

**From:** Smith, Dana S (PA)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2011 10:59 AM  
**To:** Van Buren, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: FAX was sent by Department of State PDAS Dana Smith re: Van Buren Book, "We Meant Well"

Mr. Van Buren,

Thank you for your message. The Department has a duty to protect classified information. When it became clear that your book was going to be published, the Department sent Macmillan a reasonable request for redactions from the book.

Sincerely,

Dana Shell Smith

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Van Buren, Peter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:21 PM  
**To:** Smith, Dana S (PA)  
**Subject:** FAX was sent by Department of State PDAS Dana Smith re: Van Buren Book, "We Meant Well"

Dear Ms. Smith:

The attached FAX was sent by you as Department of State PDAS to a private company, Macmillan Publishing in New York, where it received wide circulation.

The fax accuses me as the sole author of a book of disclosing classified information, and demands redactions from the publisher. I was never informed of this fax by the Department, and learned of it only second-hand from Macmillan after it was received and circulated. Though the fax was sent 9/20/11, and though Macmillan and AFSA have since been in contact with you, no one from the Department has ever contacted me about this matter.

My concern is two-fold:

Is this in fact the current method by which the Department accuses its employees of security violations? The fax in all ways appears to be an official communication from a senior official at the Department of State and thus representative of policy. As you are aware, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security has today suspended my security clearance. In keeping with their standard

policy, they refused to tell me in detail the reasons for the suspension. I can only assume that the fax from you played a significant role in DS' decision. I would like to request your written response to this question.

My second concern is for my reputation with Macmillan. The publisher was quite shocked to hear that I might have disclosed classified information. My reputation with them suffered accordingly. I do not believe, and you never explained, how the requested redactions might constitute classified information and/or a disclosure of classified information. While there are many technical, legal details, this seems to skate close to the issue of libel. At a minimum, the suspension of my security clearance has caused me undue stress and will no doubt hurt my professional standing in the Department. Under such circumstances, I would like to request a written apology from the Department to put to rest any concerns that the fax is libelous.

As you may guess, there remains significant media interest in my situation, so I hope you do not mind that I will be forwarding this message, and any responses received, to the appropriate outlets. A lack of response by your office within a reasonable period of a few days will also be shared appropriately and understood to show your lack of concern for the points raised above. You never responded to Macmillan, and no one has responded to AFSA.

I have been the subject of extraordinary scrutiny and disciplinary action by the Department, because I wrote a book. I would hope, in this case where it appears the Department acted at a minimum inappropriately, that your office would be as swift and as thorough in acting to assist me as it has been in acting against me.

Peter Van Buren

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