EXHIBIT 1

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS
Sponsors & Organizes
the US Congressional Delegation Trip to Azerbaijan
May 25th to May 31st, 2013

ITINERARY

SATURDAY, May 25 (TULSA, OK)

1:00 PM Departure for Azerbaijan

SUNDAY, May 26 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

9:00 PM Arrival in Baku
9:30 PM Transfer to Hotel
10:00 PM Hotel check in (JW Marriott Baku)
11:00 PM Overnight stay

MONDAY, May 27 (BAKU)

8:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel
9:30 AM Briefing at Hotel by the US Embassy (US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)
10:30 AM Briefing at Border Security Agency (Border Security Issues with Iran and Russia; Future of Caspian Sea)
11:30 AM Briefing at the Presidential Palace (US-Azerbaijan Relations)
1:00 PM Lunch
2:30 PM Visit and meet with the President of Azerbaijan
4:00 PM Visit to the Parliament of Azerbaijan and meet with the Speaker of Parliament (US-Azerbaijan Congressional Relations)
5:00 PM Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours
7:00 PM Dinner
10:00 PM Overnight Stay

TUESDAY, May 28 (BAKU)(Republic Day of Azerbaijan)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM Briefing at Hotel on the "Republic Day of Azerbaijan"

11:00 AM	Participate at Republic Day Traditions, Customs and Activities
1:00 PM	Lunch
2:30 PM	Meet with the Chair of the Parliament Armed Services Committee (US-Azerbaijan Military Cooperation)
4:00 PM	Back to Hotel and rest for 2 hours
6:00 PM	Get to Haydar Aliyev Cultural center for the US Azerbaijan Convention Welcome Reception
7:00 PM	Dinner at Haydar Aliyev Cultural Center
10:00 PM	Walk in the Baku Lakeshore Boulevard and Enjoy the "Fireworks Show "
11:00 PM	Back to Hotel and Overnight Stay

WEDNESDAY, May 29 (BAKU)

8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 AM	Give a keynote speech at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening (US-Azerbaijan
Shared	Vision for Future in the Caspian Basin)
10:00 AM	Meet with the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament (Next Steps to be taken at US-Azerbaijan Relations)
11:00 AM	Visit to the National Museum of History
12:30 PM	Lunch & Remarks at US-Azerbaijan Convention
2:00 PM	Visit to the Diplomatic Academy/University (Student Exchange Programs)
4:00 PM	Briefing at State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) (Foreign Investment Policy)
5:00 PM	Back to Hotel and rest for 2 hours
7:00 PM	Dinner & Gala at US-Azerbaijan Convention
9:00 PM	Back to Hotel
10:00 PM	Overnight Stay

THURSDAY, May 30 (BAKU)

9:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM	Briefing at State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) (Foreign Investment Policy)
11:00 AM	Meet with the Mayor and Tour in the Old City (History, Architecture and Diversity in Baku Old City)
1:00 PM	Lunch
2:30 PM	Briefing at the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) (Energy Security-Southern Energy Corridor)
4:00 PM	Visit to the National Flag Museum
5:00 PM	Back to hotel and rest for 2 hours
7:00 PM	Dinner at a Family House (Family Values and Cuisine Life in Azerbaijan)
10:00 PM	Back to Hotel and overnight stay

FRIDAY, May 31 (BAKU-TULSA)

5:50 AM	Early Wake up and Transfer to airport
7:45 AM	Flight back to US

8:30 AM Breakfast on Air

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 2

Council of Turkic American Associations

Members of Congress
Educational Seminar in Turkey and Azerbaijan
May 24th to June 1st, 2013
Sponsored by Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA)

ITINERARY

Friday, May 24 (WASHINGTON DC)

11:15 PM Departure Washington, D.C.
Turkish Airlines (TK8)

Saturday, May 25 (ISTANBUL)

4:45 PM Arrival at Istanbul Ataturk Airport
Transfer to Hotel
Hotel check in & Rest for 2 hours (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)

7:00 PM Dinner with the Members of the Turkish Parliament
(Members of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees)

10:30 PM Return to hotel
Overnight at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Sunday, May 26 (ISTANBUL)

8:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

8:15 AM Briefing at Hotel by the US Consular Staff (US-Turkey Relations)

9:30 AM Depart hotel
Visit to Topkapi Palace and Museum

1:30 PM Lunch with leading Journalists (Freedom of Press in Turkey)

3:00 PM Visit to Haghia Sophia & Blue Mosque
(Beauty of Eastern Roman and Ottoman History)

7:30 PM Depart for dinner
Dinner with Academicians (Higher Education; Study Abroad to US)

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Monday, May 27 (ANKARA)

7:00 AM Early Wake up and Early Check out

8:00 AM Departure for Ankara
Turkish Airlines TK2108
Breakfast on Air

9:00 AM Arrival in Ankara
Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Grand Ankara Rixos)

10:30 AM Visit to the US Embassy in Ankara
Briefing (US-Turkey Cooperation for the Regional Security)

12:00 AM Lunch at the Turkish Parliament with the Speaker of the Parliament
(Turkey-US Congressional Relations)

1:30 PM Meet with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties in the Parliament
(Politics in Turkey)

2:30 PM Visit and Meet with the Turkish President

4:00 PM Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs

5:00 PM Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours

7:00 PM Dinner with the US Ambassador

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the Grand Ankara Rixos

Tuesday, May 28 (ANKARA-BAKU)

8:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM Visit and meet with the Turkish Minister of Defense

10:00 AM Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Energy

11:00 AM Back to Hotel and check out

11:30 AM Transfer to the airport

12:00 AM Departure for Istanbul
Turkish Airlines TK2139

3:00PM Flight to Baku via Istanbul by Turkish Airlines TK334
Lunch on Air

7:45 PM Arrival in Baku
Transfer to Hotel and Check in (JW Marriott Baku)

8:30 PM Dinner at Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the JW Marriott Baku

Wednesday, May 29 (BAKU)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM Visit to US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening

11:00 AM Visit and meet with the Azerbaijani President
(US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)

12:30 AM Visit and Meet with the Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs
(The Future of US-Azerbaijan Relations)

1:30 PM Lunch at US-Azerbaijan Convention Luncheon

3:00 PM Visit and Meet with the Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament
(Steps to be taken at Azerbaijani Parliament and US House)

4:30 PM Visit and Meet with Minister of Border Security
(Regional Security Challenges)

7:00 PM Dinner at US-Azerbaijan Convention Gala

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the JW Marriott Baku

Thursday, May 30 (BAKU-ISTANBUL)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)
(New Pipelines from Caspian to Europe)

11:30 AM Meet with the Mayor of Old City and Tour in the Old City

1:00 PM Lunch with SOCAR Executive Team

2:30 PM Visit to National History Museum

4:00 PM Visit to Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Terminal (BTC)

5:00 PM Briefing at the Department of Energy
(Energy Security from Caspian Basin to European Market)

6:30 PM Back to Hotel and Check out

7:30 PM Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
Turkish Airlines (TK335)

9:45 PM Arrival in Istanbul

10:30 PM Transfer to Hotel and check in (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Friday, May 31 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM Visit and meet with the Governor of Istanbul

11:30 AM Visit and meet with the Mayor of Istanbul

1:00 PM Briefing and Lunch at TANAP
(Linking Caspian to Europe)

2:30 PM Visit & Shopping at Grand Covered and Spice Bazaar

5:00 PM Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 Hours

7:30 PM Dinner at a Turkish Family House

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Saturday, June 1 (ISTANBUL-WASHINGTON DC)

10:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

11:00 AM Transfer to airport

1:34 PM Flight back to US
Turkish Airlines (TK7)

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 3

Turkish American Federation of Midwest

US Congressional Staff Trip to Turkey and Azerbaijan May 24, 2013-June 1, 2013

ITINERARY

Friday, March 24 (WASHINGTON DC)

- Departure for Turkey

Saturday, March 25 (ISTANBUL)

- Arrival in Istanbul
- Transfer to Hotel and Check in
- Rest for 2 hours
- Dinner at a restaurant
- Overnight Stay

Sunday, March 26 (ISTANBUL)

- 9:00--- Lecture on Ottoman, Byzantine and Turkish History
- 1:00 pm---Lunch at TUSKON (Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists)
  - Briefing at TUSKON (New Partnerships, New Markets: Africa Initiative)
- 3:00 pm--- Shopping at Grand Bazaar
- 7:00 pm---Dinner roundtable with Turkish businesspeople
- Overnight Stay

Monday, March 27 (ANKARA)

- Early wake up and Check out

- Transfer to the airport and flight to Ankara by Turkish Airlines
- Breakfast at the airport
- Arrival in Ankara-Transfer to the Hotel and Check in
- 1:00 pm---Lunch with the Members of the Turkish Parliament (US-Turkey Congressional Relations)
- 2:00 pm---Meeting with the political counsel of the American Embassy in Turkey
- 4:00 pm---Meet with the Chair of the Human Rights Committee at the Turkish Parliament(Talk about Freedom of Press)
- 6:00 pm---Back to Hotel
- 7:30 pm---Dinner roundtable with the Director of Writers and Journalists Foundation
- Overnight Stay

Tuesday, March 28 (ANKARA-BAKU)

- 8:00 am---Breakfast at Hotel and check out
- 9:00 am---Briefing at BOTAS (Petroleum Pipeline Corporation) (New Pipelines, New Challenges: Turkey's becoming energy Hub)
  http://www.botas.gov.tr/defaultEN.asp
- 10:30 am---Visit to TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation)
- Transfer to the airport
- 3:00 pm---Flight to Baku via Istanbul
- Lunch at Istanbul Airport
- Arrival in Baku
- Hotel check in
- Roundtable Dinner with Azerbaijani Business Delegation for Trade and Commerce

- Overnight Stay

Wednesday, March 29 (BAKU)

- 9:00 am---Breakfast at Hotel
- 10:00 am---Opening Ceremony of US-Azerbaijan Convention
- 11:00 am---Session on US-Azerbaijan Relations
- 12:00 pm---Lunch at the US-Azerbaijan Convention
- 1:00 pm---Session on Azerbaijan Energy Sector and Policies
- 3:30 pm---Briefing at the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) □(Southern Energy Corridor) http://new.socar.az/socar/az/home
- Back to Hotel and rest for 2 Hours
- 7:30 pm---Dinner with Members of the Parliament of Azerbaijan
- Overnight Stay

Thursday, March 30 (BAKU)

- Breakfast at Hotel
- 9:00 am---Meet with the Mayor of Old City (Social Life as well as History and Diversity □in the Old City)
- 12:30 pm---Lunch
- 1:30 pm---Briefing at the Department of Energy □(Enhancing Energy Security from Caspian to Europe)
- 3:00 pm---Briefing at SOFAZ (State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan) □Azerbaijan's Foreign Investment Policy with Oil Funds)
- 6:00 pm---Fly to Istanbul
- 8:30 pm---Roundtable Dinner with Representatives of the Armenian Minority Communities in Istanbul

- Overnight stay □

Friday, March 31 (ISTANBUL)

- Breakfast at the hotel

- 11:00 am---Briefing at TANAP (Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline)
  □http://www.tanap.com/en/ □(Linking Caspian to Europe)

- 12:30 pm---Lunch with Turkish Investment and Development Agency

- 2:30 pm---Briefing at TESEV (The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation)
  (Democratization, Foreign Policy and Good Governance)
  http://www.tesev.org.tr/en/homepage

- 4:00 pm---Visit to Topkapi Palace and Museum

- 7:00 pm---Dinner with leading journalists (Freedom of Press in Turkey)

- Overnight Stay

Saturday, June 1 (ISTANBUL-WASHINGTON DC)

- Breakfast at Hotel

- Check out and transfer to the airport

- Flight back to US □

EXHIBIT 4

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Sponsors

the US Congressional Delegation Trip to Turkey and Azerbaijan

May 24th to June 1st, 2013

ITINERARY

Friday, May 24 (WASHINGTON DC)

11:25 pm Departure for Turkey by Turkish Airlines (TK8)

Saturday, May 25 (ISTANBUL)

4:00 pm Arrival in Istanbul
5:00 pm Transfer to Hotel
5:30 pm Hotel check in & Rest for 2 hours (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
7:30 pm Dinner with the Members of the Turkish Parliament from Istanbul Region (US-Turkey Congressional Relations; Further Steps to be Taken)

Sunday, May 26 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 am Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am Briefing at Hotel by the US Consular Staff (US-Turkey Relations)
11:30 am Visit to Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople (Minorities in Turkey)
1:00 pm Lunch with Leading Journalists (Freedom of Press in Turkey)
3:00 pm Visit to Writers and Journalists Foundation (Diversity in Turkey)
5:00 pm Back to Hotel
7:00 pm Dinner with Academicians (Higher Education; Turkish Students at US Colleges & Universities)
9:00 pm Back to Hotel
10:30 pm Overnight Stay

Monday, May 27 (ANKARA)

6:00 am	Early Wake up and Early Check out
8:00 am	Departure for Ankara by Turkish Airlines
8:30 am	Breakfast on Air
9:30 am	Arrival in Ankara
10:00 am	Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Grand Ankara Rixos)
11:00 am	Briefing at the US Embassy (US-Turkey Cooperation for the Regional Security)
12:30 pm	Lunch at the Turkish Parliament with the Speaker of the Parliament (Turkey-US Congressional Relations)
1:30 pm	Meet with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties in the Parliament (Politics in Turkey)
2:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Turkish President (US-Turkey Cooperation on Regional Issues)
4:00 pm	Visit to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum (Hittites Age)
5:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours
7:00 pm	Dinner with the US Ambassador (Regional Security Challenges)
10:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Tuesday, May 28 (ANKARA-BAKU)

8:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 am	Visit and meet with the Turkish Minister of Defense (Turkey-Israel Military Relations)
10:30 AM	Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Energy (Energy Security for Eurasia)
11:30 am	Back to Hotel and check out
12:00 pm	Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
1:00 pm	Flight to Baku via Istanbul by Turkish Airlines
2:00 pm	Lunch on Air
7:00 pm	Arrival in Baku
7:45 pm	Transfer to Hotel and Check in (Four Seasons Baku)
8:30 pm	Dinner at a Restaurant
10: 00 pm	Overnight Stay

Wednesday, May 29 (BAKU)

8:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Visit to US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening Ceremony
11:30 am	Visit and meet with the Azerbaijani President (US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)
12:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs (The Future of US-Azerbaijan Relations)
1:30 pm	Lunch at US-Azerbaijan Convention Luncheon

3:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament (Steps to be taken at Azerbaijani Parliament and US House)
5:00 pm	Visit and Meet with Minister of Border Security (Regional Security Challenges)
7:00 pm	Dinner at US-Azerbaijan Convention Gala
11:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Thursday, May 30 (BAKU-ISTANBUL)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) (New Pipelines from Caspian to Europe)
11:30 am	Briefing at the Department of Culture (Diversity of Civilizations in Azerbaijan)
1:00 pm	Lunch with SOCAR Executive Team (TANAP)
3:00 pm	Visit to Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (Higher Education in Azerbaijan)
4:30 pm	Briefing at the Department of Energy (Energy Security from Caspian Basin to European Market)
6:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Check out
7:30 pm	Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
9:00 pm	Arrival in Istanbul
10:00 pm	Transfer to Hotel and check in (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
11:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Friday, May 31 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Visit and meet with the Governor of Istanbul (Istanbul-Texas Trade Relations)
11:00 am	Visit and meet with the Mayor of Istanbul (Istanbul-Houston Sister City Relations)
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Briefing at Istanbul Policy Center (EU-Turkey Negotiations)
3:30 pm	Briefing at TESEV (Turkey's Democratization Process)
5:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 Hours
7:00 pm	Dinner at a Turkish Family House (Turkish Family Values)
10:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Saturday, June 1 (ISTANBUL-WASHINGTON DC)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
11:00 am	Transfer to airport
1:00 pm	Flight back to US

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 5

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Sponsors & Organizes

US Congressional Member Trip to Azerbaijan

May 27th to May 30th, 2013

ITINERARY

MONDAY, May 27 (HOUSTON)

6:30 PM	Departure for Azerbaijan (by Lufthansa LH7600)

TUESDAY, May 28 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

8:55 PM	Arrival in Baku
9:45 PM	Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Four Seasons Baku)
	Overnight Stay

WEDNESDAY, May 29 (BAKU)

9:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM	Participation at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening Ceremony: Vision for Future
11:00 AM	Keynote address at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening (US-Azerbaijan Strategic Partnership in the Caspian Region)
12:30 AM	Meeting with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev (Future of US-Azerbaijan Relations)
1:00 PM	Lunch with President Aliyev (Current Issues on US-Azerbaijan Relations: Steps to be taken; Security Challenges with Russia and Iran)
3:00 PM	Visit and meet with Hon. Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament (US-Azerbaijan Congressional Relations)
4:00 PM	Back to US-Azerbaijan Convention
5:00 PM	Keynote Speech about "Energy Security from the Caspian to Europe: the Changing World Energy Security Dynamics: New prospects for the Southern Energy Corridor"
5:30 PM	Back to Hotel & Rest
8:00 PM	Dinner & Gala at US-Azerbaijan Convention (Together with American and Azerbaijani Dignitaries hosted by the Parliament Speaker Hon. Ogtay Asadov)
10:00 PM	Back to Hotel
11:00 PM	Overnight Stay

THURSDAY, May 30 (BAKU)

4:15 AM Flight back to US by Lufthansa (LH613)
1:50 PM Arrival in Houston

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.
"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 6

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Sponsors

the US Congressional Delegation Trip to Turkey and Azerbaijan

May 24th to June 1st, 2013

ITINERARY

Friday, May 24 (WASHINGTON DC)

11:25 pm Departure for Turkey by Turkish Airlines (TK8)

Saturday, May 25 (ISTANBUL)

4:00 pm Arrival in Istanbul
5:00 pm Transfer to Hotel
5:30 pm Hotel check in & Rest for 2 hours (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
7:30 pm Dinner with the Members of the Turkish Parliament from Istanbul Region (US-Turkey Congressional Relations; Further Steps to be Taken)

Sunday, May 26 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 am Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am Briefing at Hotel by the US Consular Staff (US-Turkey Relations)
11:30 am Visit to Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople (Minorities in Turkey)
1:00 pm Lunch with Leading Journalists (Freedom of Press in Turkey)
3:00 pm Visit to Writers and Journalists Foundation (Diversity in Turkey)
5:00 pm Back to Hotel
7:00 pm Dinner with Academicians (Higher Education; Turkish Students at US Colleges & Universities)
9:00 pm Back to Hotel
10:30 pm Overnight Stay

Monday, May 27 (ANKARA)

6:00 am	Early Wake up and Early Check out
8:00 am	Departure for Ankara by Turkish Airlines
8:30 am	Breakfast on Air
9:30 am	Arrival in Ankara
10:00 am	Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Grand Ankara Rixos)
11:00 am	Briefing at the US Embassy (US-Turkey Cooperation for the Regional Security)
12:30 pm	Lunch at the Turkish Parliament with the Speaker of the Parliament (Turkey-US Congressional Relations)
1:30 pm	Meet with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties in the Parliament (Politics in Turkey)
2:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Turkish President (US-Turkey Cooperation on Regional Issues)
4:00 pm	Visit to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum (Hittites Age)
5:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours
7:00 pm	Dinner with the US Ambassador (Regional Security Challenges)
10:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Tuesday, May 28 (ANKARA-BAKU)

8:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 am	Visit and meet with the Turkish Minister of Defense (Turkey-Israel Military Relations)
10:30 AM	Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Energy (Energy Security for Eurasia)
11:30 am	Back to Hotel and check out
12:00 pm	Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
1:00 pm	Flight to Baku via Istanbul by Turkish Airlines
2:00 pm	Lunch on Air
7:00 pm	Arrival in Baku
7:45 pm	Transfer to Hotel and Check in (Four Seasons Baku)
8:30 pm	Dinner at a Restaurant
10: 00 pm	Overnight Stay

Wednesday, May 29 (BAKU)

8:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Visit to US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening Ceremony
11:30 am	Visit and meet with the Azerbaijani President (US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)
12:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs (The Future of US-Azerbaijan Relations)
1:30 pm	Lunch at US-Azerbaijan Convention Luncheon

3:30 pm	Visit and Meet with the Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament (Steps to be taken at Azerbaijani Parliament and US House)
5:00 pm	Visit and Meet with Minister of Border Security (Regional Security Challenges)
7:00 pm	Dinner at US-Azerbaijan Convention Gala
11:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Thursday, May 30 (BAKU-ISTANBUL)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) (New Pipelines from Caspian to Europe)
11:30 am	Briefing at the Department of Culture (Diversity of Civilizations in Azerbaijan)
1:00 pm	Lunch with SOCAR Executive Team (TANAP)
3:00 pm	Visit to Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (Higher Education in Azerbaijan)
4:30 pm	Briefing at the Department of Energy (Energy Security from Caspian Basin to European Market)
6:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Check out
7:30 pm	Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
9:00 pm	Arrival in Istanbul
10:00 pm	Transfer to Hotel and check in (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
11:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Friday, May 31 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am	Visit and meet with the Governor of Istanbul (Istanbul-Texas Trade Relations)
11:00 am	Visit and meet with the Mayor of Istanbul (Istanbul-Houston Sister City Relations)
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Briefing at Istanbul Policy Center (EU-Turkey Negotiations)
3:30 pm	Briefing at TESEV (Turkey's Democratization Process)
5:00 pm	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 Hours
7:00 pm	Dinner at a Turkish Family House (Turkish Family Values)
10:00 pm	Overnight Stay

Saturday, June 1 (ISTANBUL-WASHINGTON DC)

9:00 am	Breakfast at Hotel
11:00 am	Transfer to airport
1:00 pm	Flight back to US

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 7

Council of Turkic American Associations

Members of Congress
Educational Seminar in Turkey and Azerbaijan
May 24th to June 1st, 2013
Sponsored by Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA)

ITINERARY

Friday, May 24 (WASHINGTON DC)

11:15 PM Departure Washington, D.C.
Turkish Airlines (TK8)

Saturday, May 25 (ISTANBUL)

4:45 PM Arrival at Istanbul Ataturk Airport
Transfer to Hotel
Hotel check in & Rest for 2 hours (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)

7:00 PM Dinner with the Members of the Turkish Parliament
(Members of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees)

10:30 PM Return to hotel
Overnight at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Sunday, May 26 (ISTANBUL)

8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
8:15 AM	Briefing at Hotel by the US Consular Staff (US-Turkey Relations)
9:30 AM	Depart hotel Visit to Topkapi Palace and Museum
1:30 PM	Lunch with leading Journalists (Freedom of Press in Turkey)
3:00 PM	Visit to Haghia Sophia & Blue Mosque (Beauty of Eastern Roman and Ottoman History)
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner Dinner with Academicians (Higher Education; Study Abroad to US)
10:00 PM	Return to hotel Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Monday, May 27 (ANKARA)

7:00 AM	Early Wake up and Early Check out
8:00 AM	Departure for Ankara Turkish Airlines TK2108 Breakfast on Air
9:00 AM	Arrival in Ankara Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Grand Ankara Rixos)
10:30 AM	Visit to the US Embassy in Ankara Briefing (US-Turkey Cooperation for the Regional Security)
12:00 AM	Lunch at the Turkish Parliament with the Speaker of the Parliament (Turkey-US Congressional Relations)
1:30 PM	Meet with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties in the Parliament (Politics in Turkey)
2:30 PM	Visit and Meet with the Turkish President
4:00 PM	Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs
5:00 PM	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours

7:00 PM	Dinner with the US Ambassador
10:00 PM	Return to hotel Overnight Stay at the Grand Ankara Rixos

Tuesday, May 28 (ANKARA-BAKU)

8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 AM	Visit and meet with the Turkish Minister of Defense
10:00 AM	Visit and Meet with the Turkish Minister of Energy
11:00 AM	Back to Hotel and check out
11:30 AM	Transfer to the airport
12:00 AM	Departure for Istanbul Turkish Airlines TK2139
3:00PM	Flight to Baku via Istanbul by Turkish Airlines TK334 Lunch on Air
7:45 PM	Arrival in Baku Transfer to Hotel and Check in (JW Marriott Baku)
8:30 PM	Dinner at Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center
10:00 PM	Return to hotel Overnight Stay at the JW Marriott Baku

Wednesday, May 29 (BAKU)

9:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM	Visit to US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening
11:00 AM	Visit and meet with the Azerbaijani President (US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)
12:30 AM	Visit and Meet with the Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs (The Future of US-Azerbaijan Relations)

1:30 PM Lunch at US-Azerbaijan Convention Luncheon

3:00 PM Visit and Meet with the Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament
(Steps to be taken at Azerbaijani Parliament and US House)

4:30 PM Visit and Meet with Minister of Border Security
(Regional Security Challenges)

7:00 PM Dinner at US-Azerbaijan Convention Gala

10:00 PM Return to hotel
Overnight Stay at the JW Marriott Baku

Thursday, May 30 (BAKU-ISTANBUL)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)
(New Pipelines from Caspian to Europe)

11:30 AM Meet with the Mayor of Old City and Tour in the Old City

1:00 PM Lunch with SOCAR Executive Team

2:30 PM Visit to National History Museum

4:00 PM Visit to Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Terminal (BTC)

5:00 PM Briefing at the Department of Energy
(Energy Security from Caspian Basin to European Market)

6:30 PM Back to Hotel and Check out

7:30 PM Transfer to the airport and departure for Istanbul
Turkish Airlines (TK335)

9:45 PM Arrival in Istanbul

10:30 PM Transfer to Hotel and check in (Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel)
Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Friday, May 31 (ISTANBUL)

9:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM	Visit and meet with the Governor of Istanbul
11:30 AM	Visit and meet with the Mayor of Istanbul
1:00 PM	Briefing and Lunch at TANAP (Linking Caspian to Europe)
2:30 PM	Visit & Shopping at Grand Covered and Spice Bazaar
5:00 PM	Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 Hours
7:30 PM	Dinner at a Turkish Family House
10:00 PM	Return to hotel Overnight Stay at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Saturday, June 1 (ISTANBUL-WASHINGTON DC)

10:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
11:00 AM	Transfer to airport
1:34 PM	Flight back to US Turkish Airlines (TK7)

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 8

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Sponsors & Organizes

US Congressional Member Trip to Azerbaijan

May 27th to May 30th, 2013

Turquoise Council

ITINERARY

MONDAY, May 27 (HOUSTON)

6:00 PM	Departure for Azerbaijan (by Lufthansa LH7600)

TUESDAY, May 28 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

8:55 PM	Arrival in Baku
9:45 PM	Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Four Seasons Baku)
	Overnight Stay

WEDNESDAY, May 29 (BAKU)

8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 AM	Briefing at by the US Ambassador to Azerbaijan
10:00 AM	Keynote address at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening (US-Azerbaijan Shared Vision for Future in the Caspian Basin)
11:30 AM	Briefing at Border Security Department (Border Security Issues and Challenges with Iran and Russia)
12:30 PM	Visit to the Parliament of Azerbaijan and Meet with the Speaker of the Parliament (US-Azerbaijan Parliamentarian Relations)
1:30 PM	Lunch & Remarks at US-Azerbaijan Convention (US-Azerbaijan Strategic Statehood)
2:30 PM	Visit and meet with the President of Azerbaijan
3:30 PM	Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (Southern Energy Corridor and Eurasian Energy Security)
4:30 PM	Briefing at the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (Issues & Challenges: Next Steps to be Taken at US-Azerbaijan Relations)
5:30 PM	Back to Hotel & Rest
7:00 PM	Dinner & Gala at US-Azerbaijan Convention (Together with American and Azerbaijani Dignitaries)
9:00 PM	Back to Hotel
10:00 PM	Overnight Stay

THURSDAY, May 30 (BAKU)

4:15 AM Flight back to US by Lufthansa (LH613)
1:50 PM Arrival in Houston

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.
"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

EXHIBIT 9

US - AZERBAIJAN CONVENTION

Vision for Future

May 28-29, 2013
Baku, Azerbaijan

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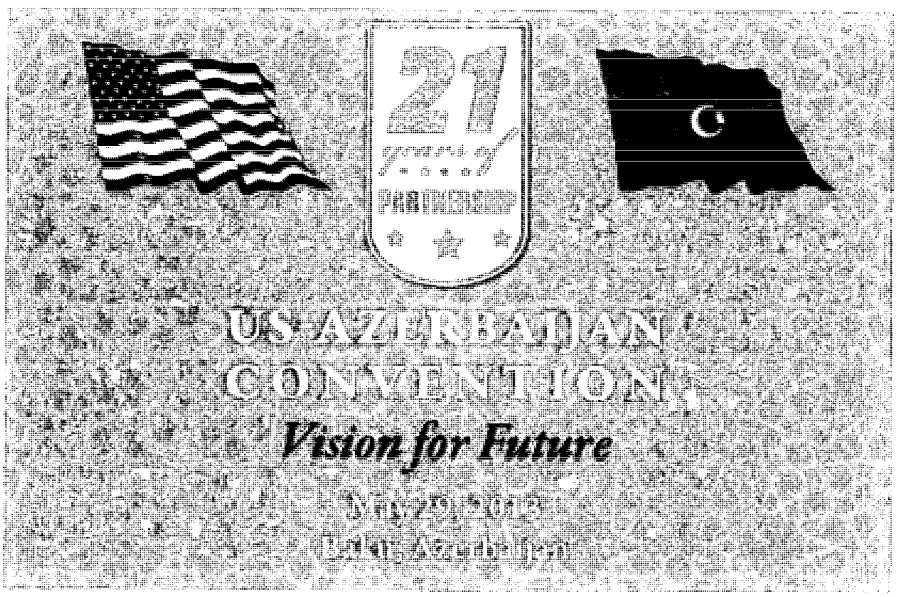

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Vision for Future

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Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE), based in Houston and active in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Washington DC, is an independent umbrella organization with the goal of supporting and deepening the political, cultural, and business relations between U.S.—Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan while continually exemplifying its commitments to American principles, the Council hopes to advance economic and political interests within the proven framework of democracy, religious freedom and global prosperity.

