



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 12 2011

[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Peter M. Van Buren

FROM: DS/SI/PSS — [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Clearance Suspension

This letter is to notify you that, in accordance with U.S. government standards set forth in Executive Orders 10450 and 12968, Government-wide Adjudicative Guidelines, and Department of State regulations, the Office of Personnel Security and Suitability (DS/SI/PSS) has determined that your continued access to classified information is not clearly consistent with the national security interests of the United States. Your Top Secret security clearance is suspended pending the outcome of an ongoing DS investigation. These considerations dictate that, in the interim, you must, at a minimum, remain assigned to a position that does not include sensitive duties.

DS/SI/PSS has been notified that you have shown an unwillingness to comply with Department rules and regulations regarding writing and speaking on matters of official concern, including by publishing articles and blog posts on such matters without submitting them to the Department for review, and that your judgment in the handling of protected information is questionable. This raises serious security concerns and can be disqualifying under Adjudicative Guidelines "E" (Personal Conduct) and "K" (Handling Protected Information). The suspension of your security clearance does not constitute a formal revocation and does not indicate that such action is planned.

If, after further investigation and review, the Director, Diplomatic Security Service, revokes your clearance, you will be given an opportunity to respond. Moreover, should the Assistant Secretary of Diplomatic Security render a decision to sustain the revocation of your clearance, you will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Department's Security Appeals Panel.

[REDACTED]

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Pursuant to Department policy, you are required to turn in your building ID card, any government issued credentials, and Diplomatic Passport to DS/SI/PSS. You will be issued a DS-1838 (*Request for Personal Identification Card*) and will be issued a non-sensitive building badge. Your point-of-contact is [REDACTED] who can be reached at [REDACTED], to facilitate this requirement. Attached is a memorandum for your signature, acknowledging your understanding of these actions, not your agreement.

You are required to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt, signed and dated, to [REDACTED] within five days of receipt. You may return the completed memorandum by fax to [REDACTED], or you may scan it and email to [REDACTED]@state.gov.

Enclosure:

Acknowledgment of Receipt

cc: HRDG: S
HR/ER/C
HR/REE/
DS/DO/S
DS/SI/PS

