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**From:** Michael M  
**To:** prb; PRB (b)(3) CIAAct  
**Cc:** Marc Polymeropoulos  
**Subject:** Public Statement for Review - [Link to Attachment(s)]  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020 6:36:21 AM  
**Attachments:** Public Statement converted.pdf  
Public Statement converted.docx

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Good morning. Hope everyone had a nice weekend.  
Attached is a statement that Marc and I drafted that many former senior and working-level officials from across the IC will sign and then be made public. We are 100 percent confident it does not contain classified information. Indeed, it specifically says we don't know what the IC or the FBI knows about this.  
This is a rush job, as it needs to get out as soon as possible. Thank you very much.  
Michael Morell

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## Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails

We are all individuals who devoted significant portions of our lives to national security. Some of us served in senior positions in policy departments and agencies, and some of us served in senior positions in the Intelligence Community. Some of us were political appointees, and some were career officials. Many of us worked for presidents of both political parties.

We are all also individuals who see Russia as one of our nation's primary adversaries. All of us have an understanding of the wide range of Russian overt and covert activities that undermine US national security, with some of us knowing Russian behavior intimately, as we worked to defend our nation against it for a career. A few of us worked against Russian information operations in the United States in the last several years.

Perhaps most important, each of us believes deeply that American citizens should determine the outcome of elections, not foreign governments. All of us agree with the founding fathers' concern about the damage that foreign interference in our politics can do to our democracy.

It is for all these reasons that we write to say that the arrival on the US political scene of emails purportedly belonging to Vice President Biden's son Hunter, much of it related to his time serving on the Board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma, has all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation. We want to emphasize that we do not know if the emails, provided to the New York Post by President Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, are genuine or not and that we do not have evidence of Russia involvement -- just that our experience makes us deeply suspicious that the Russian government played a significant role in this case.

If we are right, this is Russia trying to influence how Americans vote between now and election day, and we believe strongly that Americans need to be aware of this.

There are a number of factors that make us suspicious of Russian involvement.

Such an operation would be consistent with Russian objectives, as outlined publicly and recently by the Intelligence Community, to create political chaos in the United States and to deepen political divisions here but also to undermine the candidacy of former Vice President Biden and thereby help the candidacy of President Trump. For the Russians at this point, with Trump down in the polls, there is incentive for Moscow to pull out the stops to do anything possible to help Trump win and/or to weaken Biden should he win. A "laptop op" fits the bill, as the publication of the emails are clearly designed to discredit Biden.

Such an operation would be consistent with some of the key methods Russia has used in its now multi-year operation to interfere in our democracy - the hacking (via cyber operations) and the dumping of accurate information or the distribution of inaccurate or misinformation. Russia did both of these during the 2016 presidential election - judgments shared by the US Intelligence Community, the investigation into Russian activities by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and the entirety (all Republicans and Democrats) on the current Senate Intelligence Committee.

Such an operation is also consistent with several data points. The Russians, according to media reports and cybersecurity experts, targeted Burisma late last year for cyber collection and gained access to its emails. And Ukrainian politician and businessman Adriy Derkach, identified and sanctioned by the US Treasury for being a 10-year Russian agent interfering in the 2020 election, passed purported materials on Burisma and Hunter Biden to Giuliani.

Our view that the Russians are involved in the Hunter Biden email issue is consistent with two other significant data points. According to the Washington Post, citing four sources, "U.S. intelligence agencies warned the White House last year that Giuliani was the target of an influence operation by Russian intelligence."

In addition, media reports say that the FBI has now opened an investigation into Russian involvement in this case. According to USA Today, "...federal authorities are investigating whether the material supplied to the New York Post by Rudy Giuliani...is part of a smoke bomb of disinformation pushed by Russia."

We do not know whether these press reports are accurate, but they do suggest concern within Executive Branch departments and agencies that mirror ours. It is high time that Russia stops interfering in our democracy.