More information is available at www.turquoisecouncil.org

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Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan

www.afaz.org

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http://www.usazconvention.org/organizers.html

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US-AZERBAIJAN CONVENTION

Azerbaijan and United States: Tested and Proven Allies

Azerbaijan is located in a strategic region at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Middle East and borders with Russia, Georgia, Turkey and Iran. The country is becoming an increasingly important transportation and energy hub along the historic Silk Road, bringing together Western and Asian markets. Azerbaijan is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and is firmly committed to building a self-sufficient, democratic and prosperous society. . .

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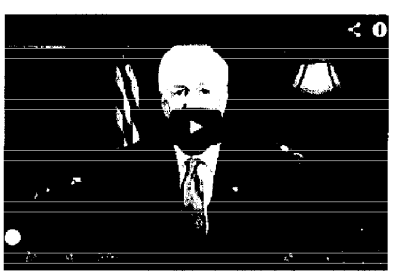
MESSAGE FROM US DIGNITARIES

Message from US Senators

US Senator Roger Wicker, MS

US Senator John Cornyn, TX



Message from Governor O'Malley, MD

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US - AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS PPT

MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENTION ORGANIZER

WHY US-Azerbaijan Convention?

US-Azerbaijan Convention is yet another opportunity to discuss and expand the strong relationship between two nations based on shared interests and mutual respect. Last year we marked the 20th years of the U.S. – Azerbaijan partnership; and, on that occasion, the Convention in Washington focused on Azerbaijan's progress since restoring its independence and its contribution to global energy security. ...

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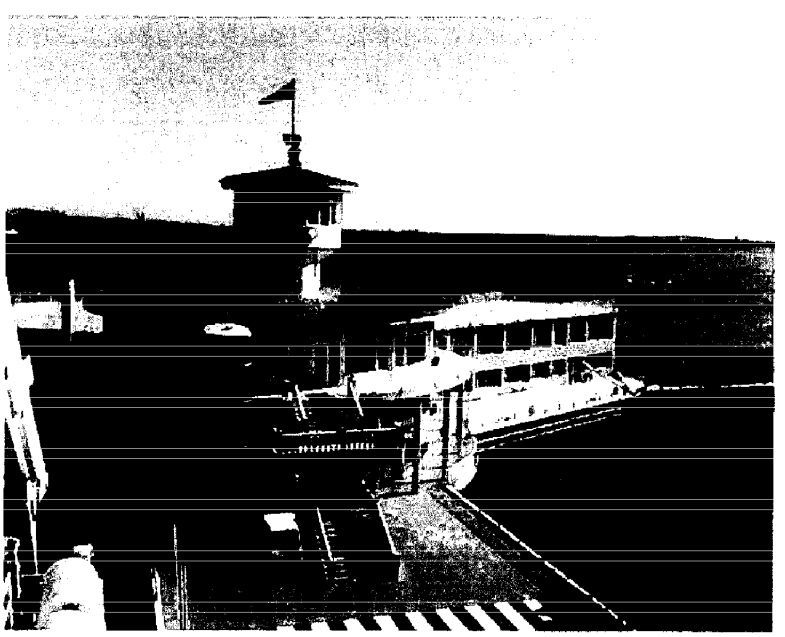
US - AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS PPT

WELCOME RECEPTION

May, 28 @ 8:00 PM

Speaker: Mr. Rovnag Abdullayev President of SOCAR (TBC)

Venue: Restaurant "Yacht Club" Neftchiler Avenue 108 *Baku,* Azerbaijan AZ1000



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OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING CEREMONY @ Auditorium

Haydar Aliyev Center

Haydar Aliyev Avenue, Baku, Azerbaijan AZ1095

8:00 – 9:45 AM -- Registration

10:00 – 11:30 - OPENING CEREMONY

Plenary session "US-Azerbaijan Relations: Shared Vision for Future"

Video Presentation "Azerbaijan Land of Future"

Welcoming address by Azerbaijan's High Ranking Official

Speakers:

Senator Richard Lugar

Ambassador Richard Morningstar

Congressman Ted Poe, TX

Congressman Gregory Meeks, NY

Congressman Mike Turner, OH

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, TX

General Duncan McNabb

Governor Bill Richardson

Mr. Jim Messina

Mr. Robert Gibbs

Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, TX

Congressman Steve Stockman, TX

Congressman Jim Bridenstine, OK

Congresswoman Michelle Grisham, NM

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US - AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS PPT

MORNING SPECIAL SESSIONS

SPECIAL SESSION I (Ballroom C)

Conversation with Jim Messina on "Shaping a Presidency, Electing a President: Insights from America's Premier Political Strategist"

MODERATOR: Kemal Oksuz

NOON SPECIAL SESSIONS

SPECIAL SESSION II (Ballroom B)

Conversation with Valerie Biden Owens on "Women's Leadership Role in Governance"

MODERATOR: Shafag Mehraliyeva

SPECIAL SESSION III (Ballroom C)

Conversation with Mikayil Jabbarov, George Friedman, Congressmen Ruben Hinojosa, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congresswoman Yvette Clark on "Turning Black Gold into Human Capital: Investing in Azerbaijan's Future"

MODERATOR: Fariz Ismailzadeh

SPECIAL SESSION IV (Ballroom D)

Conversation with Paul Wolfowitz on "Azerbaijan at the Strategic Global Crossroads"

MODERATOR: Elshad Nasirov

AFTERNOON SPECIAL SESSIONS

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SPECIAL SESSION V (Ballroom B)

Conversation with David Plouffe on "United States and Its Allies: Common Vision and shared Values"

MODERATOR: Kemal Oksuz

SPECIAL SESSION VI (Ballroom C)

Conversation with Robert Gibbs on "The White House, the Nation and the World"

MODERATOR: Joshua Walker

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US - AZERBAIJAN CONVENTION

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CLOSING SESSION

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CLOSING SESSION @ Auditorium

"Strategic Partnership between US and Azerbaijan: Next Steps to Be Taken"

MODERATORS: Jerrold D. Green, Jennifer Wistrand

SPEAKERS:
Congressman Ted Poe, TX
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, TX
Congressman Gregory Meeks, NY
Congresswoman Yvette Clark, NY
Congressman Steve Stockman, TX
Congressman Jim Bridenstine, OK
Congresswoman Michelle L. Grisham, NM
Representative Debbie Rodella, NM
Representative Jonathan Barnett, AR
Representative Moxley, KS
Senator Brandt Hershman, IN
Representative Ronald Walters, WV
Representative Henry Zuber, MS
Representative David R Miller, WY
Senator Gene Davis, UT
Representative Lance Gooden, TX
Senator Stacey Campfield, TN
Representative Helene Keeley, DE
Senator Jim Davis, NC
Rida Cabanilla, HI
Representative Helen Miller, IA
Representative Peter Barca, WI
Representative Lance Russell, SD
Senator Philip Murphy, ND
Senator Alice Johnson, MN
Senator Jolie Justus, MO
Senator Branden Durst, ID
Senator Pamela Roach, WA
Representative Mark Montigny, MA
Representative Lenette Peterson, NH
Senator Chris Bray, VT
Representative Upendra J. Chivukula, NJ
Senator Ronald N. Young, MD
Representative Ron Stephens, GA
Representative Jim Patterson, AL
Representative Sharon Pritchett, FL
Secretary of State Debra Bowen, CA
Secretary of State Doug La Follette, WI
Secretary of State Mark Martin, AR
Congressman John Sullivan, OK
Congressman Russ Carnahan, MO
Congressman Dan Burton, IN
Congressman Michael McMahon, NY
Honorable Yashar Aliev
Ambassador Elin Suleymanov

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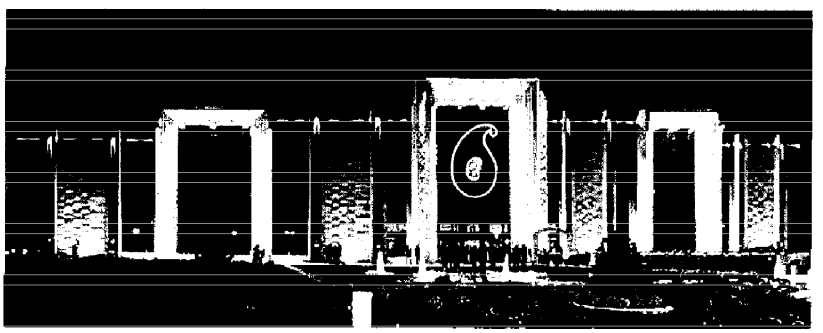
US - AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS PPT

GALA AND DINNER

Gala & Dinner @ Buta Palace

May 29, 2013 @ 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Speakers:
Ambassador Elin Suleymanov
Governor Brad Henry
Congresswoman Yvette Clark, NY
Congressman Leonard Lance, NJ
Congressman Danny Davis, IL
Congressman Russ Carnahan, MO
Congressman John Sullivan, OK
Congressman Dan Burton, IN
State Senators, State Reps...



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THE STATE OIL COMPANY OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC-SOCAR

The State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) is involved in oil and gas exploration, production, processing and transportation, as well as the marketing of petroleum and petrochemical products in domestic and international markets. SOCAR operates offshore and onshore production units, two oil refineries, a gas processing plant, a special oil fleet, a deep

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CASPIAN DRILLING COMPANY

Caspian Drilling Company (CDC) was established on September 15, 1996 between the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (55%) and Santa Fe

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McDermott is one of the largest US-based engineering and construction companies exclusively focused on upstream offshore oil and gas sector.

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Texas in the United States. It is also one of the Fortune 500 companies and

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Azeri MI Drilling Fluids LTD is a joint venture founded in 1997 between SOCAR the national oil company of Azerbaijan and M-I LLC of Houston the world's leading provider and manufacture of drilling and completion fluids.

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EXHIBIT 10

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF MCDERMOTT VICE PRESIDENT

4/13/15

Nate Wright: This is Nate Wright here from the Office of Congressional Ethics with Bryson Morgan. We are interviewing McDermott Vice President, and on the phone, I believe we have Sean Tonolli from Cahill as well as Komal Patel. I apologize if I mispronounced anyone's name. McDermott Vice President, what is your current position within McDermott?

Witness: I'm currently Vice President of Strategic Relationships. In fact, that's a position that has recently been made redundant and I'm serving out a redundancy period, but that is my current position.

Nate Wright: How long have you been in that position?

Witness: I've been in my current position since May of 2014, so approximately one year.

Nate Wright: Okay. What was your previous position?

Witness: Prior to that, I was a senior director of operations for Caspian region based in Baku in Azerbaijan.

Nate Wright: Okay. In that capacity as senior director for operations in the Caspian, who did you report to within McDermott?

Witness: During that period, I reported to the Vice President for Middle East business unit who was based in the business unit headquarters in Dubai.

Bryson Morgan: Okay.

Nate Wright: You were based in Baku then?

Witness: That's correct. The position I took I moved back to Dubai in October of 2012 and I was resident in Azerbaijan until July of 2014, so I was a resident there for a period of approximately a year and a half, a little more.

Nate Wright: Was your focus then on Azerbaijan, in that position?

Witness: Yes it was, my position was called Senior Director of Operations Caspian, so by nature of the title, it was broader than Azerbaijan, but during my tenure there, the only active project we had was in Azerbaijan. It was a single project, so a lot of my remit covered the risk of the Caspian region as we interpret it which includes Kazakhstan and the Russian sector on the Caspian Sea. In fact, those areas were dormant and all the focus of my work during my tenure was in Azerbaijan.

Nate Wright: What kind of activities speaking generally because obviously we don't need the specifics of your interactions day-to-day, but what types of activities would you do in that position?

Witness: We had a single contract for a single project during that period. It was a large project. It was called COP or C-O-P which was the Chirag oil project and that was a large marine construction project for the supply and installation of several pipelines and associated facilities for AIOC, the Azerbaijan International Operating Company.

I returned to Azerbaijan after that project had commenced and really my role was to see through the execution of that project and to see it completed. My day-to-day activities were very much associated with the execution of the substantial marine construction project.

Nate Wright: Okay. Are you familiar with SOCAR?

Witness: Yes, indeed. SOCAR is the State Oil Company Azerbaijan Republic. For the project that I went to Azerbaijan for with McDermott, we're in alliance with SOCAR, so I'm very much familiar with them in a day-to-day relationship with SOCAR.

Nate Wright: Were there any people in particular that you interacted with most commonly at SOCAR?

Witness: Yes, under the nature of the alliance between SOCAR and McDermott, SOCAR had contractual rights and obligations to provide a small number of key people in our project team and it was envisioned from the outset that McDermott would provide the senior manager for the project and for the operations and SOCAR would provide the deputy. We had a SOCAR representative in the project team and he was my frequent day-to-day contact. In addition to that, we had regular but very much occasional contact with the next or a more senior management level in SOCAR. Really to explain from the day-to-day point of view, it was the SOCAR representative embedded in our operations and then on a maybe a monthly or [indecipherable] bases interaction with the management level in SOCAR.

Nate Wright: How does SOCAR, what is its relationship with the AIOC?

Witness: SOCAR actually has several layers of operation. It's a state-government oil company, but it's vertically integrated. If you like, at level one, SOCAR is the host government legislator for the industry and the holder of the production sharing contracts with the international oil companies. That's level one. At level two, it was actually a member of the consortium

that made up AIOC. AIOC is a consortium operation of many or several different parties of which BP as the operating oil company. Then through those sort of two types of relationship which is why SOCAR was connected with AIOC, both as a shareholder in the overall AIOC company, but also as the state government legislator for the production sharing contract.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to ask now about US-Azerbaijan convention. Are you familiar with ... It's an annual convention. Are you familiar with it?

Witness: Yes, I am.

Nate Wright: What do you understand the purpose of the convention to be?

Witness: Well, I became familiar with it when we were invited by SOCAR to sponsor the event held in 2013 which I then learned was being held in Azerbaijan on rotation. I understood when I found out that month that there had been a previous smaller convention held in the United States the prior year and I thought I understood or I got the impression that it was a convention that rotated each year between the US and Azerbaijan and generally the purpose was to improve the understanding in relationships between stakeholders in the US and Azerbaijan especially stakeholders involved in the oil industry and some of the associated government departments.

Nate Wright: Let me make sure. You didn't attend the 2012 convention in the Willard, did you?

Witness: No, I did not. No, I was not aware of that convention at that time. In fact, at that time, I was working in another part of our company and not involved with our Azerbaijan operations at that time.

Nate Wright: Okay. But you later understood that McDermott was a title sponsor to that convention?

Witness: Yes, at that time, we were contacted about participating as a sponsor to the 2013 convention. It came to my attention that we had been a title sponsor the previous year, yes.

Nate Wright: That means that McDermott didn't contribute money to the convention, is that correct?

Witness: That is correct. I didn't know that at that time, but I looked into it and found that that was the case, so true. Hindsight, looking back as to actually

the circumstances of the 2012 convention, yes, I learned that we had been a title sponsor, but actually not an attendee nor a financial sponsor.

Nate Wright: Is that unusual to not be a financial sponsor?

Witness: I really don't know. I would have thought it was probably a little unusual, but it was something I hadn't been aware of until 2013?

Nate Wright: Okay. Let me ask about the 2013 convention in Baku. I'd like to direct your attention to the document page labelled MCD OCE 117.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Do you remember this email?

Witness: Yes, I do.

Nate Wright: Is this the invitation by SOCAR you referenced before?

Witness: Yes, it is.

Nate Wright: Do you remember any discussions about this convention prior to this email?

Witness: Prior to this email, no. This email was the first information I received about the convention.

Nate Wright: Okay. There weren't any discussions of sponsoring the convention to your knowledge prior to this email?

Witness: That's correct. There are none to my knowledge prior to this email.

Nate Wright: Who is the person that it's from? Do you know?

Witness: The email comes from a staff member in SOCAR. She signs herself as an economist in the joint ventures and alliances department investments division which is the division of SOCAR which handles arrangements like ours to be an alliance partner so that's where the email is from.

Nate Wright: Does that fit into ... You were talking about the layers. Is that in the first layer where SOCAR is ... She fits into the sort of the first layer where SOCAR was acting as kind of like a legislator for the industry?

Witness: No. I would actually say this is from the third layer. Really SOCAR has four layers. I explained layer one as the state legislator. Layer two as a

shareholder or participant in the production sharing joint venture company. Layer three then is the layer that we deal in where SOCAR forms alliances with international contractors to facilitate the presence and operations in Azerbaijan of contractors with international capabilities and reputations. Then in fact there's a layer four where SOCAR has subsidiaries who maybe subcontractors to those prime contractors. I would characterize the joint ventures and those alliances as a layer three part of the SOCAR corporation.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Bryson Morgan: This is Bryson speaking. This person Aynura Ahadova was not a person who had been deputized to your group? Is that correct?

Witness: That's correct. She was not.

Bryson Morgan: Okay.

Nate Wright: What was your inclination after receiving this email? Did you want to sponsor the event or not or what was your response to it?

Witness: I suppose to explain my response firstly, I perhaps should say that I didn't know, I don't know the sender of the email, Aynura Ahadova I saw the title she used to sign it off, but then I saw that the email was addressed to me and copied to Mehman Orujaliyev To me, that was very significant because Mehman Orujaliyev is the head of the joint ventures and alliances department. Mehman Orujaliyev is one of the two SOCAR board members on our alliance board, and to me, that gave it a lot of authority and indicated that it was something I should look at and, if you like, take seriously, so I read it. I tried to find out a little bit about it and I immediately referred it to our SOCAR representative who was the SOCAR employee embedded in our operations to inform him that I had received it and really asked him to look into it and find out what was it about and what the expectations of us from his management work.

Nate Wright: Could you say just one more time just to make sure we have it clear for the record what this Mehman Orujaliyev was his position was at that time?

Witness: Sure. The way we operated at McDermott was in an alliance. There was a formal agreement which was to form the SOCAR McDermott alliance to undertake the work at the project and that alliance had a governing structure and the governing structure provided for two management representatives from each entity. Two from SOCAR, two from McDermott. Mehman Orujaliyev was one of the two SOCAR board members of the alliance.

Nate Wright: Were you one of the board members from McDermott?

Witness: No, I was not. I was, if you like, the ... Effectively the chief executive reporting to the board. My job was a day-to-day job, very much, if you like, hands on. Part of that job was to prepare reports to the board who would then give direction and take any necessary decisions on the direction of the alliance. I was not a board member, but I attended board members ... I'm sorry. I attended board meetings in order to brief the board and provide progress reports.

Nate Wright: You're receiving this because you're one of the chief executives for McDermott in the region. Was that you're understanding?

Witness: That's correct. Very much so. I was the senior McDermott person in the region, and as I said, when I saw that Mehman Orujaliyev was copied on this, I realized that it was coming with, if you like, some imprimatur from our board

Nate Wright: You had mentioned that you then sent this or had a conversation with one of the SOCAR representatives that was embedded in the project team to ask about expectations and things like that. What, if anything, did that representative get back to you and say?

Witness: Yes. That's quite so what I did. I asked him to find out about it and he came back within a pretty short time. I'm sure he made some telephone calls and came back to tell me about the nature of this convention that it was … It's a big, quite a large convention, that it was something that SOCAR was keen to ensure, took place and took place well. It was a successful event. I supposed in a way, it showed Azerbaijan and its capabilities well to those attending the convention, and he told me that he had spoken with his management in SOCAR that they would be pleased if we, as one of the alliance partners, and he also told me that a number of other alliance partners were being approached that as really a community of the international companies who were operating in Azerbaijan especially those with US parents, if we as a community would be prepared to provide a little sponsorship to the conference. That was essentially the nature of it.

Nate Wright: I'd like to ask about the second paragraph where it talks about the organizers. Was it important to you who was organizing the convention?

Witness: I suppose it was of interest to me. The way we operate as a company. It was then a matter of referring this to my colleagues in other parts of my company to vet these entities and find out about them. I was not especially familiar with the entities. I certainly am familiar with John Hopkins

University and some of the work it does, but I wasn't particularly familiar with these individual entities. While it was of interest to me, it wasn't so much important to me as it would have been important to my colleagues. Then under our process is it was my role to refer this to others.

Nate Wright: Okay. Why do you think that SOCAR was asking for sponsorship both from McDermott? You mentioned that there were a number of other alliance members being approached. Why do you think SOCAR was doing this?

Witness: I really didn't know. I asked my colleague, the representative embedded in our project team from SOCAR. Really the background was this … Effectively my question was in lieu of the fact that the sponsorship isn't ... Sorry. The conference isn't exactly being organized by SOCAR itself, it is something that SOCAR is supporting and, if you like, promoting? And the answer was yes very much so.

Nate Wright: Okay. Now I want to turn to another document.

Witness: Okay.

Nate Wright: The beginning of the document, there's MCD OCE 232, but I'd like to direct your attention to page 235.

Witness: Just a minute, let me scroll down to that one. 235?

Nate Wright: Yes.

Witness: Just a minute.235, yes, I have that now.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to start with the bottom email from Bruce Hatton and it appears that this is two days after the invitation email we just looked at, but I realize you probably didn't see it until a little bit later when it was forwarded to you. But what is your reaction to the contents of this email? It talks about that Hatton had a conversation with representative Poe, that he plans to attend the convention. Did that make you more inclined to seek sponsorship from McDermott or what was your reaction to this email?

Witness: Yes, if I may, can I just explain some of the names on it. It might just help you with understanding, but Bruce addressed this to three people in the company, Stewart Mitchell, Ravisankar Mamidanna, Gulia Taghiyeva in May of 2013. I explained I think I returned to Azerbaijan. I had worked there previously. There had been another operations for 5 years or so. I returned to Azerbaijan operations in October 2012. When I returned, I actually replaced Ravisankar Mamidanna, so I was reporting to Stewart

Mitchell and I was taking the role that Ravisankar Mamidanna previously held. That kind of explains the names.

Your question as to when I did get to see this ... seen that Bruce had referred to a meeting with a congressman from Texas. No, that didn't really cause me to think any differently about sponsorship. It did cause me to think that's why I needed to contact Bruce and find out a bit of background as to whether there was further information I needed about Bruce's role, any information Bruce had, anything that Bruce might like me to do or observe or report on or pick up on for the conference. It was really, really more that. I suppose my response was more of an operational response than it was a sponsorship response in terms of seeing that Bruce had named someone, kind of triggered me that we needed to find out about that a bit.

Nate Wright: Okay. In this email, Bruce references that there's going to be meeting between Representative Poe and the president of Azerbaijan and he also references that Representative Poe is going to deliver and address ... Was there anything that you would want him to say in either of those forums?

Witness: No. I don't believe or recall that there's anything that we would want a congressman to say. It was really from my point of view making sure that Bruce had the information he needed if he needed to brief Congressman Poe before he participated in the conference.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to direct your attention now to the top of page 235 and it might be helpful to flip back over to 234 because I think it shows the top of the email from Gulia where she sent this chain along to you. It looks like she sent you the email chain from Bruce and then also attached … I think the first email that we looked at is the invitation by SOCAR. Does that sound correct?

Witness: I can't recall the attachment but yes that certainly sounds correct. I think as I mentioned, Bruce had directed his email to actually my predecessor rather than to me, but he also copied Gulia so Gulia was playing catch up and making sure that things that were sent to the person, to the name rather than the position got to the person now filling the position.

Nate Wright: Okay. She mentions we've been invited by SOCAR, but she doesn't mention the other organizers. Is that because ... Why is that do you think?

Witness: Well, I think because the invitation did come from SOCAR. Clearly when we look at that invitation, they explained that there are other entities organizing the conference but the fact that the conference was taking place was brought to our attention by SOCAR and our discussions as to what, if

you like, SOCAR's expectations of us and others in the community were with SOCAR themselves. Maybe rightly or wrongly, we were thinking in terms of SOCAR's sponsorship, if that's the right word. That's not the right word. SOCAR is interested in encouragement in the conference rather than the actual organizers, I would say.

Nate Wright: Okay. You were more interested in where the invitation came from than say that Representative Poe is going to be at the convention? Is that ... Am I mischaracterizing you?

Witness: No, I don't think you are. I think that's correct. I mean my interest if that's the right word in the convention was really much more what role I should take being resident in Azerbaijan and what SOCAR might expect with us rather than who might be attending from the states.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to switch to another document, MCD OCE 129.

Witness: 129, yeah?

Nate Wright: Yes.

Witness: Just a minute. I have it. Yes, 129.

Nate Wright: Okay. You can take a minute if you'd like to refresh your recollection and glance through it.

