent with the Department of Justice so that he could provide “general legal advice on issues involving [Mr. Deripaska’s] U.S. visa as well as commercial transactions.”³ A series of recent texts between Mr. Waldman and a Member of the Senate also suggests some sort of relationship with Mr. Waldman and Mr. Steele. One such text from Waldman says, “Chris Steele asked me to call you.”⁴ Notably, after Mr. Waldman began to advocate for him, Mr. Deripaska was apparently issued a diplomatic passport, and allowed entry into the United States.⁵

¹ Glenn Simpson Transcript, p. 152.

² Barry Meier and Jesse Drucker, *Russian Once Tied to Trump Aide Seeks Immunity to Cooperate With Congress*, The New York Times (May 26, 2017), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/us/politics/oleg-deripaska-paul-manafort.html>

³ Adam Waldman U.S. Department of Justice, Foreign Agents Registration Act filing, May 2009.

⁴ Barry Meier and Jesse Drucker, *Russian Once Tied to Trump Aide Seeks Immunity to Cooperate With Congress*, The New York Times (May 26, 2017), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/us/politics/oleg-deripaska-paul-manafort.html>

⁵ *Id.*

To better understand these circumstances, please provide the following no later than March 14, 2018.

U.S. Department of State

1. Please provide all visa records and associated documentation for Oleg Deripaska.
 - a. At which embassy or consulate did he submit the application(s)?
 - b. Please provide the visa category and validity period for all previous visas issued to Deripaska.
 - c. Please provide the dates of submission for all past visa applications submitted by Deripaska, along with all associated documentation, case notes, or other related information.
 - d. Was Deripaska subjected to any additional administrative processing associated with any visa application? Please explain and provide all documentation uncovered, or created, as a result of such additional processing.
 - e. Was Deripaska ever denied a visa? If so, when was he denied and for what reason?

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

1. Please provide the a-file, all records of entry into or exit from any port of entry in the United States for Deripaska, a timeline of his known travel into the United States, and all relevant receipt files.

I anticipate that your written reply and any responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Although the Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information, it is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the Executive Branch.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request. If you have questions, please contact Katherine Nikas of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Cc:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice