

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

November 23, 2016

Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Secretary, Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Honorable James Clapper
Director, Office of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Honorable John Brennan
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
1000 Colonial Farm Road
McLean, VA 22101

Ambassador Susan Rice
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Karl Remon Thompson
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Carter, Secretary Johnson, Director Clapper, Director Brennan, Ambassador Rice, and Mr. Thompson:

As you know, President-elect Donald J. Trump and the Trump Organization have properties around the globe, most with the Trump name prominently displayed. Countries and territories in which these properties are located reportedly include: Azerbaijan, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Ireland, Israel, Istanbul, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay.¹

¹ Drew Harwell and Anu Narayanswamy, [A Scramble to Assess the Dangers of President-elect Donald Trump's Global Business Empire](#), *Washington Post*, November 20, 2016.



Now that Mr. Trump is the President-elect of the United States, these properties may be potential targets for terrorists, and are, therefore, an important national security issue. First and foremost, it must be a priority to ensure that those who live in, work in, or visit these properties are safe. While the Trump Organization undoubtedly has long had its own security measures, they likely do not and cannot match the level of security that can be provided by the United States government.

In general, however, the United States does not offer security for private corporations either in the U.S. or abroad. We are confronted with an exceptional circumstance in which a newly elected president has numerous business interests in foreign countries and focusing on the national security consequences of these interests can't be delayed until Mr. Trump's inauguration.

Further, if the Trump Organization and/or the U.S. is relying on foreign governments to provide security at any of these properties, this might allow the Trump Organization to reduce its own security spending. Such a financial benefit could implicate the somewhat arcane Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, which provides that no government officer may "accept any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince or foreign state."

As a result, Campaign for Accountability seeks responses, which we will share with the media, to the following questions:


- 1) Is the U.S. government or any U.S. government contractor providing either guidance regarding security or providing security to any Trump Organization properties?
- 2) What is the cost of any security measures provided by the U.S.?
- 3) Are any foreign governments providing security to the Trump Organization?
- 4) Who is footing the bill for security measures: the Trump Organization, American taxpayers, and/or foreign governments?
- 5) Has the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel – or any other government office – prepared any sort of legal analysis regarding security provided by the U.S. or foreign governments to the Trump Organization?
- 6) Has the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel – or any other government office – prepared any sort of legal analysis regarding payments made by foreign governments to the Trump Organization, including but not limited to payments for hotel rooms, meals, beverages, rounds of golf, and/or office space in Trump affiliated properties?

Unless and until President-elect Trump sells his business holdings, his properties present a substantial national security risk and raise important constitutional concerns. Americans need to be assured our government has a plan for dealing with these issues and need to know exactly who is absorbing the costs.

In addition, any legal analysis regarding the constitutionality of payments for security and/or other costs at Trump affiliated properties should be released publicly so the media, watchdog groups and American citizens can understand the application of Emoluments Clause and judge for themselves whether the new president is acting within the parameters set forth in our constitution.

CfA looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Anne L. Weismann
Executive Director

cc: Vice President-elect Michael Pence
Trump Transition