Witness: Yes, go ahead.

Nate Wright: Okay. Do you recognize this?

Witness: Yes, I do.

Nate Wright: Okay. Why is it that the assembly of friends of Azerbaijan is inviting McDermott to sponsor, it looks like roughly nine days after the initial invitation from SOCAR?

Witness: Yes, that's right. Probably there's a week or so after that and ... When I first request ... I mean I mentioned that I asked by SOCAR colleague, the representative who was embedded in our office to kind of find out about it. Then the next person I contacted was Gulia, our public relations manager, who had a role in these types of activities to look into it as well. I know she also followed up with SOCAR to find out more information.

Then within the week or so, this document arrived, which was pretty much consistent with the email we had from SOCAR where it was SOCAR who

contacted us, that it's there in their initial invitation or their initial correspondents that it was other parties who were organizing the conference. This seemed to be the follow up that next layer of follow up from the actual organizers to us directly.

Nate Wright: What is the assembly of friends of Azerbaijan?

Witness: I was not familiar with that at that time and I think as I mentioned earlier that at this stage then it was kind of my role to talk to this colleague as a part of that company to look into and to vet the entities who are contacting us with respect to sponsorship.

Nate Wright: Do you know what, I'll refer to it by its acronym of AFAZ. Do you know what AFAZ's relationship was with SOCAR?

Witness: No, I did not.

Nate Wright: Okay, when you reached out to SOCAR representatives and you also mentioned that Gulia may have reached out to representatives with SOCAR, did they ever articulate their relationship with AFAZ?

Witness: Certainly not to me. My discussions were probably pretty brief on that I'm not aware whether they do it or not with Gulia, but they didn't with me, no.

Nate Wright: Okay. Why would this letter go to Gulia? Would someone have told ...

Witness: Probably because it was Gulia who had contacted SOCAR. We got that email a week or so earlier, I asked my SOCAR embedded colleague to get a little bit more information which he did and then within a day or so we passed that on to Gulia and I understood Gulia then got in touched with people at SOCAR to follow up and to commence the process of determining whether we would be in a position to sponsor.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to go real quick to the second to the last paragraph on this first page, 129. It talks about assembly of friends together with the Turquoise Council will serve as the sole organizers at the convention. Do you know what happened to the other organizers of the convention mentioned in that first email we looked at, the USAN, John Hopkins Caspian Strategies Institute?

Witness: No, I do not. I don't know.

Nate Wright: Did that raise any questions to you, that the organizers were changing this close to the time of the convention?

Witness: I didn't focus on it. Firstly at that time, what I did do is make sure that this information was brought on to my colleagues in our internal compliance organization to look into those issues and to vet the entities that were involved.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to ask. There is another document provided to us. It is MCD OCE 473. It's another version ...

Witness: 473?

Nate Wright: Yes. It's another version of this same letter that was produced to us and it was produced to us with designating you as the custodian. Do you have that one in front of you yet?

Witness: I have 473 on my screen now, yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. This is one that was produced to us at least designating you as the custodian and you'll see TCAE, that portion was highlighted. Do you remember highlighting this?

Witness: No, I don't. I don't believe I highlighted that.

Bryson Morgan: Okay. Could you tell us a little bit about the process that would have been completed by McDermott to vet the organization's AFAZ or TCAE or whoever was receiving the money?

Witness: Yes, I'll tell you what little I know because in fact the processes are I don't participate in, but I'm generally aware. Let me first, if I may, just say that the, in the normal course when we have requests for sponsorship or really in any form of funds going outside the corporation, we do that on an annual basis and we do it in the financial year prior to the event date. In the normal course, had we learned about this event ahead of time being held in I think it was May 2013, the time to submit the requests for sponsorship had been vetted and approved or not approved and ruled on by our corporation would have been approximately 9 months or so earlier, probably in about the third quarter of the preceding calendar year or financial year. That's our normal process.

From time to time, we do get requests which don't comply with one year's notice and then we take those as received on an ad-hoc basis and clearly that was the case. On this occasion, we only had notice of this event literally a couple of weeks before the event, so it was done on a one-off, if you like, expedited basis. Really the person most familiar with the process itself was Gulia, so I asked Gulia to submit an application and see whether it may or may not be approved by the corporation.

I'm aware that the first step of any such request is for vetting to take place, but I'm really not familiar with the way the vetting takes place. It's done within our compliance group, and our compliance group has staff to do these things. Some of those staff are attorneys and they look into these matters, do whatever vetting may need to do to satisfy themselves, to know them and make a recommendation for management approval, but more than that I really can't say because I've not actually participated in one of those vetting exercises.

Nate Wright: Okay. All right. Who is Kemal Oksuz, the author of this letter?

Witness: I don't especially know. The only guidance I have there was the way he signed which was, as the senior officer of AFAZ, but I have no other information.

Nate Wright: Did you know any relationship he may have had with the other organizer indicated on this document, TCAE?

Witness: No, I didn't and I have to say that I mean my kind of role was to pass this onto my colleagues, but no I had not such information.

Nate Wright: What was his relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: I don't know. The only thing I knew was that it was SOCAR who contacted us essentially requesting that we participate as a sponsor in this event and in explaining who in the first correspondence who the organizers were, but I don't know of any relationship between either the individuals or the organizations with SOCAR.

Nate Wright: It looks like based on this document, AFAZ is based in Houston. Does it seem unusual to you that a Houston, like a US-based company is getting SOCAR to send out invitations to sponsor an event?

Witness: Not especially, I suppose. I mean SOCAR certainly has a global footprint themselves and I suppose at that time I just assumed that SOCAR had decided that this conference was a worthwhile event and they would like to assist the organizers in having it take place, but more than that, I don't know.

Bryson Morgan: Was that an unusual thing for SOCAR to be doing in your experience or were they, on a number of occasions, involved in inviting McDermott or inviting other companies to sponsor events?

Witness: To my recollection, this is the only time we had been approached by SOCAR to sponsor an event that they weren't, if you like, personally hosting.

Bryson Morgan: Were there other times where you were asked to sponsor events that SOCAR was hosting?

Witness: To an extent, I mean we had been a participant in an annual conference or industry conferences. We had been asked to sponsor publications in which they were also involved. At that time, I had returned to Azerbaijan in the October of 2012. I've been there about perhaps 6 months, 7 months, something like that. I hadn't in that time had any other request of this nature, so for me, it was the first time I had a request from SOCAR along those lines.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to turn to MCD OCE 128.

Witness: 128.

Nate Wright: Yes.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nate Wright: Specifically your email toward the top dated May 17. You write, we are being strongly encouraged by SOCAR so we need to prepare a sponsorship request ASAP. What did you mean by that?

Witness: Let me just pull it up. One, two ...

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Yes, I have it. This was within I think a week or so of getting the initial request. I was on just a little pressure of time because I was leaving Azerbaijan at that time on a trip and really wanted to make sure that we did at least get an application for sponsorship for our internal application for vetting and management approval underway. Actually if I think back I doubted that we had the lead time available to process an application and get approval within the very short time frame, a couple of weeks before the event. As we had been asked by our alliance partner SOCAR to participate in this event, it was apparently going to be an event that they thought was important that we at least make the effort to submit an application. At this particular time I was under a little bit of pressure time because I was going to be away for a few days so I wanted to see if we could get the application in before I left.

Nate Wright: How was SOCAR strongly encouraging you?

Witness: Reading back, that sounds like maybe a little bit of dramatic license associated with that expression. The encouragement that I was getting was through our embedded representative, that's all, who had been in touch with his management and he brought the message back for me from his management effectively from Mehman Orujaliyev that SOCAR was keen to see this event take place and keen to see it successful and would be pleased if we and others with their alliance partners would participate. That was really, really it. The strong encouragement from SOCAR was really a few reminders and phone calls and discussions with our SOCAR representative.

Nate Wright: Okay. Did it strike you as odd that SOCAR was, that this convention was important to SOCAR when SOCAR wasn't personally hosting it?

Witness: I suppose in a way it was a little puzzling but given the nature of it and the size and the logistics, it seemed that SOCAR was, although they weren't the organizer, SOCAR themselves were putting some resources into assisting the organizers.

Bryson Morgan: Did you have a sense of what the role of the organizers was? Was it I can think of sort of in one end of a continuum, you would have SOCAR status of being that that is similar to McDermott and that they are providing funds as a sponsor but not really involved in the organizing or planning of the convention. On the other end of this continuum would be a situation in which SOCAR has essentially hired the organizers to put on the convention on SOCAR's behalf. Can you give me a sense of where on that continuum you felt this convention was?

Witness: I think that's probably a good question or perceptive question, if you like, of the way things happened in Azerbaijan because an event of this size or magnitude with these sorts of participants simply wouldn't happen if SOCAR weren't, a, supporting it and, b, probably fairly actively involved. Along that continuum at the one end of SOCAR really just being a nonparticipating sponsor that really wouldn't see it happen.

At the other end of SOCAR engaging someone to organize on their behalf, I don't think it would go that far. What I would have guessed from an event like this to happen in Azerbaijan, I would certainly have expected that SOCAR was firstly supportive of the whole concept and secondly providing resources to assist with it, with its organization and with it taking place. Maybe somewhere along the middle of that continuum, perhaps a little more than the middle towards the end of more involvement by SOCAR in this. But for an event like this in Azerbaijan, I would have

guessed that SOCAR was supporting and providing some kind of resources.

Bryson Morgan: In your conversations with the SOCAR representative, was there any specific discussion of SOCAR's financial support for the convention?

Witness: No, there was none.

Bryson Morgan: Any specific discussion of steps SOCAR was taking to sort of assist with the convention?

Witness: Not in particular, but logistics of support from other government departments was probably along those lines, as I recall. I mean the fact the president was speaking at the session and the thoughts of venues that were being used, I certainly got the impression that SOCAR was probably providing some sort of liaison with other parts of the governments or the other ministries to ensure that the event had the attention and the profile that made it really just to take place smoothly.

Nate Wright: Okay. How did this convention compare to the other events that SOCAR would personally host?

Witness: The couple of sessions that I attended, looking back on it, I would say that it probably would be reasonably similar. There were certainly senior SOCAR officers, independents at the events, although they weren't the only ones and they weren't running the events. It wasn't … I suppose if I think about other things where SOCAR themselves were the sole organizers, then those would have had a bigger SOCAR flavor. This seemed to be well-presented, well-run with SOCAR in attendance rather than SOCAR, if you like, as the primary organizer.

Nate Wright: Okay. Are you familiar with an organization called practical solutions group in Baku?

Witness: No, I don't believe so. It doesn't ring a bell. Practical solutions, no I don't ... I can't say that I am.

Nate Wright: Okay. Now turning back now to MCD OCE 233.

Witness: 233.

Nate Wright: Yes.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nate Wright: Then down at the bottom email from Bruce Hatton to yourself and Gulia, it talks about providing talking points to Representative Poe. Did you review any talking points that were provided to Poe?

Witness: Well, that were provided to Bruce, yes. My correspondence was with Bruce but Bruce had asked for a little information which I sent back to him, yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Is that information that's at the bottom 233 over to 234?

Witness: That's right. We were able to provide Bruce in pretty short order with a write-up with some information that had been available to us. Then Bruce had some questions and we responded to those questions.

Nate Wright: Okay. Then in your email in the middle of page 233, you say that you've given two names provisionally, but you don't know if you could get approval for sponsorship, so by ... Am I correct? By May 21, you had made the decision to seek sponsorship?

Witness: Well, yes, I think that by then, indeed, because I think we just looked at the message which was a couple of days earlier on about the, I can't recall, was it 17th or 18th. We're going have to get with Gulia on the preceding Friday to get the information together to commence a sponsorship request and then on the back of that, reading through, if you like, the rules of sponsorship, the lowest level of sponsorship was a silver sponsor and that's associated with getting two tickets to an event or some events.

On that assumption, that ... Certainly on that basis that basis that we were submitting an internal application for silver sponsorship. If that were to be approved, then the other entitlement would be to two tickets ... That means we needed to get names. I got two names. I asked my colleagues what their expectation was, who should be attending. Should this be Azerbaijani staff or expatriate international staff and they made it clear to me that those involved from SOCAR would be pleased if I attended and then one of my other senior colleagues ... I nominated one of my senior Azerbaijani colleagues at government affairs management.

Nate Wright: Okay. When you talk about giving two names, those names were given to SOCAR?

Witness: Well, those names were given to Gulia and I'm sure they went through to SOCAR because it certainly seem to me that SOCAR was doing a ... compiling a list maybe for the organizers but that was one of the roles they were taking with SOCAR who was asking us who our attendees would be.

Nate Wright: Okay. Then I think MCD OCE 134.

Witness: 134. Just a minute. Yes, go ahead.

Nate Wright: Is this bottom email where Gulia was supplying the names for the convention?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. These are ...

Witness: I think we ... The other correspondence we saw was on the Friday and by this, this is the next Tuesday by which time I believe we had actually submitted our application internally. Based on having submitted an application, we were giving them on a heads-up as to who the attendees would be if the application came through.

Nate Wright: Okay. The people in the to and the CC line, who are these people?

Witness: I recognize the last … There are five names there in the CC line. I recognize the last 3 there are my colleagues in McDermott. The first two names in the CC, I believe they are staff within the SOCAR group. I believe, I don't know, but certainly that was my at least assumption when I saw this email.

Bryson Morgan: Okay. Is Ismailova, he is in SOCAR. Is that correct? I think if you look over on 135, the email comes from him.

Witness: Yes, I believe so, yes.

Nate Wright: Is that a person you were familiar with?

Witness: No.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: My dealings with SOCAR were pretty limited in the number of people I dealt with. We had an embedded representative and I dealt with him and with three of this management team. He had a staff in SOCAR who did a lot of transactions my staff dealt with but I didn't know them.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to ask some questions about the sponsorship process to the extent you know and I realize that you have a more limited role in it, but I guess I just had some questions that maybe you can help me shed some light on. Do you have MCD OCE 138?

Witness: 138. Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yes, I have that.

Nate Wright: He wasn't on this.

Bryson Morgan: The 377?

Nate Wright: Yeah. The bottom complete email from Susan Smith to Saliba Tawil. She talks about ... She asked did you happen to vet TCAE? Then up at the top, the response is, initially she couldn't access the website, but the invitation letter was from the Assembly of friends of Azerbaijan. Do you remember anyone asking you about ... asking you to help in vetting these organizations?

Witness: No, I don't and I don't remember it because I don't believe it took place in that sense. I didn't see these emails until quite recently. I normally wouldn't. The vetting process is kind of contained within our compliance, our procedures in our organization, so really, to me, now it will sound quite normal. I know the people. I know their roles in the company, but I was not involved at that time.

Nate Wright: Okay. All right. You attended the least portions of the convention. Is that correct?

Witness: That's correct. Yes. In fact, I attended two things. I received specific invitations to the opening dinner and then the next morning to the gala dinner I suppose it was. Then the next morning to the opening session of the conference and I attended both, two of them.

Nate Wright: The opening dinner was hosted by SOCAR. Is that correct?

Witness: Look I don't know. I can't say with certainty who the host was. It was certainly a big event. In fact, it turned out I was one of the hosts because when I got there, the seating plan had me listed as a local host for a table, but yeah, it seem to me that SOCAR was largely involved with that.

Nate Wright: Did it seem unusual to you that McDermott was being treated as a sponsor for the convention even though you hadn't gotten sponsorship approval yet?

Witness: It did. I actually doubted that we would get sponsorship approval in the time available, and that proved to be the case. There just wasn't enough turnaround time to both do the vetting and get management approvals. I actually thought that we will be timed out. By not having confirmed to be sponsors, we perhaps wouldn't be … the invitations to attend wouldn't be extended to us. That proved not to be the case. I was a little bit surprised. I

believe it was on the morning of the day at the dinner or it might had been on the afternoon of the day of the dinner.

We, my office had a telephone call from SOCAR. They said they had invitations ready for us that those invitations, there was a lot of security involved, associated with the event and that entrance would be strictly based on having invitation in hand and some coordination was required to get the invitation to us in time to attend the dinner. It was kind of a little bit like that. I was a little bit surprised to be invited at short notice when we hadn't confirmed our sponsorship yet.

Bryson Morgan: Do you recall who with SOCAR made that phone call to you?

Witness: To my PA. I mean it was a staff in SOCAR calling staff in our office to say that they had an invitation ready for me. I remember my PA coming to tell me that she had a call and that was I free to attend this dinner tonight because there was an invitation being hand carried over to the office or something to that effect.

Nate Wright: Okay. You mentioned that there was a security at the event. Were there other people there where there were sort of volunteers directing traffic? Do you remember people helping with logistics for the event?

Witness: Yes, there were many people directing traffic and helping with logistics, but I don't believe they are volunteers. I think that was the Azerbaijan Police Force. It was a big event and there were roads closed, barricades up, checkpoints and police officers are pretty much everywhere making sure that only those people with invitations made it through.

Nate Wright: Okay. Is that the same with ...

Witness: I'm going to say that that's not unusual in Azerbaijan. Clearly the president of SOCAR was attending. I suspect the ministry of energy, maybe some other government ministers, that could be kind of normal for an event with senior attendees like that.

Nate Wright: Who did you interact with at the convention? Did you have interactions with SOCAR at the convention?

Witness: Very, very briefly. I went to the dinner by myself and I saw some people I knew. I spoke to some people briefly and then I had an assigned seating plates which I went to and that was pretty much it. I did speak to a couple of SOCAR people I knew. I mentioned earlier my day-to-day dealings with an embedded representative and then he had a management team he reported to which was really ... I mean there were three people I dealt

with, the two board members and one other manager in SOCAR and I certainly recall speaking to one of those three I saw in the evening. I spoke to him. The rest of it, it was a big event. I mean there were hundreds and hundreds of people and the rest of it was really just meeting people as you went at the dinner.

The next morning at the convention, it's the same. I went to that by myself and saw a handful of people I knew from other places and spoke to them. I didn't particularly spend much time or a long time with SOCAR people and I did in fact meet a lot of new people at both events.

Nate Wright: Were you provided transportation to get to the event or did you provide your own transportation?

Witness: I provided my own transportation. The way we operate in Azerbaijan is we had at that time some staff cars and some staff drivers and I had our McDermott car driver who took care of me.

Nate Wright: Okay. Did you see what role AFAZ was playing in the convention while you attended?

Witness: Specifically AFAZ probably not particularly. I recall being just a little bit confused as to who was AFAZ and who was Turquoise and ... but clearly, those groups were playing a role in introducing speakers. They were giving some background as to their role as organizations in sponsoring and facilitating good relationships between the two countries, but not much more detail in that really.

Nate Wright: Okay. Do you remember if it was the same individual speaking on behalf both organizations?

Witness: No, I don't remember.

Nate Wright: Do you recall seeing or meeting Mr. Kemal Oksuz while you were at the convention?

Witness: No, I don't recall. I remember meeting one gentleman from Turquoise or one of the parts of Turquoise at the dinner that I attended, but I don't remember meeting any of the other.

Nate Wright: Okay. Do you recall that individual's name?

Witness: I don't recall their name, but I know where to look it up. Yeah, I made a copy of some business cards of the people who are on our table at the dinner and sent those through to Bruce. I have a record of that.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to turn back real quick to some questions about the sponsorship just to get a little bit of an understanding. I realize you have a limited involvement in it. If you could look at MCD OCE 479.

Witness: 479? Just a minute. Yes, I have that.

Nate Wright: This was I believe included in some packets that talked about the convention and sponsorship for the convention. Do you remember anyone asking you what AFAZ was because as you can see on this document and we actually looked back at the website for the organization in May 2013, the only information on it is coming soon. I'm wondering were people concerned about who the Assembly of friends of Azerbaijan was?

Witness: I'm not sure how to answer that other than to say within our organization, I passed that onto our [inaudible] within our compliance group and sort ... The way we're set up is kind of part of their responsibility to look into that and to see whether this was an organization that we felt we were able to provide sponsorship to.

Nate Wright: Okay. I want to turn your attention now to MCD OCE 438.

Witness: 438. Just a minute. Yes, I have that.

Nate Wright: Okay. This is the request for contribution for the convention and I realize your role may have just been in signing at the bottom. I believe that's your signature under originator's manager. Is that correct?

Witness: Almost, yeah. I think we looked at a document earlier where I was saying to Gulia, can we please get this drafted by today because I'm going away for a few days. In fact, I think that document was on the ... I can't remember the day of the week. I think that was on a Friday. It may have been the date is about the 17th. I did work with Gulia to draft the document but it wasn't ready for signing until I had actually jumped on a plane, so that document was signed on my behalf by my authorized deputy.

Yes, it was signed for me with my knowledge, but actually that's not literally my signature, but it was signed under delegation authority, so sorry to be pedantic but that's, yes, I recognize that, yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. I guess what my confusion here is to sort of just ask the question. You get the invitation from SOCAR, then another invitation from the assembly of friends to sponsor. This form designates TCAE as the organization that will receive the funds to be paid, and then there's another document, MCD OCE 123, and in that document, it looks like it's a wire

transfer to the Assembly of friends of Azerbaijan. We're trying to figure out where did this contribution go. Did it go to ...

Witness: Right. If I look at 438, that's actually provided in 438 when we submitted that to both for compliance review and for management approval. That document says the name and organization which the funds will be paid is TCAE. Then in the remarks box which we try to be quite precise in explaining, we said that we had been invited to sponsor and participate by SOCAR. It was an unusual set of circumstances. We wanted to make sure to whom this document is being sent, that it was clear that firstly that, we, locally in Azerbaijan had been approached by SOCAR to sponsor, but we've been approached by SOCAR to sponsor someone called TCAE by the time we're at this point of submitting the document.

Bryson Morgan: We're just hoping you can explain to us why then it appears that document with the number 123, that it appears the wire transfer ultimately went to AFAZ as opposed to TCAE.

Witness: Right. I don't know, but my ... At the time I submitted the sponsorship request or it was submitted on my behalf, with my approval was we ... At that time, we had thought we understood that the entity was TCAE and it appears that, that's changed at some time.

Bryson Morgan: Okay. Were you involved in that change? I mean you say it appears it changed. Is that just what you understand from looking at these documents?

Witness: No, look I don't recall being involved in any change of entity. I don't recall it, but clearly now that I look into documents, it changed.

Bryson Morgan: As between these two documents, so looking at 438 and then 123, which one ... If you were to say which organization the money actually ended up going to ... would you say the document, the invoice at 123 would be the more accurate record as opposed to the request?

Witness: Actually the 123 isn't so much an invoice. 123 is an internal McDermott document. MCCI is the acronym of our operating company in Azerbaijan, so what is this is invoice back up and it is an internal accounting document which provides the accounting information, the account covered and the currency, that sort of thing. This is a document generated internally which would absolutely match up with our banking records. 123 would be our, from McDermott's books and records, 123 would be part of our records of the payment.

Nate Wright: That would be a more accurate reflection of where the money likely went than the document at 438 which is just a request for a contribution?

Witness: Well, yeah, I think I would say it's stronger. It's not a record of where the money likely went. It's our accounting record of the payment.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: It's later dated and it documents the vendor. To us, the vendor is the entity to then we take the money. This is an accounting record of a payment that has been approved to be made to a named entity.

Nate Wright: Okay. The amount of your sponsorship, $10,000, it seems small in comparison to the overall size of the convention. Did you have a sense of whether or not other sponsors were providing more funding or where was the funding for this convention coming from?

Witness: You may see that in some of my correspondence with Bruce, but that was a little bit of a puzzlement to me, whether I just didn't spend enough time reading the documents so I didn't dig into it deep enough. But until I actually attended the dinner, I really ... and for that matter, the opening session the next day, I really had no idea how big this convention was and it surprised me when I go up to the dinner that the dinner was for so many people. It surprised me that so many of those people were visitors to Azerbaijan and it didn't take very much mental arithmetic to work out the sponsorship we were providing was kind of a proverbial drop in the bucket.

The document we were sent with the invitation, the sponsorship had three grades of sponsorship. I don't have that in front of me now, but we deliberately chose the smallest, so if you like ... to be polite, to be responsive but not to burden ourselves financially more than we, if you like, needed to. It was a silver sponsorship with $10,000 and I think there was gold and platinum and they were a little bit higher, maybe $20,000, $25,000. I can't remember. To be honest, when I saw the size of this convention, even if all of the alliance companies in Azerbaijan and a number of other American companies clearly have been approached.

We have in Azerbaijan a number of other US-based organizations, accounting companies, various public accounting firms, various others, I recall, a number of people in the community. But honestly, all of us that participated still wouldn't be much more than a couple of drops in the bucket. Yes, I was a little bit almost taken aback by the size and sophistication of the event given the amount that we were invited to sponsor.

Nate Wright: Did you have any sense of who was providing the rest of the bucket in terms of funding?

Witness: Not in any demonstrable way other than conjecture and clearly this was an event that was being supported by, if you like, Azerbaijan Inc. By that, I mean by the Azerbaijan government through ... especially through SOCAR and therefore presumably through the ministry of energy and perhaps other ministries as well. I don't know that, but it appeared to me that significant funds were, if I just do the mental arithmetic as to how many attendees times the airfares, times the hotel bills, it runs into the millions and our sponsorship was in the few thousands. It would strike me that the entities or the organization with the financial capacity to provide that sponsorship would likely be government entity.

Bryson Morgan: I think those are all the questions we have, but while we're still on the record, if there's anything else you'd like to add, feel free to speak now.

Witness: Thank you. As I reflect, I don't believe there's anything that you haven't covered that I believe I should add, so I think the response from me is no, I have nothing to add. No. Thank you.

Nate Wright: All right. Well, with that, I think we'll stop the recording right now.

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ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Current	Correction	Reason
2	21	Dubai	Baku	To clarify the record.
2	28	a lot of	while	To clarify the record.
2	28	risk	rest	To correct transcription error.
2	29	on	of	To correct transcription error.
2	30	.	,	To clarify the record.
3	15	in alliance	in an alliance	To clarify the record.
3	30	[indecipherable]	less frequent	To clarify the record.
3	30	bases	basis	To correct transcription error.
4	17	in	and	To correct transcription error.
4	28	that	the	To correct transcription error.
4	28	time,	time	To clarify the record.
4	29	convention. It	convention, it	To clarify the record.
5	5	?	.	To correct transcription error.
5	19	are	were	To correct transcription error.
6	6	maybe	may be	To correct transcription error.
6	28	work.	were.	To correct transcription error.
11	2	correspondents	correspondence	To correct transcription error.
11	17	do	discussed	To correct transcription error.
11	23	touched	touch	To correct transcription error.

[redacted]

12	26	had been	to be	To clarify the record.
13	16	had not	did not have	To clarify the record.
14	32	pressure time	time pressure	To correct transcription error.
15	31	wouldn't see it	wouldn't	To clarify the record.
15	33	from	for	To correct transcription error.
16	8	of	or	To correct transcription error.
16	10	thoughts	sorts	To correct transcription error.
17	22	on that basis that basis that	on that basis	To correct transcription error.
17	30	colleagues at	colleagues, our	To correct transcription error.
17	30	management.	manager.	To correct transcription error.
18	16	my at least	at least my	To correct transcription error.
19	16	the least	at least	To correct transcription error.
19	19	dinner and then the next morning	dinner.	To clarify the record.
20	33	plates	place	To correct transcription error.
21	22	in	than	To correct transcription error.
22	12	[Inaudible]	employees	To clarify the record.
24	7	then	whom	To correct transcription error.
24	7	take	pay	To correct transcription error.
25	4	Azerbaijanis	Azerbaijan Inc.	To correct transcription error.
25	12	entity.	entities.	To correct transcription error.

