

October 1, 2019

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520
via email

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We the undersigned – former career diplomats and political appointees from both sides of the aisle – write to express our full and strong support for Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, whose name has appeared in the whistleblower controversy.

Each of us knows and has worked with Ambassador Yovanovitch in one capacity or another and believe she represents the finest in the Foreign Service. A career diplomat for 33 years, Ambassador Yovanovitch has served as ambassador in three countries – Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Ukraine. Her performance and leadership have been exemplary. She has represented and advanced U.S. national interests consistently and unwaveringly, including in her last post, Ukraine. She has been a mentor to many junior Foreign Service officers and has earned the highest respect among her peers.

We were disturbed to read reports in the spring that Ambassador Yovanovitch was called back from her assignment in Ukraine earlier than planned in the face of absurd and unfounded allegations. Since then, she has been attacked by the President of the United States, as reflected in his July 25 conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and by the President’s personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani.

We are particularly concerned by President Trump’s reported statement that “she’s going to go through some things.” Such language could be interpreted as a threat of some kind. Such language and the broader attack on Ambassador Yovanovitch should be condemned unequivocally.

Ambassador Yovanovitch deserves your unstinting support, as do other career diplomats who may become ensnared in the upcoming Congressional investigation and impeachment process. All employees of the Department – Foreign Service officers, civil servants, and political appointees – need to know that you have their backs against scurrilous political attacks and smears.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Daniel Baer
John Beyrle
Antony Blinken
Spencer Boyer
Nicholas Burns
William Burns

Michael Carpenter
Derek Chollet
Eric Edelman
Evelyn Farkas
John Herbst
Colin Kahl
Richard Kauzlarich
Ian Kelly
Laura Kennedy
David J. Kramer
Michael McFaul
Richard Morningstar
Steven Pifer
Ned Price
Benjamin Rhodes
Julianne Smith
Jake Sullivan
John Tefft
Jim Townsend
Alexander Vershbow
Celeste Wallander