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 11:44 AM (b)(6)  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Publications Alert 19 October

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[Redacted]

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You may notify Former DDCIA Morell.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 8:01 AM (b)(6)

**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Publications Alert 19 October  
**Importance:** High

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

(U) COO EA's – Below is a high profile/high alert action item for 19 October:

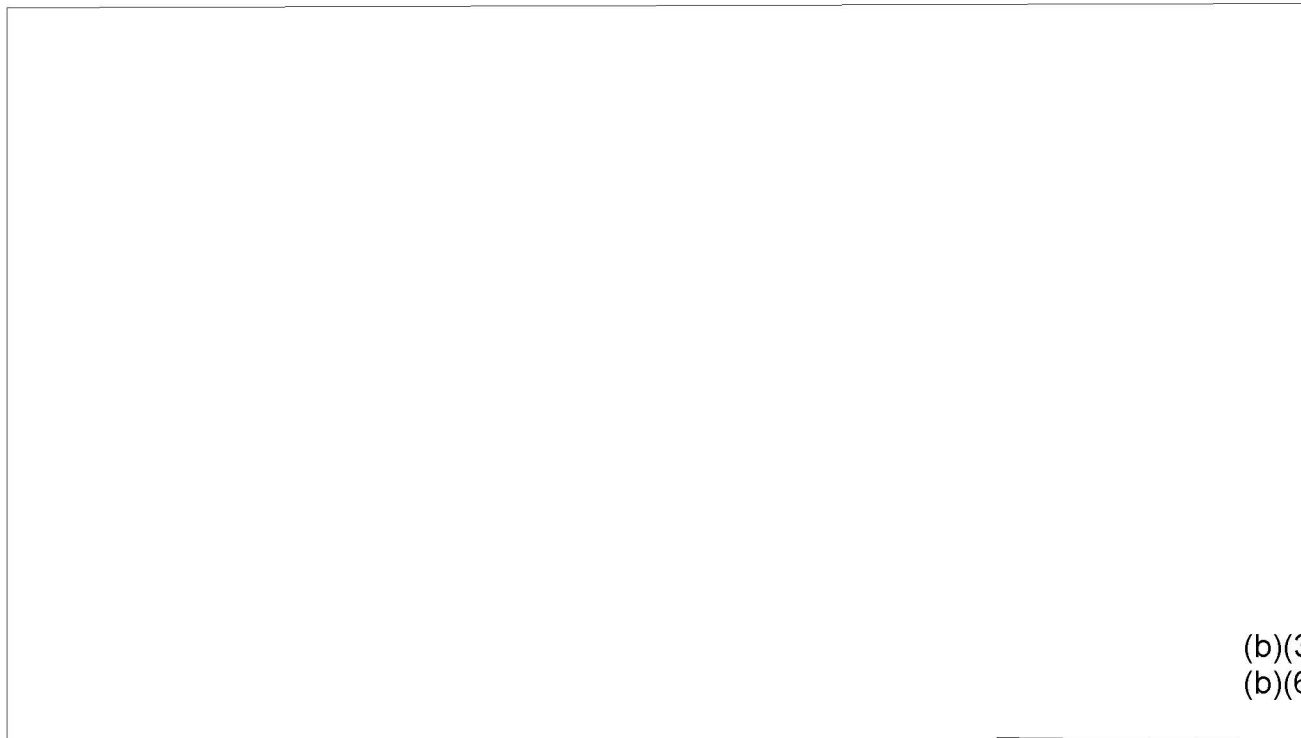
(U//~~FOUO~~) Former DDCIA Michael Morell submitted for review the attached manuscript (“Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails”). Mr. Morell has advised us that this article was co-authored with former DO officer Marc Polymeropoulos and that “many former senior and working-level officials from across the IC will sign and then be made public.” **PCRB has determined that this manuscript contains no classified information.**

(U//~~FOUO~~) Mr. Morell has asked for an expedited review of this article.