[redacted]

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This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 21 APR 2015

EXHIBIT 11

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

4/7/2015

MS. EISNER: This is April 7, 2015. I am Helen Eisner joined by Omar Ashmawy, our Chief Counsel for the Office of Congressional Ethics. This is review number 15-2786. We are joined by Michelle Lujan Grisham.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You did that name pretty well, not perfect, but pretty well.

MS. EISNER: Well teach me how to do it perfectly.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Lujan.

MS. EISNER: Lujan.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You did it. Very nice.

MS. EISNER: I will get that right in the future.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You don't even need to worry about it.

MS. EISNER: We are also joined by Pat Fiori? Is that –

MS. FIORI: Correct.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So, we will go ahead and get started with the interview. As Omar mentioned, we're going to show you some documents and just go through everything. I'll ask some questions, Omar will ask some questions; hopefully it will just be a conversation. So are you familiar with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I am.

MS. EISNER: And how did you become familiar with them?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: When they approached our office with the trip invitation to visit Turkey and Azerbaijan and that's when I became really familiar with them. I was aware, but just barely that they existed as a Council in terms of people who work in New Mexico and participate with some legislative activities here? So, I was aware of them, but didn't know anything about them.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So you were aware of them just through your work. Was there any –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: In a way that they had a professional relationship with policymakers, that they…the first time that I knew anything about them at the federal level, in any context, was when they came to us and presented us with information about this potential trip and that's it.

MS. EISNER: Do you know what kind of work they do?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: They do the policy work in New Mexico that I'm familiar with and familiar, again, as I'm aware because there's a title related to their educational event of some kind, is mostly economic development and also cultural exchange; those would be the two.

MS. EISNER: Okay and is there any particular individual there that you are familiar or anyone that in your office had worked with?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I had met, it's…Kemal? Is that right? Or Resul?

MR. ASHMAWY: It could be either one.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So, one of them…and I apologize for this, but you'd have to show me a photo, you'd think as an elected official I'd be better at that, but one of them I had, was familiar to me by sight in New Mexico. And we have about a small legislative body and I worked in state government for two decades and so that I could tell you that that's a person that I've seen at the legislature.

MR. ASHMAWY: Does the name Kemal Oksuz, ring a bell?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The last name's not going to – it's going to be the first two names, Kemal and Resul. Did I do that right or did I just rhyme them now and make it even worse?

MS. EISNER: I think to the best of our ability, that seems… close –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Let me put that in a more professional context. To the best of my ability that's all I know. Yeah.

MS. EISNER: And so, we're not sure exactly of their last names of these people at this point.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I have no professional, prior relationship with them and no prior Congressional relationship either.

MS. EISNER: So how often did you interact with them?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I would…I can't really say there was any interaction before going to Congress and then the initial interaction was a visit in our office, introducing themselves to us. You know a ten minute meeting, maybe? And then making us aware that this trip and I remember when they made us aware of the invitation for the educational trip that they identified that they…that this trip was important. One of the reasons it was important is that they tried to create a parallel track for local policymakers

and federal policymakers, so that you're looking at some of the state issues as well as the federal issues that you could make a comparison about that in a policy making context.

MS. EISNER: And when did that meeting happen?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You know…I would - we would have to look. It would definitely be on our schedule some place, but it would be within some proximity for them making a formal request about the trip and then having us, then provide all of that information and documentation to the House Ethics Committee.

MR. ASHMAWY: So it would have had to have happened prior to asking for permission from Ethics to go on the trip?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right. So they make us aware that they're working on a trip through their educational foundation, I'm going to call it that; that's what I refer to everything, every group, every entity. And then they provided them the specifics, which is basically how we get invited to most of the trips, educational or codels. I don't know why I'm distinguishing between the two; we treat them exactly the same. Information comes to the office about the potential, we then say, "got to get us the documentation", they give us whatever they believe to be the right stuff and then we give everything that we've gotten to the House Committee on Ethics.

MS. EISNER: So I want to talk to you a little bit more about that process, but before I do, just one other question. Are you familiar with the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. I'm aware by virtue, our conversations now and some of the stuff that's come up you know, outline, but no familiarity with them at all and nothing until after there were questions about the trip.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I didn't notice anything about them.

MS. EISNER: So, let's get into that process you know when the educational foundation comes to you and says that they want to bring you on a trip. What is the formal request? What does that look like?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well they have to – so that goes to my Chief of Staff. I'm…to the best of my knowledge, it's the dates of the trip you know, the basic description of the trip, a reiteration that it's an educational trip and that they are – that they have independently submitted to the Committee.

MS. EISNER: And are those details which they provide or you asked them to provide? Is that a part of your process?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I think it's a combination in our process. You know I've only been on two trips, so we've…we had an early protocol which is, based on the orientation for Members of Congress; your office doesn't have the resources to do that due diligence. You are invited and really highly recommended for – not only trips, but any question about any ethic activities, you need to come to this Committee and ask us in advance, you can do that informally or you can do that formally. For any kind of a trip, that's a formal request; that's in writing from our office, this is what we've been asked, this is what we have and then we're waiting for you. We don't give any approval to go on any requested events or trips until we receive permission from the Committee on Ethics. For those two reasons, right? We don't have the expertise and we don't have the resources; even if we did to provide that due diligence, so whatever we get goes to the Committee on Ethics and then we rely on their decision and their review and investigation before we affirm that we'll participate.

MS. EISNER: Sure.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, no that makes sense. And just –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And even with this that, will be the protocol moving forward.

MS. EISNER: Yeah. Well, so kind of stepping back, just to go through some of the details of what occurs before it does go to the Committee on the Ethics. You know, it comes to your staff, you've talked about some of the details that are probably in the request or maybe you asked for, is there any type of policy or you know, kind of suggestion for staff about the types of questions they should ask?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, we ask for the dates, we ask for an affirmation that you've gone to the Committee, that it's going to be an Ethics approved trip and then we then, submit everything you've given us back to Ethics saying that we want permission as an office. Not just that this group says that they can go, right? We also get an affirmation; it's both. So, that's our process.

MS. EISNER: Are there any questions about funding?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, I don't think we asked. We asked – again, it's just the dates, the outline of the trip, an affirmation that you went to the Committee on Ethics and we submit the things you've given us and …our assumption, which should be a fair assumption, is they should be doing all of the funding reviews because there's no way we would have the resources. Even if we asked you for something, how would I know if it was valid?

MR. ASHMAWY: Just to be clear, who should be doing the --

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Committee on Ethics.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay, just being clear since we're recording.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Which is why we go there.

MR. ASHMAWY: So, the question is, who should be doing the funding reviews in your opinion?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, in my opinion, it's clear that that's a role of the Committee on Ethics because they have to avoid those trips so they've got the expertise to do that. I mean for our office, again, not only from the orientation, there is an, I mean there may be, but I am unaware of any Member of Congress who has the resources or the staff who have the ability to do this effectively and I wouldn't want to rely to my detriment that somebody not being able to have the resources and the training to be clear about who would be an appropriate sponsor or not.

MR. ASHMAWY: So, did your office have any conversations with any of the people you interacted with you know, who suggested they were sponsoring this trip about funding?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: At all?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: To my knowledge, we had no conversations about that.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay, how about –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Except that, again, and it's not a funding issue, it's… this is an educational group and you are deemed so by, that's my language, and that you are deemed so by the Committee on Ethics. That's our litmus test. Go to the Committee, we know that they're going to do due diligence, we give them everything that we have and then we wait. And in fact, this trip as I recall, we did not get permission to go until late and I don't know whether that's, you'd have to tell me, whether that's typical or, or not in the context of their review process.

MS. EISNER: Because it seemed kind of late, was there any back and forth with the Committee about the approval process?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The only thing that I can recall, is that in order to do the scheduling, it's… do we know? But nothing specific.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No specific issues.

MS. EISNER: And I know you already talked about kind of all the details, but just one more question on that point to cover all my basis, was there any conversation about the organizations that were involved in this trip?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: None. To my knowledge, there was absolute no conversations except for the educational aspect of the trip and again, basic arrangements: date, time, place, agenda, all to Ethics.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So I think we're going to move on to some documents from that period of time which will hopefully start to jog everyone's memory. So, I am going to provide THMLG_0020-22. And I have copies for everyone. If you want to take a second and look that over.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So the email address at the top, is that your personal Gmail address? Just so we're –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That is.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And on this email, there is – the chain is Resul Oksoy, is that the Resul we were talking about early on?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I'd have to assume that it is. I can't imagine that there's a second Resul, but I can't confirm that that's the last name because I have no idea.

MS. EISNER: Sure. And who is Deborah Armstrong?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Deborah Armstrong was the Director of the State office.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So, Deborah forwarded you this email and the email says, towards the bottom on the first page, "We would make all the flight, hotel arrangements and your trip is completely covered by Turquoise Council." Did you discuss that statement with Deborah?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MS. EISNER: Did you discuss any issues related to sponsorship with Deborah?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. No and I don't even recall this forwarded email. I mean I see the chain and I think that's, again, we're trying to get to the scheduling aspects, but yeah.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So another document, it's THMLG_, this is just for the benefit of the recording of the transcript, 0133-138. And this is a continuation of that same email chain.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: You can see the dates are slightly later here, I think it's April 22nd through 24th, so it's just kind of following up on this aspect of the trip planning. So, who is Dominic Gabello?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Chief of Staff. Now one thing that you might have to help us check, I don't know if you checked this, but this is right when I'm changing Chiefs of Staff. I'm pretty certain that Dominic is the Chief of Staff.

MS. EISNER: Who was your former Chief of Staff?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Just a minute. Letty Mederos. Leticia Mederos, but I think she's already gone.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: April…

MS. EISNER: How do you spell her last name?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: M-E-D-E-R-O-S. So, I mean I didn't even think about that question about who is Dominic, but definitely my employee, definitely an agent of the office and probably Chief of Staff at the time.

MS. EISNER: So in this email chain, you can see they're sort of going back and forth about arranging a time to visit the office and this is an email between Dominic, Resul Oksoy and Kemal Oksuz. Is Kemal the, Kemal Oksuz, is he the individual you referred to earlier?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I believe he is. Again, I can't confirm the last name, but I…that's my assumption based with the email chain that those were the two.

MS. EISENR: Do you know if he did visit the office?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, I'm going to assume based on this that this is the meeting that we had in person about the trip. So…a meeting did occur about the trip in my office.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And were you present at that meeting?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I believe I was.

MS. EISNER: And what was discussed during that meeting?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So in that ten minute meeting, again, the dates of the trip, I'm sorry. But the dates of the trip, the basic outline, so you'll go to Turkey, you'll go to Azerbaijan, here are the policymakers that would be involved, these are the issues that we want to expose you to, these are the issues that we think are important to you and I think a clear discussion, this is an educational trip that's going to go to the Committee, we would also seek individual permission from the Committee before we would determine whether we could go. I think it's clear, not only based on the emails, but in my earlier statement about the ten minute meeting, we were interested in the trip, predicated upon getting permission to go.

MS. EISNER: So in addition to talking about approvals and kind of the technical aspects of the trip, did Kemal talk about the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Nope.

MS. EISNER: Did he talk at all about the mission of the convention or the purpose for the convention?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The convention and even though I can see that it's identified here, I was completely unaware of a convention as a separate thing as a parallel to this trip. So what I have is an agenda, the things that you will do and that might take away from looking at, maybe not looking at really, but from having a conversation with … is that these are meetings with government officials in both Turkey and Azerbaijan and that it would be Members of Congress and their staff and it would be, or if you took a guest, they would be participating in those official meetings and local policymakers would be at a majority of the meetings. And majority is my word, I'm just sort of making the way in which that conversation occurred, it seemed to me like the local policymakers would be at the majority, at the trip, they were not in the majority of meetings.

MS. EISNER: And who was going to set up these meetings? Who was in charge of planning?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The organizations for the trip.

MS. EISNER: And that was the Turquoise?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right and again, without you putting that right in front of me, it's the educational foundation I'm calling it that, those are, that's my terminology because I call everyone…that's my taxonomy for who supports these trips – to the Turkey-Azerbaijan trip, so.

MR. ASHMAWY: You were referencing just a moment ago, local policymakers, did you mean local American policymakers or local –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, local American policymakers so legislators primarily, but not all legislators. And I cannot recall, I apologize, but I am pretty certain from New Mexico, there were some other local elected officials and when I look on this email chain, it refers to a former legislator, Al Park and then a James Lewis, who was the State treasurer and I think…James Lewis was there. Without checking to see who was there, I don't know that I'm right about that that may just be in my head, but I am certain that in New Mexico and other states, Texas…and I want to say another state, anyway, but for sure Texas and New Mexico had legislators and then non-legislators, but other elected officials on the trip from their state.

MR. ASHMAWY: Understood. You thought- it was your impression before you had gone that most of the meetings would have those folks in them? Who would – just out of curiosity, who ended up being at most of the meetings then?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Members of Congress and then government officials.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Government officials from?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: From Turkey and Azerbaijan.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So their parliament, their president, I'm probably going to get the titles wrong which is bad, the security regime, legislators from Turkey –

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The minority party from Turkey…

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember meeting with anybody from, it's their State Energy Company, called SOCAR?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I do.

MR. ASHMAWY: What do you remember about that?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I remember that it was one of the organized meetings and I want to say I remember it was a morning meeting. And I -- my take away from that meeting, same thing, Members of Congress were there, that it was the state person responsible for that – their energy fund. So, the question that we had that – my question – this was my take away from that, is, how is that independently audited? And, it is not and I thought that was an astonishing practice and maybe that's unfair given my American political background…

MR. ASHMAWY: Did the SOCAR officials make any specific asks of you guys?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. The entire meeting was a presentation about how they do this fund, how it's a government fund, why that works in that context, how that design makes a difference, how their energy independence is useful for the region, what that might look like in energy policy of the future making sure we're dealing with that in the Middle East and then I was really interested in how do you audit that and who has access to that information so that it's transparent?

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you – I mean, recognizing that this was some time ago, do you recall any conversations about their USA entity, SOCAR-USA?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall any conversations about their relationship to the organization known as AFAZ?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Or to –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't even remember that terminology or that acronym ever being used. Again, that's the best of my recollection, I mean there's a group of us, everybody's asking questions and they were very formal and that's what I expected; it was the…a formal presentation. Good news about that is I expect that they are providing the same information so that we're looking objectively at the same thing. The bad news about it is, it's not as organic from a policymaking standpoint that you would desire. Although we were allowed that, I don't get the sense that we were discouraged from asking any questions. I mean I thought that the transparency question and could we look at the – if I requested as the policymaker, your financials come and get those and of course I don't think I ever asked for that, so we were not discouraged from doing anything like that.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Not to mention that the international protocol may be why I'm never invited again.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did during the conversation or any other time actually during the conversations, the topic of SOCAR's relationship to the Turquoise Council come up at all?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. I don't, in fact, I am fairly certain, again I appreciate that disclaimer, hence feeling like it's two years old, I don't think that there was ever a conversation with any government meeting about the Turquoise Council.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. Sorry, I just went off tangent.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, that's alright.

MS. EISNER: Do you remember if Kemal or Resul were present at that meeting with SOCAR?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't, but I don't think so.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And then did the SOCAR officials, were people present at that meeting? Did you see them throughout the convention, the conference in Baku?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, and I'm going to take a, which I probably shouldn't do, but I'm going to do the same thing you've done, it's very bad pattern and practice you're creating for me as a witness; the convention you know was, short. There was no introduction and no meetings with anyone so you picked up the…I think this is right, breakfast…let me see. Hotel, breakfast at hotel then their convention center which is in a very interesting architectural, I have to say that was –

MR. ASHMAWY: We've seen photos.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That was cool.

MR. ASHMAWY: Looks cool.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It was cool. The outside much better than the inside, inside like any other convention center, but if you've ever been to Barcelona there's this Gaudi kind of like, right?

MR. ASHMAWY: Yes, absolutely.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes, it was Gaudi, so that was for me, interesting. In a badge and a cup of a coffee and that's always memorable. I can usually tell you when I've had coffee. And then into the main conference hall and then an announcement that we were all speaking and that was not on the agenda. I'm usually not happy about that. Even in my routine and it was all basically kind of introduction, "this is a Member of Congress from New Mexico" and my name and then you say two minutes, we're delighted to be invited to visit Baku in Azerbaijan; no idea who's there –

MR. ASHMAWY: They didn't give you notice ahead of time that they wanted you to speak?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, none.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did they reference it afterwards? Did they apologize?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: No? Did they offer you guys an honorarium at all? Do you know?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. I mean, they offered me absolutely nothing. That would've made me nuts by the way, but no. And it was weird in this context, I don't know how to -- that's probably a poor choice of words, but in the context of the meetings it was like, this is – I didn't even notice it was a convention until you're there. Then I know it's a large educational something; you have no idea who's there and all the members sat together. We're all on the front row. We all got up and did two minutes, all introductory based comments. The only substance of stuff I think which I hold as bragging rights; I want that in the transcript, is the women were a bit tougher about looking at poverty issues and looking at women's rights and human's rights as we were on these trips and that we were going to be unabashed on doing that. That was really mostly the only substance; there might have been a couple introductory remarks by Members about the energy aspects of visiting Baku and recognizing what that means or doesn't mean for world energy issues, all valid, but it was quick. So you had every member do that and then we were back on a van and we went...then I believe the next thing on the agenda was at the president's house. The president was in that room in that auditorium. So we're all in a large auditorium.

MS. EISNER: So you got this unexpected request to speak, where did the request come from?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It's hard to say. I don't even know how to describe it. I mean, you're like sheep right? You got this approved agenda; they don't let you…you don't get to go anywhere which is an odd thing. Because I'm new right, at this, so I've been on government trips and if I'm in a second car, I can stop and get my own coffee or I can do – no. You are…you must be at the, you sit together at breakfast, you get marched into the van, you get marched off the van, you get marched into a place, you get marched off and so it's not really a request. It's…a door opens, here's your tags, everybody sit down and someone gets called up to say a few words at this – in this auditorium. And we all do as we're, I guess requested…asked. I mean I think it would be impolite to say no and they weren't asking us to follow a protocol or a series of comments or statements and it was all introductory. "This is who I am; this is where I represent; thank you for inviting me to Baku."

MR. ASHMAWY: And then did you stay for any of the content of the convention?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. No, they put us right back in the van. Because then we went to the president's dinner. Or lunch, I called it dinner. Lunch. Which was not at the same place.

MS. EISNER: Did it seem like, I know it's kind of hard to tell where the request came from you know, who was ushering you along as you're going from the van to different places along the way, but did it seem like there was one organization or any individual who's responsible?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. It really didn't. It just and it seemed just all part of the same people who were driving and putting you in the vehicles and you know, a company [indecipherable] a breakfast with the same people in our van. And I think there might have been enough of us that there were and you'll have to tell me, two vans? Maybe three? I can't recall. I was always in a vehicle with the Henry Cuellar staff and Hinojosa and his family? I think that was it. So my sense is that they had three members in their group plus how were staffed by and I'm going to call it, now I'm going to use your language which is the Turquoise Council, that they were and it was the same every day. It didn't switch.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did you see either Kemal or Resul?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I did. It's possible that I saw both that morning, but I can't be sure. But I – my recollection is that both were at the convention. I do not think both were at the lunch. I don't think so, but I can't remember exactly.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember if either one was?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I can't remember because they weren't in the van with us.

MR. ASHMAWY: They were traveling separately?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: They were traveling separately, yeah.

MS. EISNER: So I'm going to backtrack a little bit and go back, just still some of the initial planning stages and cover a few more documents.

MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah. Just before we actually do that, just because it occurs to me, was there any Azerbaijani representative in the van with you guys?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: So it was just the driver and the Members and their family?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah and then I don't know how to describe and I don't remember who it was. There was a person that met us in Turkey? And sort of makes sure that everything goes the way it's supposed to, keeps you on time and I can't even remember that person's name. Male, who was with us for the whole trip.

MR. ASHMAWY: Including the trip to Azerbaijan?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes and he was in the van.

MS. EISNER: Actually let me give you a document and see if this is – this helps –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: If you don't have a picture, we might be in trouble.

MS. EISNER: Unfortunately, no pictures, but we'll see if this helps at all. Okay, so this is THMLG_0219.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes. I'm already telling you yes. I recognize Mahmut. Yes, that's him.

MS. EISNER: Mahmut. And he was with you during–

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Always.

MS. EISNER: Always. Who is he?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, apparently based on this thing I'm looking at. He is the president, CEO of Raindrop Foundation so, I mean that's the hard part here, right? Again, I'll go back to my earlier statement, we have no outline and we have the request and we have the dates and give that to Ethics and then I just follow what that outline says and same with the other Members. And it's a bit cheap-like that's how it really works. You go to the airport and you get on your plane, you get off the plane and this guy who says, "I'm with the foundation" has a big sign with all your names on it and there's no introduction about you know, "This is my background, this is who I am, this is why I'm with you", but clearly, I mean it seemed hard to believe that just a total stranger knew that we were coming at that appointed time so I don't want to make it sound like we were completely foolhardy and just somebody could just figure out who we were and go. I mean they were completely organized, they had all the – they knew who we were; they knew who were the Members, who were the guests. They had the sign, the vehicles and he had one or two other people with him, right so that they went in the other vans so everybody had a type of person. This is how I remember it. In the vehicles, so you got into the hotel, they were responsible to get you to every meeting and then get you back.

MR. ASHMAWY: So they kind of kept you guys on track while on the ground in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes, both.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay, both.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah. It was not a new group in Azerbaijan; it was the same.

MS. EISNER: And again, these one or two other people, they seemed like they were connected to –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes, they all seemed connected and all –

MS. ESINER: Do you remember their names?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't and again, if you showed me a picture I could definitely…I think, at least one and I want to say to the best of my knowledge, he might have told me he used to be a professor maybe? I don't know? Tall…

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: But I can't remember his name. I apologize. I'm really bad with names.

MS. EISNER: A lot of people attended this conference so it's a lot of names. And I think this goes back to one of the other comments you made, just to clarify who some of individuals are, but this is THMLG_0217. And this is an email from April 17, 2013 between you and Dominic Gabello. And he asked who locally was pushing you on the Turkey trip and your response –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Sounds like a Thanksgiving question.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, it does. So this goes back to April 17, 2013 which is before –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Before the other one. Yeah, so and I…you like how I wrote the Turquoise Turkish group? That shows you I'm clear about the names of people and very effective at clearly identifying who that is. Al Park would be one of those local, he was a formal legislator, but still working with legislators and I don't even know if he's a lawyer, but I worked with him when he was Representative Al Park.

MR. ASHMAWY: And local to New Mexico?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Local to New Mexico, yeah. And I didn't really know which is fair about this statement, the Turquoise Turkish Group…a little embarrassed; please don't show me anymore of my emails where my Chief of Staff writes, Turkey trip like Thanksgiving and I write Turquoise Turkish Group. I'm very now concerned that this is going to become a public document and someone's going to not take responsibility for my poor grammar or the fact that I don't use punctuation in any of my texts or capitals.

MR. ASHMAWY: Nobody does.

MS. EISNER: Everyone would be in trouble.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well my mother would be appalled so please, I ask you, this is a formal request; do not show these documents to my mother.

MS. EISNER: So when he says, "who was pushing you", when he said pushing you, does he mean—

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That's our local more campaign, familiar, vernacular taxonomy for who was requesting. You know and I know you're familiar with this, it's something I'm getting more experienced at, on the one hand I work with incredible young people who have their own way with speaking and sick, hot, mad, weird, I never know what it all means and are also incredibly smart at the same time…

MS. EISNER: We'll try not to use that vernacular –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That's what it is, yeah. And this is – I would have never read that as a nefarious or a negative terminology, but yeah. Who's talking to you? More of a campaign push, yeah.

MS. EISNER: Just a few more questions and you know background to the conference. This is THMLG_0012-0019. I'm sorry; this is a somewhat long chain.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I hope you know now I'm sending Dominic to grammar school. Yes, professional writing school. I'm pretty sure there is a course in that.

MR. ASHMAWY: Take a moment to look at that.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: May…so it's after.

MS. EISNER: This would've been right before the conference.

MS. FIORI: Right before the trip.

MS. EISNER: Yes.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay, yeah. This is where I'm trying to understand how come we're not in coach and here it's clear that I'm cheap.

MS. EISNER: That's okay; we -- expensive flight there.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It is!

MS. EISNER: Yeah, no it is.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I tried to get out of there and I can't remember how that all worked out actually except that it didn't work out as well as I wanted it to. I was like, "come on, let us all be in the back of the plane." I mean we can watch any movies we

want, that way. So this looks to me, I'm on page…I don't know what page I'm on; I can't really tell. 3 out of 8?

MR. ASHMAWY: TH –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: We're having conversations about whether or not Ethics has given us the final okay. We don't know yet, we're not going unless we get it.

MR. ASHMAWY: The 3 of 8, is THMLG_0014.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So, if you had a chance to sort of – I'll give you another second to sort of look through.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well I'm now looking at just the flights.

MS. EISNER: Yeah.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: If I need something, I'll go back to it.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So on the first page, which is page 1 of 8; THMLG_0012. In the exchange between Dominic and Kemal, at the end of the exchange, Kemal says, "all is arranged according to the new Ethics guidelines." Do you know if anyone followed up to see if it was arranged according to the new Ethics guidelines?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, what I know is that, in spite of what they were saying to us, I was waiting for Ethics approval to come directly to us. So this, to the best of my recollection, this would not have triggered anyone in my office – and you can ask Dominic about that – to do anything except, "That's fine. You're getting your Ethics approval; we have to have a confirmation directly from Ethics." And I think, at least I read it that way, as soon as we get Ethics, I thought I saw that in here somewhere, we would let them know, but until we got the Ethics approval that was direct to our office, we wouldn't confirm that we would be on the trip.

MS. EISNER: Right. And then we talked about towards the end of this email exchange, really from 15 through 19, which is of this stack, 4 through 8; goes through the arrangements for travel and the –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I think this just goes through the travel.

MS. EISNER: It goes to the travel component; it's really the airfare.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right.

MS. EISNER: So, do you know how the airfare was booked? How that part of the travel was booked?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. My only, as I recall based on, and again, now that I'm seeing these again, is that I was interested in they identified that you can bring a guest. I wanted to bring a guest; they offered that their understanding of the Ethics rules is they could pay for guests and I said I wasn't interested in that. I just…it's a personal issue in my office and that I wanted as much information so I could make those arrangements if in fact we were going, based on Ethics approval to my office and so they were trying to give us information about that.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And what information did they provide you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, I know that it's not in here, but at some point, my – Dominic let me know what the costs for Manuel would be and when I would need to provide payment because we wanted to make sure we had process to do that and I didn't know what the process was. Since guests were allowed to come, I didn't even know how many guests you can bring, but at the time it appeared that I may be the only person bringing a guest that we were going to pay for and I don't know if that's accurate or not, but it seemed to us that it may be the case because they…it was easy to get, for them to cost it out and that's it.

