



Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Coats:

During a March 20, 2019 briefing, personnel with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) told staff for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) that ODNI, as part of its ongoing classification review, intended to share – but had not yet done so – certain HPSCI interview transcripts with the White House that implicated “White House equities.”

ODNI subsequently clarified that, as part of its review, it “looked for mention of interactions or communications with current or former [White House] and [National Security Council] officials either during transition or after and descriptions of policies or direction established within the [White House] and [National Security Council].” This included review for information that “could be privileged,” which is described as a determination that “can only be made by” the White House.

Under no circumstances shall ODNI, or any other element of the Intelligence Community (IC), share any HPSCI transcripts with the White House, President Trump, or any persons associated with the White House or the President. Such transcripts remain the sole property of HPSCI, and were transmitted to ODNI for the limited purpose of enabling a classification review by IC elements and the Department of Justice.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I hope that our staff can reach agreement soon on a schedule for returning the transcripts to the Committee for ultimate public release.

Sincerely,

Adam B. Schiff
Chairman