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Dear Michael, The

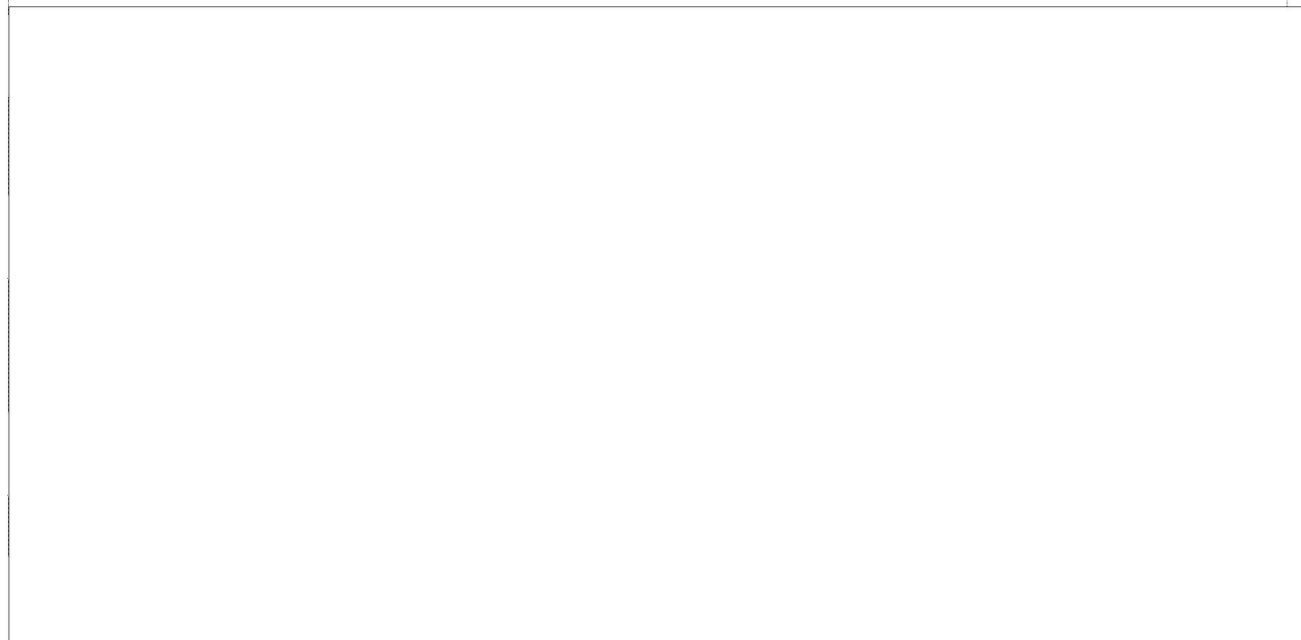
Prepublication Classification Review Board completed its review of your article titled "Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails." The Board determined that it contains no classified information and can be published. Agency approval for publication of this material does not represent Agency endorsement or verification of this work. If you add new material, please re-submit it before sharing, highlighting the new language to expedite our review. The PCRB appreciates your cooperation with prepublication review. You may reach out to us via



with questions or concerns. Kind regards, PCRB

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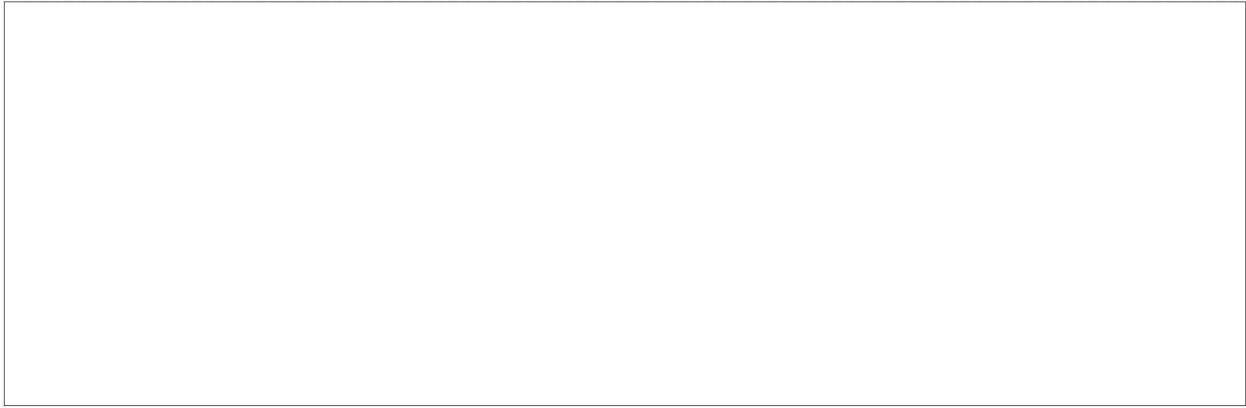


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**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** "Michael M" (b)(3) CIAAct  
**Cc:** prb  
**Subject:** [redacted] PCR Submission [redacted] Determination - Approved  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020 12:44:00 PM (b)(3) CIAAct  
(b)(6)

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**



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(b)(3) NatSecAct

Dear Michael,

The Prepublication Classification Review Board completed its review of your article titled "Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails." The Board determined that it contains no classified information and can be published. Agency approval for publication of this material does not represent Agency endorsement or verification of this work.

If you add new material, please re-submit it before sharing, highlighting the new language to expedite our review. The PCRFB appreciates your cooperation with prepublication review. You may reach out to us via [redacted] with questions or concerns.

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Kind regards,

PCRFB Staff