MS. EISNER: Did they give you a name of the organization to work with in order to coordinate that additional part of the ravel?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't think so, but I don't know that. At the end, once we got Ethics approval, we went. I got a final bill; the bill was presented to me by Dominic; I wrote a check.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So some of this we already covered, but just again, who sponsored your travel to Azerbaijan?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The group that I keep referring to as the Turquoise Foundation, is who I was aware was sponsoring the trip or as in an earlier email, the Turkish Turkey Group or the Turkey Turkish Group. But a group that I believe is, to the best of my knowledge and according to the House Ethics Committee, is a group that would meet the educational; I'm calling that broadly, the educational requirements of folks who can in fact, according to the Ethics Rules, sponsor trips by Members of Congress. That's who I think they are.

MS. EISNER: Any additional conversations that we haven't talked about so far before the trip about sponsorship or the Turquoise Council and their role in the convention?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: None.

MS. EISNER: Okay. A few more documents; this is a big stack again. This is THMLG_--

MS. FIORI: Okay. Either one?

MR. ASHMAWY: All the same.

MS. EISNER: All the same, I promise.

MS. FIORI: Okay.

MS. EISNER: And this is 0067-0077. These are the traveler forms that you provided to our office.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Do you recognize these forms; do they look familiar to you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: They are. That's definitely my signature and I know that we worked to make sure that we met all the requirements, pre and post trip. And this looks like you know the final itinerary that we were provided going to the trip. I don't remember if we had to provide this separately or independently and then it gets reviewed by compares. And then it looks to me, and I don't know if we provided this as a part of our post-travel or if you've combined their post-travel disclosure form from the Turquoise Council. So –

MS. EISNER: These all came in as a part of the production from your office, so…

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So we must have had them, but I don't recall when I was submitting these to be clear that this was part of the package, but…

MS. EISNER: Sure.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: If that was what was required, we would've downloaded whatever was required.

MS. EISNER: Did you review these forms before they were sent to the Committee on Ethics?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So, I certainly read the stuff that I'm signing and I can't recall whether or not, because it doesn't say on these, it's number 7 on these forms as I'm reading it now, says that these things were attached, so I probably made sure that they were attached and then sent them on their way, but I don't remember.

MS. EISNER: Did you ever ask anyone at the Turquoise Council, whether other organizations or sponsors should be listed on these forms?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, because I don't know that there would be anything that would trigger that request. Again, from our perspective, it's an authorized trip. There was nothing during the trip that gave me you know any cause for concern, we don't do that due diligence, but make sure that we file and do everything that we're required to do, pre and post these trips. And it was our first trip, so…in many ways, I would as I recall, were learning and having a conversation about did we do everything in the time frame that's required, did you guys look at the rules again, do we need to call anyone and…but there was nothing about making sure that this met…I mean this looked like everything we did.

MS. EISNER: Once you handed over all these forms to the Committee, did they come back to you and ask any questions about the forms?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. Not to my knowledge. Nobody's asked me prior to your communication to us. There was nothing ever again about the trip, except for one thing. And I just remembered that, there was nothing formal, nothing from a Congressional group, there was a call at one point from a reporter and I recall one call and it was a de minimis question, "did you attend?" I think that was basically it. "Can you confirm your attendance?" and we confirmed.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And that was it, nothing else.

MS. EISNER: So who did you attend the convention with? I know you mentioned Manuel; did anyone else attend the convention with you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes, my director for the Albuquerque, or the district office, Deborah Armstrong.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Do you know who her travel was sponsored by?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: We were all part of the same trip, so she was sponsored by the very same people I was sponsored by, the Turquoise Turkish Group, the Council Foundation. I'm worried now, Counsel, that I'm getting everything into my statements. I apologize and I…

MS. EISNER: We talked a little bit about and Manuel, his last name –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Cordova.

MS. EISNER: Cordova. Okay. And we talked about how his travel was paid for as far as the flights and that aspect of it. Other expenses, was there anything else that was covered that was reimbursed on his behalf?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So again, to the best of my knowledge, we asked that his trip that…there was a clear separate cost that I wanted to be responsible for every one of those individual, independent costs. And we let them identify what those costs were, Dominic reviewed that and then I was asked to write a check so that way I wasn't…I wasn't deciding what those costs should be. Somebody else did that independently, came to the office, the office looked at that, gave it to me and I wrote the check.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So on – from this packet, this large packet, it's number 77 in this packet which is, I think the last page here. And this is the traveler form under 5B-2. It says, "Fiancé (meals only)."

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: What would that mean?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It means…will you be accompanied by…let me see. I don't know why it says, "meals only" actually.

MR. ASHMAWY: Is there any chance that was meant to indicate that the only thing that they were paying for was his meals?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That can't be accurate. I mean, I realize that that's what that says, but since I think I paid something around $4,000.00, he would be a very heavy eater. So, if I had gotten a bill for…$1,000.00 or $800.00, I might've said it can't cover the flights so the way in which it was described to me, when we were making the decision about – that he should go, that he'd like to go and that I'd like him to go, that we had to pay for the airfare and his meals. Yeah. And again, if I received a bill for something that was far too low, we would've rejected it just out of – that's something I would definitely be able to, based on my prior travel experience, before being a member of Congress, that that would be unreasonable.

MS. EISNER: Right.

MS. FIORI: May I ask a question about this packet? Is it…should it not have the original Ethics Committee letter and then –

MR. ASHMAWY: It should, but this is the series of documents that Representative Lujan Grisham's office provided so…

MS. FIORI: Because I –

MR. ASHMAWY: I would assume…

MS. FIORI: My…I saw a copy of this and the Ethics Committee's pre-approval in it at some point, now maybe…the document that I was actually looking at did not have it you

know, what…had that attached to it and I didn't realize it, but isn't it supposed to be included?

MR. ASHMAWY: It is and if you refer to the first page, THMLG_0067, it's indicated that was included. There's no reason to think it wasn't included, frankly. It's just this was what was provided to our office; we have no reason to think it wasn't included and if it wasn't included –

MS. FIORI: I think it was.

MR. ASHMAWY: The assumption –

MS. FIORI: It was included in the original packet.

MR. ASHMAWY: Would be that somebody would've kept it back. Frankly. So…

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Which I appreciate that question because, again, every rule that…that we – the requirements in my office and my team and my staff is to be aware of every rule. If you're confused about a rule, get clarification from the Committee on Ethics, provide every piece of documentation and make sure that you've got the approval for any of these activities, which is the standard protocol that we do even today for both internal issues and I'm going to -- well I'm calling for the purposes of this interview, external which would be a trip out of district, out of D.C., out of country.

MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah. And if there's, frankly, any concern I mean the controlling set of documents are actually available on the Clerk's website, so…

MS. EISNER: And this is just a selection. I mean you were very cooperative and produced many documents so this is kind of a…it's possible those letters are elsewhere in the production.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah I mean my hope is, is that, as part of this review that if there needs to be a different due diligence component at the Committee on Ethics, that that gets included in our recommendation because my office intends because there isn't an option to continue to rely on that Committee because part of their purpose and responsibility is to review these requests and to reaffirm and confirm before you actually step outside of your office, that you are doing so with very, complete authorization because they believe, based on everything that was submitted and their questions, that it meets their requirements. Otherwise, I would give advice to new members of Congress if I was so asked, in an orientation context that it is fool hardy and not good practice to make individual, independent decisions about these issues without going to the Committee. That's why they – in addition to their investigatory role, that's why they exist so that, I hope they're minimizing their investigatory role because members are following

the same set of requirements and they are being applied in the same way. That's definitely how we approach the Committee on Ethics.

MS. EISNER: That is definitely understood.

MR. ASHMAWY: Just going back real fast to sort of some of the minor logistics of the convention, of your trip. Do you recall when you were in Azerbaijan, where you stayed?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. A…If you told me the name of the hotel, I might get it?

MR. ASHMAWY: There's a couple of options.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MR. ASHMAWY: It could've been a Radisson, it could've been the Hilton or it could've been the Four Seasons.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Now, I don't know why I'm saying this, so probably my counsel will say, "Why did you do that?" I'm so sorry and I'm apologizing to you in advance. I want to say it was the Four Seasons. I don't know. Again, if you show me a photo of that hotel…does that mean I have a photographic memory for pictures? I don't know what that means.

MR. ASHMAWY: It does suggest you have a visual memory.

MS. EISNER: Yes.

MR. ASHMAWY: This is more for us to try to confirm other you know, other information that we received.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I will say, I'm not aware until your question that there other places that people were staying. You know my sense was, again, right? You get in the vehicle, it's the same team; it's with the same people I've been traveling with; we all went to the hotel and checked in.

MS. EISNER: Right.

MR. ASHMAWY: To put it more directly, and this is not to read anything into this, this is just to clarify whether or not other documents we've received from other entities are you know, correct. We do have a document that shows you and your fellow Members of Congress likely stayed at the Four Seasons. Is there any reason to think that didn't happen?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't think so and that is the one that sounds familiar to me. And I again, you know…I'm terrible with that. I can't remember where I ate breakfast yesterday, but that does sound correct to me. And if you needed to, if you showed me a

photo of the inside or the outside of the hotel property, I believe I could confirm that that's where I was at.

MR. ASHMAWY: And while you were there, did you get – and by there, I mean, specifically Azerbaijan – did you get an impression of who was sort of the overall organizer, who was handling the logistics, who was sort of making sure that you guys got to where you needed to go, on time and all of that? Did you get a –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well for me it was the fellow, whose name I couldn't tell you, but then I recognized his name from the...one of the email documents that you provided.

MR. ASHMAWY: Mahmut. Who is the –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Mahmut, yes.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So, Mahmut was always present and Mahmut was you know, there when they dropped us off and I'm not exaggerating that, at 11 o'clock at night. You are – which is, and I state this because that's now my impression of Ethics approved trips, you are on a short leash, I get that and you should be. This is the approved trip and you're all approved to do these activities, so that's the person who's there in the morning at 7:00 or 6:30 when you have to be ready for breakfast; you all sit together; they have a table or however that…you know, basically it's a table in a hotel restaurant, and then we get into the vehicle and then we go to those series of meetings for the day, there's usually a lunch, sometimes dinner was at the hotels, sometimes it wasn't – someplace else. Usually there was an invited government official, sometimes it was just us and I'm thinking…I'm adding Turkey to this, not just Azerbaijan. And then when that was done and if there was any other meeting or because like, one of our meetings was an evening meeting in Turkey with the minority party and so that one in particular, I remember we got back to the hotel at like 11 o'clock at night. And you're dropped off and the day starts again, so that's the only person that I, you know I got a sense about that. Now, I knew that the Kemal and Razul were around, but I only saw them I think one morning, where we got driven to the thing that's now, I know as the convention, I didn't realize that at the time. And…I may have seen Razul; I'd have to look at their pictures again. I may have seen – I think I'm pretty clear which ones which, I may have seen Razul in Turkey.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I don't even remember if it was Ankara or if it was in Istanbul. Because again, they do, this is your team, here's your team leader, Mahmut. If you have any problems, this is who you go to. Here's his cell phone number and he's responsible for making sure that the arrangements that you're aware that you're doing

every day occur and he gets you to and from. So we don't worry about getting anywhere on time or arranging transportation or whether someone's left, everyone's in the van and all together, ready to go, boom, you go.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did you get the impression by any chance – what impression did you have that you can remember of SOCAR's overall involvement in the convention, in the trip…you know, in general?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't have any sense that they had a larger or a smaller footprint in any way. I left Azerbaijan thinking they were part of that sort of official, energy, educational component. I didn't even – I didn't notice it anywhere else really.

MR. ASHMAWY: Outside of that one meeting you had with them, were there any other events with them that they sponsored or they were present at?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah, there's nothing in my knowledge, I mean again, and I know I keep repeating it; I appreciate that you know you want clarification and you need that. I was with the same group of people every minute of every day. I even got tired of Manny. So…yeah and the only impression that I had of Azerbaijan is that they didn't seem to be as an open a government as I expect them to be, right? And now, that was part of my purpose of the trip…is understanding a little bit more about those countries and their culture and our relationship with them as a country and…that we were there for Turkey's demonstration and so you know, that was an interesting thing to witness, being on the ground and seeing what the reports came out in Turkey. So for me, I didn't notice any of this.

MR. ASHMAWY: If I can take us back to Turkey for a moment. Does – do you have any awareness of an organization known as Bakiad?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. It's the first I've heard of it.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. FIORI: Could you –

MR. ASHMAWY: Yes. So Bakiad is as far as we understand, is a Turkish, non-profit that sponsors travel to…

MS. FIORI: B-A-K –

MR. ASHMAWY: B-A-K-I-A-D.

MS. PUARY: I-A-D.

MR. ASHMAWY: Yes. Bakiad. You had no – did you have any interaction with an organization that would've been known as Bakiad while you were in Turkey?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No and again the disclaimer is, I went to the meetings and there was always a government official at the meeting, could there have been someone who was sitting in a chair that I would've assumed is an assistant – I mean, there was nothing that was outward that I'm – occurred at all. I couldn't tell you with 100% certainty that there couldn't have been an individual that was at a meeting place or staying at the hotel, but we had no interaction with them. That was direct, right? I mean, could be…somebody could walk in the room, I can't tell you that they weren't there, but I can tell you they were not interacting with us as a group. Not in my group.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Did you attend an event – I mean we talked about the one SOCAR event that you attended that was on the –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I would qualify. I was…for me, it was clearly, it was a meeting and it looked just like all the other meetings. And that's important for you to know, that there was nothing that you could've taken away that would've…it was in an office, it looked like a government building; we talked about the government sponsored fund and that kind of thing.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Well then I should say, did you attend a meeting or an event or were you invited to attend an event organized by the Azerbaijan – U.S. Inter-parliamentary Working Group and I'm going to pronounce this incorrect, but the Milimichliz? Was also sponsored by the American Friends of Azerbaijan.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: What was it?

MS. EISNER: We know that other Members were invited to attend this event? And we know it was sponsored by American Friends of Azerbaijan.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So I…I'm going to say no. Unless, it's that group sponsored the meeting and again, there's no way I would've known that, to like this security office, so in Baku, I was there two days? Does that sound right to you guys?

MR. ASHMAWY: I'd have to refer –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I would have to, too. So while you help me confirm, in that two-day period we went…we did a, I'm going to call it, it was a drive-by almost, a stop-greet and an exit, the convention which we didn't know it was a convention until arriving. And I wouldn't even call it a convention. It was a very…and it was part of and by now you're at the tail end of these trips so you're just going to these meetings. And

then we did the lunch and then I think we went to parliament at Baku and then there was a dinner and I remember there was a Member of the Parliament at my table and then just Members of Congress and they were lots of New Mexicans; I think there were more New Mexicans at this series of meetings than any other state. I don't know whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, but that gives you a sense of that. How we…you know, it was known that I was going, it was known that many of them were going. And then the next day, maybe it was that first day too, the energy meeting. And then the second day was their security? Holy cow…two other meetings and I can't even remember what they were. And then I think we finished a little bit early, like 5? Or 6? And we were sort of packing and getting ready to leave in the morning.

MR. ASHMAWY: And to put it even more directly, do you recall attending something called the Azerbaijani – U.S. Inter-parliamentary Working Group?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall anything about who may have sponsored the convention component of this thing?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. I mean, again and I know that…I appreciate that you're doing your job and I appreciate that you're doing it and you're serious about it, it all seemed very you know…standards were sort of part of the…I didn't even think about whether or not there was something else. It was – followed the agenda, got into the vehicle, did the stuff, they were all very quick. We were introduced to anybody that directly that I can recall that wasn't part of a government you know, a specific government component.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember meeting by any chance, representatives of like BP or –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Conoco Phillips?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MS. EISNER: McDermott?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. KBR?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Company known as Schlumberger?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: In general then, with that understanding, what was the – what was your sense of the role of the Azerbaijani, the Azeri government with the convention? Or with the overall trip? I mean were you – is there… in all these meetings, was there essentially somebody from the government there?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah, there was. And I want to kind of qualify this. It's not like they had a kind of government person in the van who escorted us, but there was specific meetings, again, that the three that I remember, most specifically was meeting a few members of the parliament, particularly I remember meeting a woman and going to their chambers and having them walk us through their election process, their meeting process, their legislative processes… actually four, the lunch with the president, where we talked about the president's vision and goals, then the energy fund and the government's responsibility for a single fund and then the security. And I keep calling him the security guy; I don't know whether it was the Security Council or the Defense Ministry or… whatever. And I remember that meeting particularly because people were really tired and I got a sense from my other members that they wanted me not to ask a question and I remember I asked another hard question and I don't even remember the question, but it stumped the security guy and nobody wanted to talk to me. Probably not getting invited anymore to these trips. And so yeah… there was… so it was always – each meeting in an official capacity and so I never noticed that that wasn't the case, and the convention in hindsight, was a little different because it's bigger, lots of people that you couldn't identify, but we weren't introduced to any of those individuals. We were sort of marched in and except for the coffee part, which I do recall; I was very happy about it. It was you know, that Middle Eastern – Turkish coffee was quite delicious.

MS. EISNER: Do you know who gave you the coffee?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I pretty much got it myself. I think you could go in, they had it out and again, we went into the auditorium and then we left.

MR. ASHMAWY: So to get into Azerbaijan in the first place, everyone I guess who's not Azeri, they needed a visa.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah, I do remember there was some – some process about a visa, but I don't remember the specifics.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. So do you recall who got you a copy of the visa?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So, Mahmut is the guy that I was sort of – our go-to guy and he had all that paper, but I do remember in the airport that there was something about having to do a specific visa Azerbaijan.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know – so it's required that somebody from Azerbaijan sponsors any foreigner to come in. Do you know off-hand who sponsored you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. And again, the way in which I was participating in the trip is that it's approved by Ethics and each of those required components have been evaluated and determined so I didn't even think to question that except that it was done for all the Members and everybody was treated exactly the same way in the same standard. If there had been maybe you know uniquely … I did something and then somebody else did something, you might have a different reaction, but I didn't at all.

MR. ASHMAWY: And…one…a little more specific, were you aware that SOCAR was the sponsor for your visa?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So you talked about you know, there were a lot of Members in these vans and you spent a lot of time together as you were going from place to place –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Three!

MS. EISNER: Three. Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Sometimes, four. Sometimes, I think that Clarke was with us maybe once…

MS. EISNER: Okay, so who were the Members? You said Hinojosa.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So in my team, it was Cuellar's office, I'm including that, but Henry Cuellar was not there; Hinojosa and myself and members of our offices and or our guests. So for my van, that was…1, 2, 3, 4, 5…like about 8 people?

MS. EISNER: Did you know that not all Members were sponsored by the Turquoise Council?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No.

MS. EISNER: Did you have any conversations with, you know, the Members throughout the time about who the real sponsor might be?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. The only conversations by Members were, which I think are appropriate, were reactions to the meetings that we were having.

MS. EISNER: Sure.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And the only real specific recollection that I have is, I remember I got into an interesting conversation with Mahmut, I think mostly in… I can't recall if that was Turkey or Azerbaijan, where he was a bit defensive where I was being critical about you know, I'm going to assume that they want you to have positive, productive, no questions...in those building relationships and I'm… I had questions about government policies. I was curious. And as I was curious about those things, I remember he seemed you know defensive about the role of women, maybe in Turkey. I think that's what it was. I think we were having a debate about the number of journalists who were still jailed in Turkey and that seemed to be kind of a sore spot. Yeah, but there was no conversations by members that I recall or by anybody in our van or by anybody anywhere else about sponsors because we were all under a… I'm presuming that, that this is a… gover-- an ethics approved trip that members are going on so those questions – there was no reason to have that conversation. Now it didn't seem to be anything outward.

MS. EISNER: And just following that through one step further for the… first document in that stack, which is – let's see… it's THMLG_00067. It's the post-travel disclosure form. Did you have any reason to question who the sponsor was on that form?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I didn't.

MR. ASHMAWY: Changing sort of – changing topics a little bit. While you were in Turkey and Azerbaijan did you and your fellow Members of Congress, did you receive gifts of any kind?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: We did.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. We have an email, right?

MS. EISNER: Yes, we do. It's THMLG_0103-0105.

MR. ASHMAWY: So, take a look at it. Does this look like a fairly… is this a comprehensive list of the gifts?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes.

MR. ASHMAWY: That you received?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes.

MS. EISNER: So maybe we'll just go through them.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And the reason that that's so familiar is that I require in my office, which is not as I understand that the complete requirement, anything that comes to my office either directly in the office or indirectly in a meeting or a trip, we… I make

them put on a form that way it can jog all of our memories and we provide it when requested…or when required.

MS. EISNER: Is that an internal form created –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It is. It's something that I did when I was in state government, so I've just carried the practice forward.

MR. ASHMAWY: And just to be, you know, just the normal questions to clarify. Who's Kristen Palmer, again?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Oh. Don't try to trick me. Kristen Palmer was my scheduler executive assistant at the time.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. And who is Amy Travieso?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Who is Amy?

MS. FIORI: Here's her title right here on your document.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did you ever – actually, I should… a more fair question is, did you know who Amy was?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Oh, Amy! Without looking –

MR. ASHMAWY: Without looking –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Her last name… Yes. You'd have to cue me. I know that Henry Cuellar's Chief of Staff is Amy.

MR. ASHMAWY/MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Now you can see that standard, regardless of who you are, I have no idea what your last name is. You should be highly impressed that I know that it's Cuellar. I get a 100 points for that.

MR. ASHMAWY: I like that.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You like that?

MR. ASHMAWY: I like that.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It's too bad this is going to be transcribed because now I have some explaining to do to both Amy and Henry Cuellar.

MS. FIORI: Yeah.

MR. ASHMAWY: If we can actually just go through the list.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, I think that – you know just get a sense of, did you receive it, the context for each of these individual…so let's start at the top with the – forgot the main one, Turkish rug. So did you receive the Turkish rug?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I did.

MS. EISNER: And where did you receive it?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: At the hotel in Azerbaijan.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And what – can you tell us about this rug? You know, was it a big rug? Was it a nicer rug?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. It was a small rug. I don't know anything about Turkish rugs. It… so it's a small rug and it…I don't know what else to say about it. Kind of – everybody got kind of a, I noticed that there were two or three different designs, but other than that, they were all identical and I think it came with an authenticity thing.

MR. ASHMAWY: Certificate?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah. I did notice and I don't remember on which thing, I did notice that one these things said made in China which I thought was fascinating and silly. And in getting these gifts, and I know you want to go through each one; I know you do that because it's the souvenir of the country, it's an international courtesy, but yeah that's…it's not a carpet I would've purchased. How's that?

MR. ASHMAWY: How was the carpet delivered?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Is that a little mean? I didn't mean for it to sound mean.

MR. ASHMAWY: Not mean at all.

MS. EISNER: Everyone is allowed to have their own tastes.

MS. FIORI: [indecipherable]

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah, I actually think that the carpet, if I recall correctly, I want to say that might've been in my room the evening before we departed with…you know and a note that it's from so and so. And then I – I remember checking everybody had one in the morning and then there were also, and again I'm trying to remember, I think there was somebody you know from who I think is the Turquoise Council, who's standing at the hotel providing rugs to other folks.

MS. EISNER: So it looks like there were two rugs because there was a Turkish rug and then there was a smaller carpet. Are these in any way kind of… going together as far as your memory?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No the small one and I'm kind of interchange-y about this. The small one I think was given at a meeting?

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And then the bigger one, which was about like this… was delivered… it was in my hotel room with an official government looking note, which we… I bought the whole thing back, all of it back.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember, so with regard to the note, do you remember what the note said? Do you remember who it said it was from?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: It didn't say anything that would – just as part of the trip from Azerbaijan.

MR. ASHMAWY: Did it convey, and you said government official looking note, did you get the impression… who did you get the impression the rug was from?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The same thing. It was an official government gift, yeah.

MS. EISNER: Do you have that note still?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I hope so. I can't say for sure.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And then, so you received the rug. Did you keep it? Did you bring it back with you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Mhmm. I did, I brought all the things identified here are things that we brought back, listed on our list and make sure that they were under the threshold of gift limits to the best of our ability to do that, but we did spend time trying to figure that out so that we could assure – either return something because it didn't meet the gift threshold or disclose it as such.

MR. ASHMAWY: How did you … how'd you value the items?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So, this may be a question you might have to ask Dominic Gabello? But my expectation of the office based on a protocol, is that they have to find a confirmable value or check in with other offices about what they know, how they found that out and try to figure out fair market value.

MR. ASHMAWY: Are you aware of the Committee on Ethics ever reaching out to your office to talk about these rugs, specifically?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I'm not aware.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember anything more about how what the value of the rugs may have been? Or…

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. So I don't remember without looking at our list, without being – having the opportunity to look at it again whether we thought it was $275.00 or we thought it was $349.00, I have no idea. I didn't get the sense…and again, I don't have any expertise on Turkish rugs. Maybe on Nemaha rugs a little, but not on Turkish rugs, that they were particularly expensive or good quality, but the reality is I don't have that expertise, which is why we tried to – we make every professional effort to identify fair market value so that we can disclose what we believe those are worth and then we provide them to the Committee on Ethics because if they disagree with our process for evaluation or have questions, they can come back to us so that you're getting that due diligence so that we're meeting the rules appropriately.

MR. ASHMAWY: Now – do you think your office may still have a document that has the evaluations?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: We should! I mean we keep a list and whatever…if we didn't provide something to you; we will do everything to get it to you.

MR. ASHMAWY: I don't doubt that for a second.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You can expect us to cooperate in any way that we can.

MR. ASHMAWY: Then quickly going through these, so you already said you received – you in fact received each one of these items?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah the only one I don't remember, but I don't – this is my recollection so, I don't remember the purple silk scarf and I don't remember the tea box, interestingly enough must be in my office in a bookcase somewhere. And I remember the piece of jewelry, they were small, turquoise earring and the DVD box, I remember because I did not want that. And I'm going to say it and again you can ground me later; I don't want any of this stuff. I know and can you do something that gets people in governments and other individuals to really refrain from wanting to give me things? I don't want one more plaque, I don't want one more glass thing, I don't want one more weird…you've seen our offices? There's too small!

MR. ASHMAWY: As far as I know, I think it may be part of the job.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You know, I live in the state with very intense, beautiful cultures and gift exchange is a part of those cultures and it is an insult and an afront not to participate in that and I suppose somebody has the same issue for me when…a tribal

leader comes to me or someone and I might provide them with a Mexico fetish as a part of my hello and they probably say, "please don't give that to me, I don't know what to do with it and now I don't know how to disclose it" so maybe I'm providing the same problem, but I have been aware that those are cultural, proper settings, but the truth is, nobody wants…I guess I can't say that – I don't want any of those things, but that's the only thing I don't remember. I'm sure I have it.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. That's my follow up question is – you brought everything back?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I brought everything back; I brought everything to the office. That's our process. I bring everything to the office; it gets recorded. You know witnessed and recorded and it's not a process that we believe we're required to do, but it is a process I brought with me from state government; it's just something I've always done.

