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GENERAL

Committee Chairmen Seek State Department Cable, Emails Related to Benghazi Investigation

April 24, 2013 | Speaker Boehner's Press Office

The chairmen of the five House committees investigating the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya are asking President Obama to release key documents related to the administration's response.

One of these documents is “an [April 2012](#) State Department cable bearing Secretary Hillary Clinton's signature” that was previously provided to two committees on a restricted basis. According to the [progress report released yesterday](#), this cable shows that Secretary Clinton acknowledged a request for additional security but still “ordered the withdrawal of security elements to proceed” from Benghazi. The

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chairmen are asking that this cable be made public and several other documents handed over:

“We request that you immediately make the April 9, 2012, State Department cable public. Further, given the oversight obligation of each Committee investigating these events, we request that you immediately provide the emails and all versions of the talking points to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary, and Intelligence. Finally, we ask that all documents and communications previously provided for *in camera* review be immediately turned over to our Committees.”

As Intelligence Committee [Chairman Mike Rogers \(R-MI\)](#) said, “The American people deserve to see the evidence and know the truth.” Read the full letter below:

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The Honorable Barack Obama
 President of the United States of America
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Five Committees of the House of Representatives continue to inquire into the terrorist attacks on U.S. interests in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, resulting in the deaths of four Americans. Key issues in this investigation are (1) who denied requests for additional security to U.S. personnel on the ground in Benghazi; and (2) why the Administration decided to communicate to the American people that the attacks were a spontaneous demonstration inspired by a YouTube video, rather than explaining the likely al-Qa'ida affiliation of those responsible.

After many requests, the State Department provided the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform restricted access to State Department cables denying requests for additional security. An April 19, 2012, cable bearing Secretary Clinton's signature acknowledged requests for additional security, but nevertheless ordered the withdrawal of security assets to proceed as planned (12 State 38939). Similarly, after many requests, Administration officials finally provided members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) access to draft versions of the talking points used by Ambassador Susan Rice on five morning news shows on September 16, 2012, and email traffic leading up to the final version of those talking points. After review of those emails, it is clear to HPSCI members that the talking points were altered to withhold key information about the terrorist attacks, the likely al-Qa'ida connections, and the previous attacks on western interests in eastern Libya. Contrary to public statements by Administration officials, the talking points were not altered in the interagency process to protect classified information or to protect the FBI investigation. Rather, the talking points were altered to protect those senior Administration officials who failed to make appropriate security decisions. Administration officials did not allow the Committees to retain these documents.

Given the gravity of this issue, we request that you immediately make the April 19, 2012, State Department cable public. Further, given the oversight obligations of each Committee investigating these events, we request that you immediately provide the emails and all versions of the talking points to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary, and Intelligence. Finally, we ask that all documents and communications previously provided for *in camera* review be immediately turned over to our Committees. Access to this information cannot be dictated by the political interests of the Executive Branch. Each of our Committees has a duty to determine responsibility for the decisions to endanger Americans and to mislead the American people following this deadly terrorist attack against our country.

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As taxpayers who pay these peoples wages I feel that we deserve the truth and if the truth proves that Clinton committed purgery then so be it. We are tired of wushy wushy answers and this administration covering up what happened.

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Frank grisham • a year ago