

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 4, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last night, the State Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) informed my office that the Department has now determined that former Secretary of State Colin Powell and the immediate staff of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice received classified national security information on their personal email accounts. I am writing to request information relating to this disclosure.

The OIG submitted to my office a copy of a memo dated February 3, 2016, which was sent to Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy. The OIG provided this memo, which is marked "Not for Distribution," to my office after the Office of the Inspector General for the Intelligence Community provided it to other congressional staff without authorization.

The memo states that the OIG is conducting a review of the records preservation practices of five previous Secretaries of State and their immediate staffs. It states that, as part of that review, the OIG obtained potentially sensitive records and referred them to the Department for classification review. According to the memo, on December 29, 2015, the Department advised the OIG that 12 of these emails contain classified national security information, two of which were sent to the personal email account of Secretary Powell and ten of which were sent to the personal email accounts of Secretary Rice's immediate staff. The emails were sent between February 2003 and June 2008, according to the OIG.

According to the memo, none of the emails was marked as classified. The memo states that on January 15, 2016, the Department provided additional information to the OIG about whether the material contained in the emails was or should have been regarded as classified at the time the emails were sent or received. The memo recommends that the Department remove classified material from all unclassified paper and electronic archives associated with Secretaries Powell and Rice and their respective staffs.

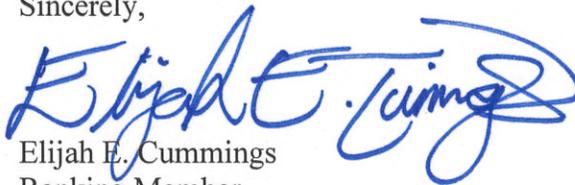
In order to further assist our understanding of this issue, I request that you provide the following documents:

1. Copies of the 12 emails the Department has now determined contain classified national security information, including the two emails sent to the personal email account of Secretary Powell and the ten emails sent to the personal email accounts of Secretary Rice's immediate staff.
2. Any correspondence between the Department and the OIG regarding the review of Secretary Powell's and Secretary Rice's archives and documents that could be potentially sensitive, including but not limited to:
  - a. a letter or communication dated October 19, 2015, from the OIG to the Department requesting a classification review of documents authored between February 2003 and June 2009;
  - b. a letter or communication dated December 29, 2015, from the Department to the OIG advising that 12 documents contain classified national security information;
  - c. a letter or communication dated January 15, 2016, from the Department to the OIG regarding whether the material contained in the documents was or should have been regarded as classified at the time of transmission or receipt.
3. Documents and/or correspondence between the Department and external entities or individuals regarding attempts to review or recover emails from the personal accounts of Secretary Powell, Secretary Rice, and their immediate staffs, including but not limited to attempts to recover potentially sensitive material in those accounts.
4. Documents and/or correspondence between the Department and the OIG regarding or reflecting the concern or possibility that additional potential classified materials and/or highly sensitive information not intended for distribution might reside in the Department's unclassified paper and electronic archives associated with Secretaries Powell and Rice and their respective staffs.
5. All letters from January 2015 to present, sent from the Department to Members of Congress regarding potentially classified information being received or transmitted via email or fax by current or former Secretaries of State.

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Please provide the requested documents by February 18, 2015. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Krista Boyd of my staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

cc. The Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Chairman