MR. ASHMAWY: And then what have you – I mean generally, what have you done with these items?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Most of these items are in my office in D.C. and that's why I can't remember where that scarf is. It must be somewhere in there.

MR. ASHMAWY: Which items are not in your office in D.C.?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The only thing that is not in my office in D.C. is the jewelry. That is in my D.C. residence and the small carpet because it…I only have Nemaha rugs as you recall, in my office, is also in my personal residence in D.C.

MR. ASHMAWY: Where's the larger rug?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That's the rug I'm talking about.

MR. ASHMAWY: Oh, okay. So the –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So the small carpet and everything else is in my office except those two things.

MR. ASHMAWY: The –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The larger rug and the turquoise earrings.

MR. ASHMAWY: Got it. And then the smaller carpet from the –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Is in my office.

MR. ASHMAWY: That's in your office.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Everything else – and again I'm going to assume then that the purple scarf must be there? But I need to double check.

MR. ASHMAWY: Just real quickly go through these –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Actually, I need to go back. The crystal tea set is in my residence here.

MR. ASHMAWY: In New Mexico?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes, I apologize. I just remembered that I brought that back because it just doesn't fit anywhere.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember who gave you the silk scarf?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, I don't even remember the silk scarf.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember who gave you the crystal tea set?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That was on the last day of the trip. So it's…again, you know there's the same, Mahmut and the Turquoise Council Foundation, Turkish-Turkish people. And they're handing it to everyone so there's no separate meeting where you – you know, it's just all part of that routine.

MR. ASHMAWY: Do you have the impression that it was coming from the Turquoise Council, the Azeri government or some other organization?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Either the Azeri government or the Turquoise Council, but I'm not – I don't have any impression at the time that it was from anybody else.

MR. ASHMAWY: Same question with regard to the two-cup tea set.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right and – that…my answer will be exactly the same for all of these. They all came in the context of you know, a meeting with one of the government officials or with the sponsors of the trip who at during the time, and then until your contact to us, we believed based on work of the Ethics Committee that it's the educational foundation. And these are cultural exchange or souvenirs.

MR. ASHMAWY: And I know it's a little monotonous, but with regard to the painted plate, which according to THMLG_0103, came from in the parenthetical, "the gift from the host of the dinner and boat ride in Istanbul." Do you ever – did you get the impression that that plate was also either from Turquoise Council or the Turkish government?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I did.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. Same thing with the herbal, Turkish tea box?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right. There was nothing in the way which these gifts were provided that I thought it was from somebody separate that would not be allowed to provide you with the souvenir or a cultural exchange.

MR. ASHMAWY: And then the small carpet, that was at the border security meeting so…

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right.

MR. ASHMAWY: I don't want to put words in your mouth – did you get the impression that –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The same thing. It wasn't – there wasn't… none of these gifts, which is why we also wrote about them exactly in the way which they were given to us because there was nothing in that that deemed…so you – I guess I need to go back. There's not a document from us that says, we didn't do the evaluation of this because we're not sure where it came from. Our – my understanding after returning home is that, each of these gifts were provided in the context that they can be provided. That they weren't really gifts, they were cultural exchanges even though I identified them as gifts, because I have a gift log; I don't qualify it as anything else that there's souvenirs and cultural exchanges and that there's nothing in that that identified itself as being not appropriate within the rules and then we double checked the value, there's no way to do that while you're on the trip to make sure that that's the case and then to provide all that documentation to the Committee on Ethics for their re-review and confirmation that that's the case.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. DVD box/set from the president of Turkey – on the President of Turkey from the SOCAR reps, fair to say that your impression was that came from the SOCAR – that it came from SOCAR?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: At the time I probably thought that it – yeah. And again, remember that my impression of SOCAR is I couldn't even tell you what that was except that I remember there was a meeting with a government person related to their energy group and I was …and they kept representing themselves as part of the energy fund. The government fund.

MR. ASHMAWY: And to go back to these rugs –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: They may have said, but I don't recall that. I just recall the energy fund.

MR. ASHMAWY: And to go back to these rugs –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah.

MR. ASHMAWY: Between the Turquoise Council and the Azeri government, do you have an idea where they came from?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Not specifically, no. One or the other.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: But not specifically, no.

MS. EISNER: So you kept the document log and then you fill it out separate paper work and turned it over to the Committee on Ethics based on the information and the evaluation you did in the document log?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Correct.

MS. EISNER: What was the paper work you turned over to the Committee on Ethics with regard to the gifts?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't know what the specific paper work looks like, so I relied on my Chief of Staff and his communications with other Chiefs of Staff about Members who went on the trip to make sure we weren't missing anything that was required or could be identified appropriately as supplemental and then submitted that, but it was my directive to the office that that all must be done and –

MR. ASHMAWY: Just for my clarity –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah.

MR. ASHMAWY: You submitted a log of gifts to the Committee on Ethics?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't know whether to actually call it a log of the gifts? We have a log, but whatever paper work they routinely review as part of your post-trip requirements, and I wanted to double check that we were following that and we were verifying that our interpretation in what was required was the same thing that was required of other offices who have more experience. Now remember this was our first effort so we were really working hard to check off the right boxes and make sure that we were doing it right.

MR. ASHMAWY: Understood. So, I mean…and if you would like, you can reference the post-travel disclosure form. There's not place on the disclosure form to provide information on gifts so if you weren't specifically asked for the information by the Committee on Ethics, would you have turned – would you have given that extra information to them?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: So…I told in this interview, my impression was even – and my recollection, which is limited two years later, somehow it was part of the post-trip document. If it's not…I do recall having conversations about the gifts because given my…acute awareness that gifts are an issues in Congress and that there are ethical rules about gifts, even though I look at these a little differently (probably shouldn't), I treat them in terms of logging and evaluations like you would any gift, but since there are kind of a cultural exchange and a souvenir, I sort of just transposed that in a way in which we do with our gift logs. I had very specific conversations with my team to make sure that anything we needed to do about that got done. If there was anything additional that they thought we should do, we should just do it. And I do remember at one point in a conversation between Dominic and I that we were the only office that was logging things in this way, it was keeping maintaining and these are my words, not his, but sort of taking these extra steps and actually I think he might have said that to me that some offices weren't very happy about that, that I could go to a document because then maybe I was creating a standard that may now applied to everyone that they weren't – that they didn't think wasn't a good idea. I think it's a good idea. It's important for me because I…that's an odd thing, even if it's a cultural exchange, that if you know if you're getting a trip approved by our Committee on Ethics and you know that we have pretty strict requirements about these kind of issues, then my expectation is that the Committee's providing information to the sponsors of the trip and that they know these rules because they know – they have to know of the Ethics rules, otherwise they can't get an Ethics approved trip. But I wanted whatever we should be doing and then some done about these things.

MS. EISNER: You said there was a lot of back and forth between the Chiefs of Staffs or people who attended the trip about –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't know if I said there was a lot of back and forth. I'm aware that there was some conversations between some of the Chiefs of Staffs, yeah.

MS. EISNER: Do you know which Chiefs of Staffs were talking?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: For sure, Amy and the reason for Amy is because this…I knew based on spending a little time with her in our vehicle going to all the stuff, that this was not her first trip and then I thought that she could provide Dominic some advice about making sure that we didn't miss anything, that if he had any questions that he could go there and I thought that that was a useful exercise in the office.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I don't believe that it was limited to just Amy, but I'm – more than the email, I'm clear that that was something I was aware of that he was communicating with Amy.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Do you – so, we've talked about the gifts that you received. You were present, you talked about some of the members who were you know traveling with you and you – I think you called them your group, or your co –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: My team.

MS. EISNER: Your team, yes.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah. I've used every possible…

MS. EISNER: Yeah, well a lot of time spent together. Did other members receive the same gifts? Is there anything –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes.

MS. EISNER: That was specific to you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Right and that was part of why it also – there was a more professional standard involved as that, at the same time except for the larger rug and that's my recollection, that it was in the hotel, that you know, it had kind of a… it was in like a carrying case? Or vinyl, carrying case? And then I recall that there was a, you know, "thank you for participating in the Azerbaijan cultural trip." This rug… courtesy of Azerbaijan, something like that and then… other than that, I saw everybody getting exactly the same thing. I remember, I think I remember this, that the … one plate might have been gold, one plate might've been color, one plate might've been silver, one might've been… folks on the ocean, one might've been in the city, but they were all – everything that was received by my group was exactly the same kind of thing.

MS. EISNER: I think we just have a few more things to go over. We're almost –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Excellent! Because I have a torn hamstring so you guys are killing me!

MR. ASHMAWY: Well we're just about done.

MS. EISNER: Gosh, this is a tough week for you.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: That's right, yeah. I'm old; there's nothing I can do about it. I can't fix it.

MS. EISNER: So this is THMLG_0225.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Are you guys – will you be offended if I just look at this text?

MR. ASHMAWY: Not at all.

MS. EISNER: No.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: From my daughter who is my partner in care giving for my mom so we have a strict rule that if – okay, and it's nothing I need to worry about; that's all I cared about.

MR. ASHMAWY: And like Helen said, we are just about done.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, we're almost done.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No problem.

MS. EISNER: So this is an email, greetings from Kemal. Give you a second to look at it.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So, this is dated July 7, 2013. Says, "I want to visit the Congresswoman as well, regard to discuss with her about the southern gas corridor and its role in European energy security." So, did he visit the office? Do you know if that visit occurred?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I'm going to say that it did occur? I don't specifically remember the meeting.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I don't remember whether I was in the meeting post-trip or not. I might've been.

MS. EISNER: Do you remember any meetings with Kemal, post-trip?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yes. I do.

MS. EISNER: Okay. What were those meetings?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't know that I can remember the specifics, but…I'm going to say that once he was meeting with staff and I said hello in our reception area and we had kind of a friendly conversation about how things were in New Mexico and what some of their economic development ideas were, and partnerships with the local policymakers and then a second one I remember was specific about looking at what they're referring to as, energy security just sort of general. I don't know if that's this meeting or another meeting, is really my point about that.

MS. EISNER: Do you know when those meetings would've occurred?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: After the trip, but I can't really tell you exactly when. But if we didn't provide when those meetings are, we'll go back and look and get that to you. We're happy to do that.

MS. EISNER: And –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And they should…I'm assuming, that they should be clear about whether I'm in those meetings or not. The only time that's not clear, is if I'm early from a committee or early from a vote and a meeting is in progress and I stop in and say hello specifically and then step out, but I'm not present for the whole meeting. So…sometimes it's not clear if I was attending a meeting or not. That's the only…exception to that rule. Otherwise, it's clear on my schedule that those are meetings with me or meetings with staff.

MS. EISNER: Did he make any specific asks? I know you can't remember all the details of this meeting.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: The only thing I remember that they've ever asked me, is if I would send the birthday or I can't remember if it was a birthday or a congratulations note to the president, is that right? For Azerbaijan? I don't think it was Turkey. Was it Turkey?

MR. ASHMAWY: I don't want to put words in your mouth. So…I'm just relying on your recollection.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: My recollection about a specific asks that was…more of a professional courtesy that was not policy that we said, sure we're happy to say hello or congratulations or happy birthday. I don't even remember the context, but I don't remember ever getting a request from Kemal to take a specific position on anything? He does on occasion, he hasn't in a long, long time, sent me updates directly to my email, which that may be also – I can see in the email chain, who they go to in my staff, but says it's usually a newspaper article somewhere in the United States or somewhere in Azerbaijan or Turkey about the state of affairs and with no…it's attachment. There's nothing in it that says, well there might be…a statement that says, "For your information" or, "thought you might find interesting", but there's nothing that says, "please read, would really like it if you would introduce legislation that would deal with this problem." There's nothing like that. And when people try to provide sort of, informal requests like that, we discourage that; that they need to bring us a proposal in writing, they need to come to our office, we have a process like I would assume most Members of Congress too, to determine whether that's a policy that you agree with and that the way in which they're proposing is exactly the way in which it would be implemented to get voted on in Congress, that kind of thing.

MS. EISNER: Okay. One final question on this document; it says, "we're planning to organize a reception, which is about July 17th or 18th in D.C., Mr. Elshad Nasieraf, SOCAR Vice President, together with a delegation for Azerbaijan will become our guests." Do you remember attending this reception?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I don't, but I do remember going to and I don't know if it's the same one. I went to a large...the…Azerbaijan the Ambassador having a large…event like Azerbaijan Day. I'm going to get this wrong, but a very…a large event and I did go to that. It was an evening event with music, dancing and speeches.

MS. EISNER: Was it shortly after the convention? Was it in 2013?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You mean shortly after the trip?

MS. EISNER: Yes. Yes, after that trip.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I don't mean –

MS. EISNER: Yeah –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: For me, I –

MS. EISNER: The trip, yes.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Okay. I don't know if it was shortly, it was definitely after. So, I'm going to…to the best of my recollections, six months?

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah and again, you don't have to – I can't verify without looking at that information specifically when it was on my calendar.

MS. EISNER: Sure. This is the final document; I promise. THMLG_0010.

MR. ASHMAWY: Here you go.

MS. EISNER: So this is an email from Mahmut Okmuz, the person who you'd been referring to.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Mhmm.

MS. EISNER: Do you know how Faruk Taban is? He's listed on this –

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, but remember the guy that I referred to as being tall?

MS. EISNER: Yes.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: I think that name sounds familiar to me. That that may be who that is. Tall person that I have some recollection, I hope it's relevant and valid that he was a professor at one point in time.

MS. EISNER: Why do you think he sent this email to you?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Well, as I recall, and I don't even remember the email, I mean I clearly I got it. That when we were learning to drink Turkish tea and Turkish coffee, which I think I said earlier was both delicious, and it may not be appropriate counselor, to tell you that was a highlight – this coffee and tea is fabulous. That there's a friendship, like even a fortune telling type of thing, and I just took it as a…as a nice remembrance that we spent time together.

MS. EISNER: Why wouldn't it have been sent to your personal email address?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: You know because I am used that address because I get directly without having it go all the way through and so it's a …I do it for everyone.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And still do unfortunately.

MS. EISNER: Is it common to receive emails from Okmuz or any of individuals on this email chain?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. I don't get – in fact, it is possible that I get like maybe one more from Mahmut. I remember I was fascinated also with evil eyes.

MS. EISNER: Oh, okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: And I'm – I can't recall whether we did or we didn't, I may have asked him you know, if I was going to get to do internet shopping to give a suggestion about that because there's no real opportunity to do that while you're on these trips, which I understand is – there's a good reason for that. And he may have sent me one? I don't recall. We tried to give you as I remember, any email from any of these parties as you requested, so if you didn't get it then I'm wrong. He is fired and never helping me figure that out. So you know, I'm stuck with eBay. I mentioned that from Kemal, I get emails there. I don't get nearly as many as I did that first six months or eight months, maybe it's because it was fresh from the trip or maybe because there was more going on, but the latest one I recall and it does come, they still come to my – they go to Dominic and go to the official office and they also come to, "Mlujangrisham." Which I see every day and I check into my government email when I'm there, I just get online instead of having to go through the server. It's just easier. He may have given me something about Ukraine? In the last year, but they're infrequent.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Yeah. And then nothing from Mahmut or any of these other people since right after the trip.

MS. EISNER: And beyond email, any other recent communication with Mr. Oksuz – Kemal, Razul?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No. Again you know, if they were at the Azerbaijan large reception that I referred to, they may – they probably were there. I don't have a specific recollection of meeting them, but it would not be – that could have occurred and I've seen them in the halls of Congress or you know in my office before a meeting and I say hello.

MS. EISNER: Has anyone tried to contact you recently regarding this trip or the Ethics investigation?

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, except for you. No one.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Is there anything else we haven't covered that you think we should know?

MS. FIORI: I would like to just point one thing out. This email cuts off I think the –

MS. EISNER: Yeah, you're right.

MS. FIORI: So it's not a complete document. I'm just pointing that out; no big deal.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, I apologize for that. I think it's a blank page or possibly the rest of the email signatures so that's true, this 0010 is not a complete document.

MS. FIORI: I just wanted to point that out.

MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah, she's referencing the – actually the margin. Which…

MS. EISNER: Oh, the margin.

MS. FIORI: Yeah.

MS. EISNER: Okay, I see.

MS. FIORI: Yeah, yeah. I'm sorry. I didn't realize you didn't – yeah.

MR. ASHMAWY: That's noted, thank you. Is there anything else you know that we need to touch on that you know, you …

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: No, I mean I don't think so. Again, I appreciate the job that you have. Thank you for spending time. There isn't anything about this trip that I thought was particularly odd or unique. Otherwise, we would've reported it. And we relied on the information that we got from Ethics and provided everything that these folks gave us to the Ethics Committee and predicated the actual acceptance of the trip until we received confirmation and direct approval from the Committee on Ethics.

MR. ASHMAWY: Okay. Well thank you very much for your time.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Sure!

MR. ASHMAWY: I appreciate it.

MS. LUJAN GRISHAM: Sure, sure!

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
3	20	insert "of" after "by virtue,"	grammatical
3	21	delete "outline", replace with "online"	incorrect transcription
8	24	delete "at", replace with "in"	incorrect transcription
8	24	delete "at", replace with "on"	incorrect transcription
8	24	replace "," with a ";"	grammatical
14	8	replace "Mahmut" with "Mehmut" in entire transcription	incorrect spelling
14	15	replace "cheap-like" with "sheep-like"	incorrect transcription
15	21	replace "formal" with "former"	incorrect transcription
24	27	replace "Razul" with "Resul" in entire transcription	incorrect spelling
25	31	"Ms. Puary" should be "Ms. Fiori"	incorrect spelling
27	19	"followed" should be "follow"	grammatical
27	20	insert "not" between "were" and "introduced"	incorrect transcription
43	26	"how" should be replaced with "who"	incorrect transcription
44	12	"am" should be deleted	grammatical
44	12	"it" should be inserted after "I get"	grammatical
44	16	replace "Okmuz" with "Okumus" in entire transcription	incorrect spelling

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: Michelle Lujan Grisham, Member of Congress

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: April 21, 2015

EXHIBIT 12

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE DANNY K. DAVIS

4/13/2015

15-7713_00130

MS. EISNER: There we go, okay. This is Investigative Counsel Helen Eisner joined by Bryson Morgan we are her on April 13th, 2015 with Congressman Danny K Davis. This is Review number 156646 we have given the congressman a copy of 18 USC 1001 and he has provided us with the acknowledgement form. I think with that we will go ahead and get started. So are you familiar with the Turkish American Federation of the Midwest?
REP. DAVIS: I am yes.
MS. EISNER: What is that organization?
REP. DAVIS: Well I guess. It's an organization that provides [buzzing sound on recorder] interests of Turkey in the United States and it also Attempts to bridge the gap between the citizens of the United States and Turkey. And kind of put together things I have attended, events that they have had, they actually also operate a charter school in an area that's a part of my congressional district I have visited the school and I have actually gone out to their headquarters in Mt. Prospect and given a speech and talked to….
MS. EISNER: Where is Mount Prospect? Is that in Illinois?
REP. DAVIS: It's in Illinois. It's a suburban community not too far from Chicago.
MS. EISNER: And it seems you are very familiar with the organization. Do you remember when you first became aware of them and what that first interaction was?
REP. DAVIS: It's been some time ago actually, not so far the organization itself I remember but Turkish individuals I remember meeting and knowing and interacting with oh before I ever came to congress back when I was a member of the Cook County board of commissioners. And also I have friends who are Armenians and they always have something to say about Turkey that isn't necessarily so nice but…
MS. EISNER: Okay I see. You know. Do you know who you normally interact with at that organization?
REP. DAVIS: Yes, Suleyman Turhan
MS. EISNER: And what is his role?
REP. DAVIS: He's the President or the Chief Executive or the head honcho. The guy that I've always known as the person in charge.
MS. EISNER: How often would you say you interact with him?
REP. DAVIS: Maybe a couple of times a year or so, maybe. The interaction would probably be no more than a question or a "can we get you out to our meeting or will you come and speak at something that we're having?" or "we've got something going on will you attend?"
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall when you first met Mr. Turhan?
REP. DAVIS: I really don't other than to say that it's been several years ago. And it was just kind of a normal course of interaction the same as I guess we would do with any representatives of various countries or ethnic groups or whatever so. I don't … I can't pinpoint when that might have been.
MS. EISNER: Do you know who might have introduced you to Turhan? It sounds like you do have a lot of friends in that community.

REP. DAVIS: I don't recall anybody in particular introducing me to them. I mean it was probably coming to a meeting or being some place but I don't recall anybody that I know saying "hey let me introduce you to this gentleman or to Suleyman" or that kind of thing. I don't recall anything of that nature.
MS. EISNER: Are you familiar with an organization called the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?
REP. DAVIS: Not really, no.
MR. MORGAN: Or TCAE they may be referred to by that name TCAE.
REP. DAVIS: Not really, no.
MS. EISNER: Not really. Had you heard the name before?
REP. DAVIS: I've heard the name but only just heard the name as information sort of started to surface about this trip that the Turkish group does and that sort of thing. But I really know nothing about them.
MS. EISNER: Are you familiar with an organization called the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: Not really
MS. EISNER: Sometimes they're called AFAZ, A-F-A-Z.
REP. DAVIS: Not really
MS. EISNER: No? When you say not really is it the same kind of thing? Recently?
REP. DAVIS: Same thing. My basic interaction has really been with Suleyman Turhan. That's basically the individual that I've know that I've had real contact with.
MR. MORGAN: Has he ever talked to you about his sister organizations or other regional based organizations that are sort of similar in mission and purpose to his organization?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Have you heard the name Kemal Oksuz?
REP. DAVIS: Not that I recall.
MS. EISNER: Have you heard it mentioned in connection to any organizations, the Turquoise Council or AFAZ the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: No? Okay.
MR. MORGAN: Has Mr. Turhan ever talked to you about a sort of Houston organization similar to his?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah he mentioned actually that they were doing this trip together. That they both did the same thing and they were putting together this trip.
MS. EISNER: When did he mention that? Was that in…
REP. DAVIS: I think that was mentioned in the invitation to come.
MS. EISNER: We'll get into some details but I just want to keep going through some procedural things. What's the process in your office when someone receives an invitation for privately sponsored travel? How do you approach that?

REP. DAVIS: They usually will send in the notification or they will talk to Yul Edwards who is the chief of staff.
MS. EISNER: And are those requests for you to travel or for your staff to travel as well? Is it the same process?
REP. DAVIS: It's both.
MS. EISNER: And when someone like Yul Edwards handles that request what types of things is he doing to get into the details of the request and the travel? What's the process?
REP. DAVIS: I think he just will tell me about it and just say you know, there's a trip coming up and we've been invited to participate and staff member so and so is interested in going, what do you think, do you think he should go or…
MS. EISNER: Does he go back and ask any questions about funding or sponsorship?
REP. DAVIS: Not really other than to suggest the name of the entity of that is issuing the invitation.
MS. EISNER: And that's in conversations with you he'll tell you the name of the entity?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MS. EISNER: AS far as going back to that entity is there any conversation he would usually have…?
REP. DAVIS: I don't think we do that much in the way of vetting organizations that might invite us. If it's someplace where it seems to be conflict taking place or we know there's conflict, then we may have some conversation relative to do we really want to do this? Do we really want to go there?
MS. EISNER: That makes sense.
MR. MORGAN: So would this be a conversation you would have with Mr. Edwards in person?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: Or would it be like via email or…
REP. DAVIS: No I don't really do much in the way of emailing staff or emailing anybody for that matter I'm far more direct in terms of conversation. Either direct or telephone, I don't do much emailing.
MR. MORGAN: And then is it ultimately your decision do you have to approve travel, not only for yourself but also for staff?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: Have there been any times when you or a member of your staff received an invitation from a group that you simply didn't recognize? You're kind of wondering who is this group? Who are these people?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah, I would say yes. I mean we kind of would look them up and do a little bit of research and see who they are but we probably wouldn't necessarily participate with them anyway if we knew nothing about them. If we didn't have any felling about whatever the country is or the reason for going then we just probably let that slide.

MR. MORGAN: And as you're thinking whether or not to go on a trip or authorize a staff to go on a trip. What are some of the factors that are going through your mind? What are you interested in?
REP. DAVIS: Well usually it's of what value is there to establishing a different level of relationship with this country or with this group representing the country? Or how does it broaden our understanding of world situations and world issues? And does it provide us with information that would be useful as we go about our daily work. It's that kind thinking that we would more than likely inject into conversation.
MS. EISNER: And then, as a part of this process, is there any discussion with the Ethics Committee about the travel?
REP. DAVIS: I think we've only maybe had, you know, if it involves a country like Syria or Citizens of Iran or the Middle East or Pakistan or countries where there is conflict taking place. There may have been occasion where we would call the State Department and really get a read from the State Department as to whether or not they think this is some travel that would be okay. Whether it ought to be done.
MS. EISNER: That makes sense. But as far as funding and sponsorship no?
REP. DAVIS: No we've never had any relationship with any funders or anything of that nature so…
MS. EISNER: Right. And no reason to go to the Ethics Committee, usually?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: So let's get into the convention in Baku. What did you understand the purpose of the convention to be?
REP. DAVIS: Well I thought it was to foster a different set of relationships with the people who were going and with the country itself. And also provide education and information that ultimately could become useful for trade and business relationships or knowledge of the country, knowledge of the environment.
MS. EISNER: Had you attended, I think there was another convention similar to this Azerbaijan Convention in 2012 in Washington DC. Did you attend that convention?
REP. DAVIS: I may have stopped by an event or something but I've never attended any kind of convention as such other that maybe there was an event that I may have gone to and said a few words. You know, we are delighted to be here and to welcome you to...
MS. EISNER: Was that at the 2012 event?
REP. DAVIS: I think that was. It seems like I remember doing something like that one evening.
MS. EISNER: And you spoke at this event that we're talking about?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MS. EISNER: Do you remember who invited you to speak?
REP. DAVIS: That would've been I believe Suleyman Turhan.
MS. EISNER: No this is going back a bit but do you remember what you spoke about?
REP. DAVIS: The thing that I usually speak about is, you know, we're always pleased to make relationships and interact with individuals from other places throughout the world. Gain

knowledge and a greater awareness and understanding of what the country is like and how we can develop friendships and relationships. That's generally.
MS. EISNER: Do you… again just one more question about 2012 about that event. So it sounds like Turhan… Mr. Turhan invited you to speak. Where there other Turkic organizations present at the event that you attended? Any other organizations?
REP. DAVIS: I go the impression that there may have been others but I didn't know who they were or what their reasons were, none of that. Usually I go make a three or four minute speech and then get out of dodge.
MS. EISNER: Sure. So now, I guess, jumping to the 2013 convention that was in Baku. Who did you attend the convention with?
REP. DAVIS: With?
MS. EISNER: Yeah it was… were you with your staff?
REP. DAVIS: My wife went on that.
MS. EISNER: Did any staff attend?
REP. DAVIS: Well staff had they didn't go with me per-se. My wife and I traveled because we only spent, I think, like a couple of days. So…
MS. EISNER: So you were there, I think you know as we understand this trip there were some elements that were in Turkey and there were some elements in Azerbaijan. Were you there for both Turkey and Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: No I have never been to Turkey.
MS. EISNER: So you were in Baku for… do you know how long was it?
REP. DAVIS: I think it was like 2 days. 2-3 days I usually don't be away from by district much more than that. Because we obviously have things that are scheduled. Trying to find a time to take a trip is not an easy thing for us to do.
MS. EISNER: So I guess staff did not go on the trip with you, you were traveling with your wife. Do you know if you… did you have staff who attended?
REP. DAVIS: I think there were two… Lavell Brown, I believe, went to that and so did Yul Edwards.
MS. EISNER: And who was Lavell Brown? What is he… is he a… what is his title?
REP. DAVIS: I think his title is probably staff assistant. What he does is he interfaces with different constituent groups and works on different issues.
MS. EISNER: Did he go to Baku and Turkey?
REP. DAVIS: I think he went to both I believe.
MS. EISNER: And do you know who he was sponsored by to attend?
REP. DAVIS: Well I think that the whole interaction was through someone in the Midwest.
MS. EISNER: And you also said Yul Edwards, your chief of staff, that's
REP. DAVIS: Yeah I think he went… I think he stayed one day or something.
MS. EISNER: One day in, was he in Baku?
REP. DAVIS: I think he was in Baku.
MS. EISNER: So he was just there one day? He didn't go to Turkey?

REP. DAVIS: I think that's what happened.
MS. EISNER: And his sponsor ship?
REP. DAVIS: I think it would've been the same.
MR. MORGAN: Did they… during the Baku portion did they stay at the same hotel as you?
REP. DAVIS: No I never saw them other than walking from… so I'm not sure they stayed the same hotel but if they did I didn't come in contact with them.
MR. MORGAN: You were on the same flights?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Did they attend the same events?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: No different? Okay.
REP. DAVIS: I think there was one which was the opening kind of session. I do recall seeing Lavell coming from that.
MS. EISNER: So how did the conversation begin as far as when you first became aware of this 2013 convention and got the invite to attend?
REP. DAVIS: Well we had been invited to something 2 or 3 times before that. I mean, you know, we'd been invited to come to Turkey and we just couldn't figure out a time and that kind of thing. Plus there was no great compelling reason to be going. I mean but…
MR. MORGAN: When you say you'd been invited 2 or 3 times invited by who?
REP. DAVIS: Invited by Suleyman to, I mean, this wasn't the first conversation that we had had about going to Turkey or going to some Turkish sponsored event or activity or trip.
MS. EISNER: And how would he what form would these invitations take?
REP. DAVIS: Well by the time that you know with this happening we had a conversation I mentioned the fact that we'd gone to Mount Prospect. We've spoken to the group kind of. We've gone to events downtown in the Chicago loop and spoken at those events or luncheons or meetings or whatever. And so we knew each other by now in conversation basis.
MS. EISNER: So did you have the type of relationship where he would pick of the phone and call Yul or call you and say there's an event and I want you to attend?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah but I also think he formalized it. I mean it was formalized in written communication but yeah we've talked. He would be comfortable enough to pick up the phone and say congressman you know we've been talking about going to Turkey of going to Azerbaijan. We've… can you look to do it or…? And I'd probably say well let's look at our scheduler and have our scheduler look at and see what window might exist and if we find a window then we'll consider doing it.
MS. EISNER: Did that happen in this case?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MS. EISNER: So he called and then what was the process?
REP. DAVIS: The process was to talk to Yul and really talk to Jenell Brown to see what the schedule looked like.
MS. EISNER: Is Jenell Brown the scheduler.

REP. DAVIS: Yes, in the DC office.
MS. EISNER: So he called… so he… for this convention Mr. Turhan called you and then you got in touch with Yul.
REP. DAVIS: I think he may have even been in touch with Yul before he even talked to about it to me. I'm not sure how it happened. He may have already been talking to Yul.
MS. EISNER: Did you have any conversations about sponsorship?
REP. DAVIS: No, no more than it was sponsored by his organization.
MS. EISNER: So who did you understand would be paying for the travel?
REP. DAVIS: The Midwest Turkish organization that he was the head of.
MS. EISNER: Did you have… I guess was there any reason to question whether or not Midwest was paying for the travel?
REP. DAVIS: No there really wasn't in my mind. It appeared to be just like many trips where you go and you meet and you talk and you interact and you… so I really have no reason to question.
MS. EISNER: Let's… I guess we can start to get into some of the documents and we can go through some of the details and talk about that. So…
MR. MORGAN: We have some documents here that we can show you. Take your time to look at them and refresh your memory.
MS. EISNER: So I am going to provide its THDKD 0039-0041 most of these are documents that you produced to our office. You can take a second and look that over. So let's just make sure we get the identity of all these people on this email chain correct. So we talked about Jenell Brown, she's the scheduler, Yul Edwards is also on this email. I see a Tumia Romero, do you know who that is? This is on page…
REP. DAVIS: Tumia Romero is a woman who used to work for me and was one of my senior staff persons. But she had… was actually… left to go work for the governor.
MS. EISNER: And then, I also see an email address [redacted] which says it's on behalf of Suleyman Turhan. So, on that second page of that stack here on page 40. In the last paragraph in the email exchange from Suleyman Turhan it says, and this is discussing this trip. It says it is organized by our sister organization in Texas. Do you know what organization he might have been referring to?
REP. DAVIS: I think he was… I mean at the time, other than a similar organization that did the same thing that he did, that his organization did but they were located in Texas and they would've been I guess a representative of a different region like if he was the Midwest then something Texas would be representing Texas and areas, you know, in close proximity to Texas.
MR. MORGAN: Is that something that Mr. Turhan mentioned to you in the phone call he made to you about the trip?
REP. DAVIS: I don't recall. I do think that I recall there was a mention of a joint effort on the part of the two of them that the two organizations…
MR. MORGAN: When you say the two of them, the Midwest as well as a Texas based one?
REP. DAVIS: A Texas based organization.

MS. EISNER: So, a little further up on page 40 in this response from Jenell Brown, the second page of that stack there. Jenell responds to Mr. Turhan, Can you provide me with the specifics of what you want the congressman to speak on. So it seems like she's trying to follow up on something and figure out a little more information. And then on the first page this response comes from Mr. Kemal Oksuz it looks like a sort of long summary of information that might be useful. Do you know who Mr. Oksuz was and why he would've then forwarded this information?
REP. DAVIS: No I assume that he was part of the group doing the planning and the he would've been associated with the sister organization or the comparable organization in Texas. And was just simply passing on information to Suleyman.
MS. EISNER: Let me give you another document to look at which is THDKD 0005. So this looks like, you know, an invitation for this Baku trip, the convention. And it's signed by this person we keep talking about Kemal Oksuz and it says he's president of the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. And in the second to last paragraph there I says, "Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians as the sole organizer will cover airfare to and from the event. Your accommodations, ground transportation, all meals during your travel.
Moran: Do you recall receiving this invitation?
REP. DAVIS: I'm trying to remember if I really do or if I really read it as I'm reading it now. I just don't recall having read this same as I'm reading it now.
MS. EISNER: Did your staff talk to you about this letter? Were there any conversations about it?
REP. DAVIS: No, not in terms of somebody saying, well look this may be two different entities or this may not be the entity that Suleyman Turhan is the head of or no we didn't have that conversation.
MS. EISNER: So knowing kind of what you know now and based on your experience. Why does it say that this Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians is acting as the sole organizer?
REP. DAVIS: It would appear to me that they were overarching entity. Overarching the Midwest organizations.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall ever reaching out to Mr. Turhan to get clarification from him on who it was that was extending the invitation to you?
REP. DAVIS: No, I don't.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall, you know looking back before you went on the trip, do you recall being confused about who was inviting you or do your recall some miscommunication or questions about which organizations it was.
REP. DAVIS: No. I just kind of took the position that it was Suleyman Turhan and Suleyman Turhan's organization.
MS. EISNER: Show you another document which is THDKD 0023-0024. Give you another moment to look that over. So the subject line for this email is we still need the schedule for Azerbaijan. And this is with, the email is between Yul Edwards, Kemal Oksuz, Mr. Turhan is on the email chain, a few other individuals with mail.house.gov email addresses. Jenell Brown who we discussed was Josie Ware a staffer in your office?

REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall what her position was at this time?
REP. DAVIS: Josie is my scheduler in the district office and my secretary.
MS. EISNER: So this schedule it does eventually come through and again it comes from this Kemal Oksuz who kind of keeps appearing here. I guess we are just trying to figure out what his role was and who this guy was. And he seems he is interacting with Mr. Turhan from the Midwest Federation, you know. Do you remember this email or I guess this interaction?
REP. DAVIS: I'm sure that I saw it and just took the position that I guess it was another communication from Suleyman Turhan.
MR. MORGAN: Do you have any sense why he would've put the word confidential at the top there? Do you recall seeing that?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MR. MORGAN: Then do you recall seeing this itinerary that Kemal sent to Mr. Edwards?
REP. DAVIS: Yep I recall seeing the yeah the itinerary.
MR. MORGAN: Do you remember seeing this item here. Lunch with President Aliyev -- Congressman and his wife?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: The next item, there it says 3 p.m. meeting with speaker, do you know what that is referring to?
REP. DAVIS: Nope.
MS. EISNER: Where would these events have been held? This schedule for this day, do you remember where the lunch was with the president?
REP. DAVIS: Well we went to the convention center I guess which was for the primary opening session and afterwards, I don't recall exactly where we went for lunch.
MS. EISNER: Does this seem like an accurate itinerary? Does this represent the itinerary or were there any other itineraries that would be more accurate?
REP. DAVIS: I don't… I mean I don't recall any meeting with any…. And I don't know what speaker meant in terms of that.
MR. MORGAN: Could this… I mean in terms of it being confidential was it… do you think it was sensitive because of the lunch with the president? I'm just trying to understand why it is he put confidential at the top there.
REP. DAVIS: I would have no idea at all.
MS. EISNER: So it seems like Kemal Oksuz was familiar with the itinerary with all these different events you were scheduled to attend. Do you know if he was present at these events? Did you see him there?
REP. DAVIS: I don't know. I wouldn't know him.
MR. MORGAN: Have you ever met him?
REP. DAVIS: I don't recall really meeting him.
MS. EISNER: You meet anyone else from that organization that he seems to represent? The Turquoise Council.

REP. DAVIS: Well the only other person whom I recall was the women who they I guess, the partner, from Houston from Texas. I recall her and I recall meeting her.
MR. MORGAN: Did you meet her while in Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah
MR. MORGAN: What else do you recall about that event?
REP. DAVIS: Well she was very intimately involved in the discussions and the facilitation of what was taking place.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall her name?
REP. DAVIS: I don't recall her name but....
MS. EISNER: Was it Irada, does that sound familiar? Or Akhoundova?
REP. DAVIS: I just don't remember. I don't recall. I just recall her and that she seemed to have been, you know, seriously in charge of what was taking place.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall that she was a person with the Turquoise Council?
REP. DAVIS: I don't know if it was the Turquoise Council or not that she was with but she was as I understand it, the person in charge of the organization in Houston and was very intimately associated with putting together the events and activities.
MS. EISNER: Did you see her interact with Suleyman Turhan?
REP. DAVIS: No more than they may have said something to each other I may have observed them communicating or something but I couldn't say there were extensive periods of time that I would've seen them.
MS. EISNER: She said that she... oh go ahead.
REP. DAVIS: I'm saying I'm sure that I saw them communicate but I couldn't say that it was over any extensive period of time or that....
MR. MORGAN: So I just want to make sure that I'm clear in my understanding. What gave you the impression that this particular woman was in charge or was....
REP. DAVIS: Because every time we had a session or something we'd go meet with somebody she'd always have some things to say.
MR. MORGAN: As in introducing people or...
REP. DAVIS: Introducing people or people introducing themselves to her or people interacting with her.
MS. EISNER: And you said that she seemed like she was seriously involved, was there anyone else that seemed like they had that role?
REP. DAVIS: Not that I would've have discerned. I mean, the only other people that I really any knowledge and knew would've been Suleyman Turhan.
MS. EISNER: Okay and was he present at the convention? Did you see a lot of him?
REP. DAVIS: I didn't see a lot of him. I'm trying to remember I think he was present yes.
MS. EISNER: So as far as getting from place to place and knowing where to go next was there anyone else involved in that element of the convention?
REP. DAVIS: Not that I'm aware of.

MR. MORGAN: So if… while you were at the convention who was your sort of point of contact with logistics?
REP. DAVIS: Suleyman.
MR. MORGAN: It was Suleyman?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah and I do recall he was there and I do recall meeting his wife.
MR. MORGAN: So if you had a question about getting to a place or a question about your hotel room that would've been directed to Suleyman.
REP. DAVIS: I would've thought immediately of Suleyman.
MR. MORGAN: Did he have any other staffers or assistants helping him that you recall?
REP. DAVIS: I just don't know.
MS. EISNER: Can you talk about your experience at the convention, your itinerary, what did you do when you were there?
REP. DAVIS: Well we met with the… lots of, I guess, like chamber of commerce, meetings and there would be some discussion about things that were taking place and development that was occurring and progress that was being made.
MS. EISNER: When you say Chamber of Commerce type of people, where they government officials or…?
REP. DAVIS: I got the impression that they… many of them were not but some were government officials. But some were business types who were a part of the interaction.
MS. EISNER: What about this lunch with the president that we were talking about. Who was present for that lunch?
REP. DAVIS: It seemed to me that there were you know a bunch of different people who some were named individuals that you know who had name and then of course other people that I would've not had any…
MR. MORGAN: How big of a group was that, for lunch?
REP. DAVIS: I'm trying to remember. It was not a mammoth gallery it…
MR. MORGAN: Would you say less than 50?
REP. DAVIS: I'd say somewhere in the neighborhood of that.
MR. MORGAN: Of 50?
REP. DAVIS: It may have been even more but…
MR. MORGAN: Were other members of congress there?
REP. DAVIS: I think there were two or three members of congress who were there.
MR. MORGAN: Other than the president of Azerbaijan do you recall other Azerbaijani government officials being present for that lunch.
REP. DAVIS: There were, but I don't recall who they were or what role they may have been playing in all.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall any business interests being represented at that lunch? Like anybody from, I think Azerbaijan has a fairly large state oil company, SOCAR. Do you remember them?

REP. DAVIS: I remember conversations about oil and oil company. I don't remember any personalities that I could identify or say so and so, this person was from the oil company but there was a great deal of conversation about oil and energy.
MS. EISNER: Were they… were the conversations with government officials?
REP. DAVIS: Some were and some were not
MR. MORGAN: So did the president speak at the lunch?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah, I believe he did.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall what he spoke about?
REP. DAVIS: Progress that they were making and how much friendship they wanted to have with the United States and they were strategic allies and I mean that seemed to be the theme that I recall.
MR. MORGAN: Was it a long… do you recall if it was a long speech?
REP. DAVIS: It wasn't necessarily all that long. Not long enough to get bored or anything like that.
MS. EISNER: Did you speak at the convention?
REP. DAVIS: I did at the, you know, a bunch of us did greetings at the primary session and you know you may have had something to say in some of these gatherings, which would've been a few minutes or so… you know. But nothing like the 15 minutes that some guy suggested.
MS. EISNER: Okay so it wasn't 15 minutes?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Do you know who asked you to speak?
REP. DAVIS: All of the communication that I recall or had in terms of any prep or movement would've been Suleyman Turhan.
MS. EISNER: I guess just being present at the convention did it seem like there was one organization that was coordinating the whole thing?
REP. DAVIS: I couldn't tell or couldn't determine that, because I think my focus was that Suleyman and the women from Houston or Suleyman and the organization from Houston were the facilitators of the whole thing.
MS. EISNER: What about… you know this seems like it was a really big convention there were a lot of, you know, maybe other staffers were there, maybe some business interests. I think you said that the opening session seemed like it was a really big session. You know for everyone else, did it seem like there was a table where you could go and get information or any kind of central source of organization for the conference? Was there… did you see any kind of, you know, welcome tables or signs?
REP. DAVIS: I don't think I paid any attention to that… I wasn't going to be… given anything although I consider myself an avid reader; I had no stuff to read.
MR. MORGAN: Maybe… I'm hoping you can give us a sort of sense of kind of whose convention this was. And I can… sort of in one scenario I can imagine that Suleyman and the Houston organization maybe they were your point of contact or sort of in charge of your participation in the convention. But looking at the convention as a whole, did you have a sense of

which organization or which organizations if they were multiple, were in charge of the convention?
REP. DAVIS: Not beyond those two I mean I just kind of felt that these two organizations had come together and pretty much worked with the authorities in Azerbaijan and brought these people over to talk and to be briefed and to be educated and to learn and to know. And so in my mind those were the two entities that were in charge of whatever was going on.
MR. MORGAN: And when you say in charge of whatever was going on not just in charge of your interaction with the convention but with the convention as a whole?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah. You know with whoever their local partners would've been to have been engaged with them.
MR. MORGAN: Did you have any sense of who those local partners might have been?
REP. DAVIS: No
MR. MORGAN: I think you.... I mean the President of Azerbaijan spoke at this lunch and you know from information we've seen it seems like at least the Azerbaijani Government had a fairly prominent role at the convention. Did you get a sense of what their level of involvement was?
REP. DAVIS: That was my feeling. I mean I obviously to me if the president is going to be somewhere or be a part of something taking place that the government the administration would've been intimately involved with creating it.
MR. MORGAN: Did you see... some of the other witnesses mentioned you know attendance by a minister of energy other sorts of government ministers from Azerbaijan some people have told us that it was Azerbaijani or state police running security at the event, do you recall any of that?
REP. DAVIS: That I really didn't pay any attention to didn't have any sense of that. Although you know I would not have been surprised given the fact that the president had been there or was there whatever time the president was there and whenever members of his cabinet and other political figures who were there. But I didn't really make any observations relative to that.
MS. EISNER: And in some of the itineraries that we've seen there was a lunch on May 30th with and executive team from SOCAR which is the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan. Do you remember that lunch?
REP. DAVIS: It seems like I do and that much of the discussion, you know, was really briefings about how much oil and how much oil was a big part of what went on. So I got the impression that the oil company, very much a part of the agenda.
MR. MORGAN: When you say, "how much oil was a big part of what went on," can you be a little bit more specific?
REP. DAVIS: Well I think energy was discussed every place that we went and of course energy to me meant oil and the role that oil played in creating and maintaining the economy of the environment. And so to me it was a lot of discussion about oil.
MR. MORGAN: Did that strike you as unusual?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MR. MORGAN: Were you... were they pitching something was there an ask?

REP. DAVIS: I think there was… no I never got the impression other than friendship, relationship trade opportunities. That was not necessarily all that specific but that here is the thing that we are promoting friendship between our country and the United States of America and you know we're just sharing this information with those of you who are here and you can help spread the gospel of oil opportunity and so forth.
MS. EISNER: Did SOCAR that company… I mean we talked about that lunch did they host any other events during the convention?
REP. DAVIS: I'm not sure or I don't know.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall any discussions about a Southern Gas Corridor project is that something you're familiar with?
REP. DAVIS: I'm not sure it was, but I do recall a project being talked about. Whether it was something to do with gas or not, I'm not sure about that. But I do recall a project as people talked about future developments and things that were in the planning stages and development stages and things that were being planned to be done.
MS. EISNER: Did you attend a few other events that we heard about? Did you attend an event that was held at the Gulustan Palace it was on May 28th and it was hosted by the Azerbaijan US Interparliamentary Working Group, and an organization called the American Friends of Azerbaijan. Do you remember going to the Gulustan Palace?
REP. DAVIS: I'm trying to remember. It seems as though we did go to you know, a kind of classy event but I'm not sure where it was or if it…
MS. EISNER: What do you remember from that event?
REP. DAVIS: Well just that it was kind of upscale in terms of the social amenities and that's about it.
MS. EISNER: Do you remember that organization, the American Friends of Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: If they played any role in that event? Okay.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall if Mr. Turhan went to that event with you?
REP. DAVIS: I don't know, but I do know that I saw him from time to time in the whole scheme of things.
MS. EISNER: What about that woman we've been talking about who's connected to Houston, do you know if she was there?
REP. DAVIS: I don't recall whether or not she was there or not. Although most of the things that I went to… we went to she was pretty much front and center.
MS. EISNER: Did the convention have any corporate sponsors?
REP. DAVIS: I don't remember.
MR. MORGAN: They may have… we've seen some pictures of the main sort of stage at the convention and there was a large banner behind the stage that listed various entities of being, you know a couple of entities were listed as main sponsors and there were a couple of identities identified as organizers and then below that there was a list of sponsors. Do you recall seeing that?

REP. DAVIS: It seems that I do recall seeing a banner of sorts what was on it I cannot say and I don't recall but I do recall a banner.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall that the banner had company logos on it?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: But you don't recall which specific companies?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Did you have any interactions with I guess any US based oil companies at the convention?
REP. DAVIS: Not that I'm remembering.
MS. EISNER: See if anyone like BP or Conoco Philips?
REP. DAVIS: Not that I recall.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall interacting with like state legislators while you were at the convention? I think we've been told there were a number of state level officials in attendance from the United States. Do you recall that at all?
REP. DAVIS: I do recall that there were some individuals there. There weren't any individuals that I knew or individuals that I interacted with. I don't think there were any individuals from Illinois that I recall.
MR. MORGAN: So when you.... You know, one of the individuals who went related to us that he was surprised, he gets to a, you know, dinner and there he is surrounded by New Hampshire state legislators, do you recall in terms of your and your wife's seating arrangements were you .... What types of individuals were you seated by?
REP. DAVIS: You know I don't recall who may have been at the table or that kind of thing.
MR. MORGAN: So I imagine that you would've been put into a little be more of the VIP type table maybe not state legislators.
REP. DAVIS: But I do recall there were state legislators who were there. I do recall but given the fact they were not from Illinois I didn't necessarily....
MS. EISNER: Sure, do you know what the process was through which you received a visa to go to Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: I'm trying to see, I guess we just applied.
MS. EISNER: So I guess the way it's been described to us, you know, you need a state sponsor to come in and get the visa. So you a kind of organization or state entity in Azerbaijan to sponsor you so you can get the visa and, you know, attend the trip. Did you know that SOCAR, this State Oil Company, processed your visa for the trip?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Do you know why they would've been involved or why they would've you know taken that level of responsibility?
REP. DAVIS: No
MS. EISNER: Did it seem like SOCAR had any other presence, physical presence at the convention, besides, you know, the lunch that we talked about?

REP. DAVIS: I don't recall any other than just knowing that much of the discussion and many of the discussions were associated with oil and energy and you know the extent to which they were the under girders of that or whatever I don't really know. But I do know that it was about oil.
MS. EISNER: Yeah it certainly seems to be that way. Do you have any knowledge about whether they provided any funding for the convention, this SOCAR, the State Oil Company?
REP. DAVIS: I wouldn't have any…
MS. EISNER: I'm going to provide you with your traveler form which you gave to our office which is THDKD 0037. And…
MR. MORGAN: The sponsor post travel disclosure forms.
MS. EISNER: And I think I will also provide you a copy of the forms that we actually pulled from the Clerks Website. So this is a document that contains the member officer post travel disclosure form, traveler form, primary trip sponsor form, and it is 1, 2 this is a 5 page packet and this is available publicly on the Clerks Website.
MR. MORGAN: So who in your congressional office or if it was you yourself, who would've been involved in putting together these forms and getting approval from the Committee on Ethics?
REP. DAVIS: If it's in DC it would be Jenell Brown. If it was in Chicago it would be Josie Ward.
MS. EISNER: And would they talk to you about these forms? Would you have to see these forms before they were signed and passed along?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MS. EISNER: Do you recall these forms specifically?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MS. EISNER: So the form lists, all these forms list the Turkish American Federation of the Midwest as the sponsor. Did you have any reason to question whether this organization was the sponsor?
REP. DAVIS: I really did not.
MS. EISNER: Did you know that not all members who attended the convention were sponsored by this group by TAA… by this Midwest organization?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Were there any conversations I guess between members at the convention about who the real sponsor for the convention was?
REP. DAVIS: Not to my knowledge.
MR. MORGAN: Why didn't you also list that Houston based organization as a sponsor?
REP. DAVIS: I guess we just kind of took the position or felt that our part of it was the Midwest Turkish Federation and that would've been the entity that applied, I mean, to us or to my participation.
MR. MORGAN: And you said, that's the position you took. Was there a debate or a discussion in the office over which entity was…?

REP. DAVIS: No we just felt, I mean we just automatically felt, I mean I knew that there had been some mention of this being a partnership thing that was being done with Suleyman and his counterpart in Houston but I mean the information that we had just suggested that the Midwest Turkish Federation was the outfit that related to what we were doing or related to my involvement.
MR. MORGAN: The third page of that packet on top there.
MS. EISNER: The primary trip sponsor form.
MR. MORGAN: So this is a form, you know correct me if I'm wrong but I think this is a form that would've been completed by someone outside of your congressional office so probably by someone at the Midwest or someone else. Do you see there line 2 it says that, "I represent that the trip will not be financed in whole or in part by…" excuse me line 3 is what I want to ask you about, "I represent that A) the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any part of the trip," and you'll notice that they checked that box there.
REP. DAVIS: Yeah
MR. MORGAN: Did you have reason to believe that the Houston based organization was providing financial support for your aspects of the trip?
REP. DAVIS: I really did not consider that or think of that. I guess we were just simply relying on the information that was provided to us by Suleyman Turhan.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. Do you recall at some point forms had to be submitted to the committee on ethics for the committee to approve the trip? What do you recall about that approval process for this trip? Do you recall Mr. Edwards or someone else in your office giving you updates on how that was going or asking you questions about it?
REP. DAVIS: I think we were just proceeding along the normal course that did not appear to be any snags and that kind of thing.
MR. MORGAN: Yeah.
REP. DAVIS: As long as the dates continued to jive with the dates we had set aside in terms of saying that, "yeah we can do it on those days" then I don't think we had any other…
MR. MORGAN: Okay. Well and I just want to be really clear in the questions because what happens on our end is, Helen and I have to make a presentation to our board of what we've found, the facts we've found with regard to your travel and so I want to be clear and ask you the question that I think our board members will likely ask us, which is you know, if you look at this invitation you received from Mr. Oksuz and it's THDKD_05, and I…very respectively Congressman, I want to post this question to you which is, you know in this one email or letter from Mr. Oksuz, you're being told that the Turquoise Council will cover all your expenses. And then what we have sort of later in time is your office and TAFM, Midwest Group, representing to the Committee on Ethics that the Midwest organization would pay for everything and I just want to make sure that we understand what could've possibly caused that switch of organization or if it was a discrepancy? And what the reasons for that might be.

REP. DAVIS: And of course I wouldn't have any information related to that or any knowledge other than we're proceeding with the Turkish …Midwest Turkish Federation as the sponsors that we knew of the trip and I think that's what we knew.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. I mean you understand why I'm asking that question about the –
REP. DAVIS: Mhmm.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
REP. DAVIS: Yeah, I never knew you know, what this Turkish Council of Americans and Eurasians; I've never known anything about them or who they were, what they do, or anything in that nature.
MS. EISNER: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: So, is it fair to say that in your mind, at all times, you viewed the Midwest organization as being the one paying for your participation, the convention?
REP. DAVIS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: There wasn't a time, there wasn't a point of time in your mind where you thought it was the Houston based organization and then it switched to the Midwest? It was the Midwest the entire time? Is that correct?
REP. DAVIS: That's correct.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MS. EISNER: Well we want to ask you a few more questions. We're nearing the end here. We're getting closer. So, going back to the convention, did you receive any gifts at the convention?
REP. DAVIS: There was a …yeah, a brief case that individuals were given.
MS. EISNER: Okay. Who was given the briefcase?
REP. DAVIS: I got one. My wife got one.
MS. EISNER: Okay. And what was the context for you know, for getting this briefcase? Was it a –
REP. DAVIS: I think it was …I don't know, just a gift. No…matter of fact, I gave mine to one of the volunteers you know that worked with us, but I think that was …
MR. MORGAN: Who was it a gift from?
REP. DAVIS: I assumed that it was from the Turkish…Federation of the Midwest. That's who we –
MS. EISNER: So how did you… I mean was it given to you at a meeting or was it at the end of the convention?
REP. DAVIS: I think it was … I think it was in our hotel. I believe.
MS. EISNER: Okay. Do you know if there was a note attached or any type of…?
REP. DAVIS: I think we were just told this was a gift.
MR. MORGAN: Did you thank anyone for it?
REP. DAVIS: Not in terms of any written communication or anything of that sort.
MS. EISNER: So you gave yours to a volunteer in your office? Is that in D.C.?
REP. DAVIS: Yes. Mhmm.

MS. EISNER: And did your wife keep the one she got?
REP. DAVIS: I think she kept the one that she got. She still has it.
MR. MORGAN: Could you describe the briefcase?
REP. DAVIS: It's a green looking you know, kind of…
MR. MORGAN: Like a leather –
REP. DAVIS: Slick looking…It looks more like an alligator. At least that's what it looked like to me.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MS. EISNER: When you got back, did you, you know, fill out any paper work related to the briefcase?
REP. DAVIS: We just filed the post-travel form.
MS. EISNER: Post-travel form. Did you get it valued or any attempt to kind of see what it was worth?
REP. DAVIS: I didn't because it had no value to me at all. I'm sure it has value, but…
MR. MORGAN: Do you have a sense of what that value might be? Did it strike you as a pretty nice briefcase or pretty cheap item?
REP. DAVIS: No, I thought it was a pretty nice briefcase, but I'm saying…
MR. MORGAN: Was it a brand-name briefcase?
REP. DAVIS: I didn't…
MR. MORGAN: Did it have a little logo on it or name on it?
REP. DAVIS: I didn't check to see, but it had no value to me as a, you know…it certainly was something that I could've done without. Not something…
MR. MORGAN: Green not your favorite color?
MS. EISNER: Alligator…
REP. DAVIS: Well everybody rolls everything nowadays and so, if you're going to use it you have to carry it, but that's…
MS. EISNER: Do you know if anyone else got briefcases?
REP. DAVIS: Oh yeah, I saw briefcases. I'm saying I saw people being given briefcases. Yeah.
MS. EISNER: What about other members of Congress? Was it something that was given to everyone?
REP. DAVIS: I don't remember if there was any member of Congress around where I may have been.
MS. EISNER: Any other gifts that –
REP. DAVIS: I think there was also a kind of a rug of some kind that…I don't think it's ever been opened.
MS. EISNER: Oh, where is it now?
REP. DAVIS: I think it's someplace in my basement.
MS. EISNER: Okay. So you didn't open it up and look at it?
REP. DAVIS: It's in…it's nothing for me to do with it other than…
MR. MORGAN: Was that something that you received in your hotel room as well?

REP. DAVIS: I think that was, yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Some people have described to us that the rugs were in a red bag or a maroon bag? Is that –
REP. DAVIS: Something like that.
MR. MORGAN: Something like that. Do you recall if it was one rug or if there were two?
REP. DAVIS: I think there was one. As a matter of fact the problem was, how do you get this back?
MS. EISNER: Who did you think this rug came from?
REP. DAVIS: I thought it came from the Turkish Federation of the Midwest. That – that…you know that everything would've been a part of their trip planning. I mean that…somebody may have given it to them, I mean…
MS. EISNER: Okay. If it's still in its original package, or I don't know if it is, but still wrapped up, does it have any you know tags connect to it or notes or anything that would indicate where it came from?
REP. DAVIS: I don't know. I'd have to try to look and see.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall receiving any other gifts while you were there?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MR. MORGAN: Any silk scarves? Tea set? Along those lines?
MS. EISNER: How about a DVD box set, from the president of Turkey? Or I guess you weren't in the Turkey portion so… We've…some people I think received two rugs, but you recall receiving that one rug? Is that correct?
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall how big it was?
REP. DAVIS: I think it…it was about this size.
MS. EISNER: 2-3 ft…
MR. MORGAN: 2-3 ft wide? What was about its length? Do you recall?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah, I think it's about this…both ways.
MR. MORGAN: 2-3 ft by 2-3 ft?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MS. EISNER: Any other gifts that we should know about?
REP. DAVIS: Nope. Nothing that I recall.
MS. EISNER: Did you have any discussions with the Committee on Ethics about the briefcase or the rug or anything else you received during the trip?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: Was there ever any discussion in your Congressional office between you and your staff, whether or not it was permissible to keep the rug or keep the briefcases?
REP. DAVIS: No, I don't believe so. Yeah. I think, no…I don't recall having any…I think we probably assumed a little bit there that if it was being handed out as a part that then it was in all

likelihood appropriate because it really had no value to … well for me it didn't, but… maybe to some members or some people who…
MR. MORGAN: So just to make sure we're clear, your thinking about the rug and about the briefcases was that because it was given to you as part of the convention, it was permissible for you to keep or do with them as you saw fit?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MS. EISNER: Have you had any conversations with anyone from the Midwest Federation recently?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MR. MORGAN: And we say recently like in the past few months?
REP. DAVIS: Nope, not that I recall. Certainly not about the trip or… anything.
MR. MORGAN: Any attempt by anyone with the Midwest organization or that Houston group to reach out to talk to you about the trip?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Any efforts to get you to I don't know, follow-up on behalf of the State officials that you did meet or maybe the president of the country when you returned to help with any you know, official matters or do anything kind of ceremonial?
REP. DAVIS: No, I think before the election I think there was an inquiry as to how I felt about the president and whether or not I'd make any comment on –
MS. EISNER: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: How you felt about the president of Azerbaijan?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MS. EISNER: Who did that –
REP. DAVIS: We contacted the State Department and inquired and they said, well it's nothing that prohibits it me from doing it, but we just assumed that you didn't.
MR. MORGAN: Do you recall who made that request of you?
REP. DAVIS: Suleyman.
MR. MORGAN: Suleyman did?
REP. DAVIS: Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: And was he hoping you would endorse the current president? Or what was he going –
REP. DAVIS: I don't know if it necessarily would be called an endorsement.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. How would you describe it?
REP. DAVIS: But just a… any statement relative to how I thought the president was carrying out his functions and… if he was a good president or…
MR. MORGAN: Was Suleyman hoping your comments about the president would be positive?
REP. DAVIS: I … you know I can't say what he was thinking, but I would imagine so. Yeah, I would imagine…

MR. MORGAN: I honestly don't know if he was looking for critical remarks about the president or positive, you would have a better sense.
REP. DAVIS: Because I didn't know that's why we called State Department and we didn't make any because the State Department just sort of said, there's no prohibition, there's…but we just assumed that you didn't. That you just may not want to do that in terms of…
MS. EISNER: Any other similar contact where they reached out to you, Midwest, and asked you for anything similar to that?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: What about you know any conversations with some of the individuals we've been talking about, the woman from the Houston organization, is she… have you had any contact with her in the last –
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Okay. What about Kemal Oksuz, the individual we've been talking about; has he reached out to you or had any conversations with you in the last year or so?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Has anyone contacted you and you know tried to discuss this investigation or the work of the Office of Congressional Ethics in this review?
REP. DAVIS: No.
MS. EISNER: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: I think you have a sense of what questions we have. Is there – I noticed you brought some documents in with you, is there anything you'd like to share with us? Anything else you'd like to say for the record?
REP. DAVIS: Well those were just copies of the documents that you had supplied.
MR. MORGAN: Oh, okay.
REP. DAVIS: And I just brought them for…
MR. MORGAN: No, I just asked because I wasn't sure if there was additional documents you wanted us to see or anything along those lines. You're certainly welcome to offer anything like that right now if you'd like to.
REP. DAVIS: No, we don't – I don't have any…any other documents or communication or anything beyond what we have discussed.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MS. EISNER: Great. We will go ahead and stop the recording.

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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
11	1	WOMEN To WOMAN	1 PERSON REFERRED TO
13	23	WOMEN To WOMAN	1 PERSON REFERRED TO
17	18	WARE To WARE	SPELLING
19	40	No.	THE INVOLVED OFFICE
23	5	ASSUMED To SUGGEST PEER	NOT BECOME INVOLVED

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: DANNY K. DAVIS

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 4-8-15

EXHIBIT 13

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF CONOCOPHILLIPS MANAGER 1

4/8/15

Helen Eisner: This is Helen Eisner, from the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by Omar Ashmawy and we have Jason Rother.

Jason Rother: Correct.

Helen Eisner: Rob Walker and ConocoPhillips Manager 1. Make sure I'm pronouncing everything correctly. We are in Houston and we have just given ConocoPhillips Manager 1 information about 18 U.S.C. § 1001. She has signed the acknowledgement form. We have told her we will be recording the interview and I think, at this point, we will go ahead and get started. What was your position at ConocoPhillips?

Witness: I was a Manager of External and Government Affairs.

Helen Eisner: Okay. How long were you in that position?

Witness: Since 2000.

Helen Eisner: Did you have a position at ConocoPhillips before then?

Witness: Not like that.

Helen Eisner: What was the title of your prior positions at ConocoPhillips?

Witness: I don't recall exactly, but like advisor ... director.

Helen Eisner: Okay. When did you start working at ConocoPhillips?

Witness: In '78.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Going directly to the manager position. What were your duties in that position?

Witness: It was different, depending on the different job I held, but mostly it's to establish and maintain the government relationship with the different countries where our company operates, in order for them to have a way to go into the country and negotiate the contracts.

Helen Eisner: Okay. How would you do that?

Witness: How would I?

Helen Eisner: Establish and develop the relationships with different countries.

Witness: That's a trade secret. [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: Can you talk generally about the day-to-day work that you did to go about accomplishing that goal?

Witness: A lot of people, say in the Soviet Union or former Soviet Union, I knew from my time, a long time ago.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Just maintained a relationship. I met a lot of people through the conferences, through the network events, like through the Embassy functions.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Did you interact with members of Congress in that position?

Witness: Not very much.

Helen Eisner: What is ...

Rob Walker: The U.S. Congress, right?

Helen Eisner: With the ... Yes, I'm sorry.

Rob Walker: Yeah.

Helen Eisner: With the United States Congress. You said 'not very much' as applied to the United States Congress?

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: When you say 'not very much,' could you categorize that as once a month, twice a month ... Would any of those apply?

Witness: Not that often.

Helen Eisner: Not that often. Okay. In that position as manager, did you report to anyone?

Witness: Yes.

Helen Eisner: Who did you report to?

Witness: Like where in my last job or what?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, in your last position as Manager of Internal Government Affairs.

Witness: I had to do a reporting relationship. Lynn Strickland was Vice President for Exploration. I reported to her and then Bill Burkett, who was the manager for the Business Development.

Omar Ashmawy: Could you repeat the first name again? Lynn?

Witness: Strickland.

Omar Ashmawy: Lynn Strickland and Bill Burkett?

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Were they located in the same office as you?

Witness: Correct.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Who is Farkhad Kasimov?

Witness: Farkhad Kasimov is our local contractor in Azerbaijan.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Who is Kay Larcom?

Witness: Kay Larcom, she is Manager of International- I think, International Affairs. I don't know exactly her title, but she is in our Washington office.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Do you know the Turkic American Associations. Are you familiar with the Turkic American Associations?

Witness: I know the Turquoise- Something that has a Turquoise name, who is an organization.

Helen Eisner: The Turquoise ...

Witness: Something Council or ...

Omar Ashmawy: The Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: TCAE. Is that the organization?

Witness: I remember I like the Turquoise, because it was association with a stone.

Omar Ashmawy: Was it the Association ... President was- His name was Kemal?

Witness: I think so.

Omar Ashmawy: Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: I think so.

Omar Ashmawy: We'll end up talking about the Turquoise Council in a minute, but are you familiar with organizations that are known as The Turkic American Federation of the Midwest, Turkic Federation of the Mid-Atlantic? [crosstalk] of the South ...

Witness: Never heard of them.

Omar Ashmawy: Never hear of them, okay.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Let's just talk a little bit more for a second about The Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. How did you hear about them? How did you learn about them?

Witness: I honestly cannot recall who- how the connection was made.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Do you know what they do?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Do you know how they're funded?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: All right. Are you familiar with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, also known as SOCAR?

Witness: Correct.

Helen Eisner: What is that? What is SOCAR?

Witness: SOCAR? It's the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, it's the abbreviation for all of those words.

Helen Eisner: How did you become familiar with them?

Witness: Because I travel in the country and if you want to do business in the country, that's who you-we're an oil company and that's who I asked Farkhad to meet. I set up meetings for our business development or for our upper management to meet with them through Farkhad.

Helen Eisner: When you say 'travel in the country,' which country are you referring to?

Witness: Azerbaijan.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Just want to make that clear for our transcript here.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: You said you set up meetings. How would you set up the meetings?

Witness: Is that okay?

Rob Walker: I think so.

Witness: No, I mean ...

Rob Walker: Would you like to talk with us?

Witness: No, I don't want to talk to you, I just like ... You want a long story? You want a short ... [crosstalk] Let's say I was a message carrier. I would go and ask for the meeting. Farkhad usually will-since he's a person on the ground-he will arrange the meeting for me. Here comes ConocoPhillips Government Affairs Manager. We sit down at the table and I explain, because I also speak the language. I explain to the management of SOCAR why somebody is coming, what's the reason, what's the purpose, what we're trying to accomplish. Based on that information, they either will say, "Yeah, you know, let's look at the dates. Let's set up a meeting," and it will happen.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have anyone at SOCAR that you regularly used to communicate with?

Witness: Depending on who's coming, you match up big people. Depending on who is coming, if it coming, like our president, then the president wants to talk to the president of SOCAR. If it's a business development group then it's a business devel- It wasn't anybody special or particular that I would go and talk to.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: If it's transportation issue, I'll go talk to them. If it's marketing ...

Helen Eisner: Do you know Rauf Mammadov?

Witness: Ralph? [crosstalk 00:08:49]

Helen Eisner: Rauf, Ralph ...

Omar Ashmawy: Rauf Mammadov?

Witness: No.

Rob Walker: Can you spell that?

Helen Eisner: It's R-A-U-F M-A-M-M-A-D-O-V.

Witness: No, I don't.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Again, pardon my pronunciation with some of these names. Another person-do you know Zaur Gahramanov, which is Z-A-U-R G-A-H-R-A-M-A-N-O-V?

Witness: No.

Omar Ashmawy: How about someone by the name of Kenul Ismailova?

Witness: No. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: May I ask you to spell that, Omar?

Omar Ashmawy: Sure. First name: K-E-N-U-L. Last name: I-S-M-A-I-L-O-V-A.

Rob Walker: Thanks.

Omar Ashmawy: Not a problem.

Helen Eisner: What is the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

Witness: I think it's another ... The outfit for the Turquoise organization.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Because I believe early in my- or when my first interaction with Kemal, I ask him what does he have to do with Azerbaijan and he said "Well, you know, I also represent ... " I think that's what- how he introduced himself- that Friends of Azerbaijan Foundation or Organization.

Omar Ashmawy: Just to finish-just to give you a moment to finish your sentence, Kemal said he also represents what? Who?

Witness: The what?

Omar Ashmawy: When you asked Kemal what did he have to do with Azerbaijan, you said that Kemal said to you that he also represents what? Who? Who did Kemal also represent?

Witness: From what my recollection is, because I was wondering what the Turkish organization, with a color would have to do with Azerbaijan, because I know they deal a lot with Turkey, because they have the same culture, same language and so on, but I ask him what does he particularly have to do- Why is he involved in the programs with Azerbaijan and he said one of the- or his organization call Friends of Azerbaijan. [crosstalk] I was under the impression that he runs both of them.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you know what the Friends of Azerbaijan, what they do-what their mission is?

Witness: No.

Omar Ashmawy: Are you familiar with how they're funded?

Witness: No. I believe he told me that this is like 503(c), you know, the organization. [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: No please ...

Witness: That is similar to the organization we have here in Houston. It's mostly is aimed toward develop the culture and understanding for the U.S. citizen, what Azerbaijan is and where they are and their cultural issue and like they ... I guess it's a different organization.

Rob Walker: This is all from hearing about it or reading about it. You were not part of that organization, yourself?

Witness: No.

Omar Ashmawy: Does Kemal talk to you about his relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: No.

Omar Ashmawy: No? What is the Friends of Azerbaijan's organization relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: I have no idea.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. More generally, then, who is Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: Who is he?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, who is he? How did you meet him? How do you know him? What kind of work did you do with him?

Witness: Like I said, I can only ... I do not recall exactly how-what's the relationship-came about, but I think-I thought he was working for U.S. government.

Omar Ashmawy: Why?

Witness: Why? Because of the name droppings.

Omar Ashmawy: Such as? What names would he use?

Witness: Obama. For example, when we talk about ... I saw the email when I couldn't get the program. He wants money. I told him, "No, hell no." I said, "But I want to know what this about, okay? So give me some program. Give me some more substance." When I said, "Can I see it? Can you send me something?"

"Oh, I'm busy in Washington. I'm meeting Obama."

Helen Eisner: You might actually- I'm not sure that we have the document you're referring to. Was that part of the production, the back and forth with Obama?

Witness: [crosstalk] Oh, no, no, no ... That was something ... [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: This is just a conversation that you had? [crosstalk]

Witness: Yeah. [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: It's you say how do I know ...

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: ... if he's working. I never heard him talking about SOCAR or never talking that much about the Azerbaijani government, which this is our host and I'm not interested in the U.S. government.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Sorry.

Helen Eisner: Do you know who Irada Akhoundova is?

Witness: She runs the Cultural Center.

Helen Eisner: The Cultural Center is?

Witness: Cultural Center of Azerbaijan, I think is what it's called and that's here in Houston.

Helen Eisner: Does she have a relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: I do not know.

Helen Eisner: Does she have a relationship with Mr. Oksuz, with Kemal?

Witness: You know, I heard her mention whatever the trips like this happen? I guess she does, because they show up in the same functions, so I guess they somehow ... But I'm speculating ...

Helen Eisner: We're going to talk a little bit about the 2013 U.S-Azerbaijan Convention. Did you attend the 2012 U.S-Azerbaijan Convention in Washington D.C.?

Witness: No, I did not.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Were you involved in any sponsorship issues related to that convention in 2012?

Witness: Most likely, I did, but I cannot tell you exactly, but everything that had to do with Azerbaijan came through me, because I was your filtering device and that's how we were set up.

Helen Eisner: I see. What do you understand the purpose of that 2012 convention to be?

Witness: I was not involved and like I said ... I'm sorry. I'm sorry for you because you represent the U.S. government, but U.S. government does very little for my job, okay? I concentrate on the host governments, so that's why the function in Washington did not appeal to me.

Helen Eisner: Because you concentrate on the host governments ...

Witness: That's where we try to get the project. That's where we try to ...

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Wave the flag for ConocoPhillips so they know us-that hopefully, they give us a project.

Helen Eisner: Who did you understand the funder to be for that 2012 conference?

Witness: Like I said, I do not know.

Helen Eisner: Was SOCAR a funder for that conference, the 2012 conference?

Witness: If I were there, I could probably see the signage and tell you who was the major sponsor. You know how you go and it's like somebody's logo is bigger than somebody else's. I can't tell you because I was not there.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Okay.

Helen Eisner: Even not being there, do you have an understanding of who might have been the sponsor for that conference? The 2012?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. All right, so we have a number of documents and we're going to just go back and forth and show them to you. We'll give you a second to familiarize yourself with them. As we understand and I think you mentioned earlier, ConocoPhillips was not initially a sponsor for the 2013 convention in Azerbaijan. Is that correct?

Witness: That's correct.

Helen Eisner: Okay. I'm going to provide everyone ... I actually- Well, we can share. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: I have a set. [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: If you can find it quickly, then [crosstalk] we can just share. This is OCE-COP- lots of zeros here, so 0000 [crosstalk]

Witness: What's the last two digit?

Helen Eisner: 0005. I think it's five through six. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: Thank you.

Helen Eisner: I'll give you a moment to look at that.

Witness: Okay.

Helen Eisner: The initial sponsorship request was a minimum of $250,000.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: This was, just to be clear, you're on this email chain.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Kay Larcom and Kemal Oksuz. This was Oksuz asking you for these amounts. Why did ConocoPhillips decide not to sponsor at that level?

Witness: Well, because my party line for everybody-we have no project in the country. We don't generate any money and $250,000 is just like totally outrageous amount. I never paid anybody that kind of amount.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: You see this, I said, "Would $5,000 be sufficient?" Because he said it's going to be high-level conference and no program attached.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Later, ConocoPhillips did decide to sponsor at a different amount. Were you involved with the discussions that eventually led to that sponsorship decision?

Witness: I'm sure I was involved.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Because all the recommendations come from me.

Helen Eisner: Let me show you a document, which is [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: It's going to be OCE-COP 0043 through 0046. [crosstalk] If you can actually draw your attention to the last page, 0046, first.

Witness: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: You'll note this now May 13th, 2013.

Witness: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: SOCAR is now asking Conoco to sponsor the convention. [crosstalk] Correct?

Witness: According to this email, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: How did that happen? How did it go from a $250,000 ask from Kemal to, essentially, a $10,000 ask from SOCAR?

Witness: Do you have any comments on that? We discussed it.

Jason Rother: Yeah, no, this ... Just to be clear. I don't want you to get confused, because the email on 46 is clearly from somebody at SOCAR to other people, not anybody at COP. Nobody on that email is COP. Somehow it gets sent from SOCAR to Mr. Farkhad and then Mr. Farkhad forwards it on to Mr. Burkett, so it eventually finds its way to COP.

Helen Eisner: Yes. [multiple affirmatives]

Jason Rother: But the original email is not directed at COP, it's a pass-on. If that's what you're wanting to clarify, ConocoPhillips Government Affairs Manager?

Witness: Yes. I think we talk about it yesterday. Again, guys, I have nothing to hide and I want to make this painless ... They do not have somebody like the Turquoise organization in Azerbaijan. It's a fine line between the State Oil Company, because they are acting like ... State Oil Company is acting like they are privately owned company, because I ran into this issue with [inaudible] in Russia, because they are partners but they are also government.

If you wanted to find out something that is going on or scheduled to happen on the ground in Baku, the State Oil Company is going to get involved because they don't want to end up with egg on their face. They don't have this middleman organization, like Friends of Azerbaijan or the Turquoise organization, to do all this legwork. I think the reason I don't recognize any of these people, because they're low staff employees in SOCAR, just trying to pull things together.

Rob Walker: You're referring to the people listed on page 46, right?

Witness: I think that's the people that ... Yeah, because I think this is the one that you asked me if I knew Zaur Gahramanov. They don't mean anything because I think those are people-staff position-who are trying to put something together for this conference.

Omar Ashmawy: That makes sense. I guess what we're specifically asking about though is, if you draw your attention to page 0044.

Witness: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: The bottom email.

Witness: Yep.

Omar Ashmawy: It's an email dated May 14th, 2013.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Omar Ashmawy: It's from Lynn Strickland. It's to Bill Burkett, with your C.C. on it, with additional other people ...

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Omar Ashmawy: Including Conoco's representative in Azerbaijan.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Omar Ashmawy: Bill says to Lynn, "On further discussion, ConocoPhillips Manager 1(you), I now understand the importance of the conference and we should definitely sponsor." We're just wondering what the change- why you guys changed your mind? Originally, there was an ask from Kemal. You guys said no to $250,000. There then was an ask from SOCAR that was forwarded to you guys for less. You guys said yes. We're just wondering what changed?

Witness: Okay, because you heard me repeating over and over that I wanted to know the program. I wanted to know who participates, because my job is to make our company visible and stand there up in the front room and wave my flag. If I can do it for cheap rather than $250,000 ... $250,000 is totally unjustified. We're not BP. We're not paying billions of dollars into their tax system, okay? But this amount, they are more in line with any sponsorship in Russia or Azerbaijan or Turkey or anything like that. It's basically giving you an opportunity to have your logo displayed and to have people waving the flag.

Helen Eisner: One of the things that you say in this-I'm sorry, not you-that Lynn says in this exchange is, following the conversation or discussion that she had with you ...

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: She now understands the importance of this conference, so recognizing visibility and we talked about waving the red flag. That piece ...

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Why was this conference important?

Witness: Because you can hardly get all the executive people around the board table unless there's a board meeting or some kind of special event. This is a special event. You get to see a lot of people who are movers and shakers from the government and from the State Oil Company, who are your potential partners, in one place.

Rob Walker: It was important because of SOCAR's- of the relationship between ConocoPhillips and SOCAR?

Witness: Not just with SOCAR. It's going to be the forum where the local people will be represented. They had the guy who is a famous artist. They have these dignitaries invited to those kind of events. I think it's important, not just to go after the project. I like to have a variety of contacts within the country.

Helen Eisner: Also on page 44, in this email exchange back and forth.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: This is the email that you wrote to Lynn and Bill.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Regarding the decision to sponsor, you say, "We will need to get an invoice for this sponsorship, either from AFAZ or the Turquoise Council to avoid FCPA issues. Why did you say AFAZ or the Turquoise Council?

Witness: Because AFAZ, isn't that the Friends of Azerbaijan?

Helen Eisner: Yes.

Witness: Okay. [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: I apologize, AFAZ is Friends [crosstalk] the Friends of Azerbaijan.

Witness: The thing is that Azerbaijan is a cash country. Very few thing is set up unless it's like the American-run hotel, set up to take a credit card. I did not want it to have pay in cash or credit card for something we were doing there. That's why I said we must have the invoice, so we can properly document all this.

Omar Ashmawy: Why didn't the invoice come from SOCAR?

Witness: What do you mean SOCAR?

Omar Ashmawy: Why didn't SOCAR send you the invoice to document it?

Witness: They didn't organize it.

Omar Ashmawy: But they asked you for the money.

Witness: They didn't ask for the money.

Omar Ashmawy: You referenced the chain. Kemal asked you guys for money. You guys said no, admittedly, for $250,000. A request from SOCAR was forwarded to ConocoPhillips for much less. You guys said yes, but you wanted the invoice to come from the Turquoise Council or AFAZ, but it's clear the request, initially, initiated from SOCAR.

Witness: No. I don't see. This does not show me that this was a request from them. Where is- It says, "Dear ConocoPhillips Government Affairs Manager, We're asking you to sponsor." This is just showing the good work that Farkhad did because I've been- just like til I'm blue in the face, been trying to get some kind of a structure and some kind of a program about this conference, and he said "Well, I haven't seen any," but he said maybe, because he's working with SOCAR, maybe they will get it. This is how I got this.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, but then [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: Omar, could you look at the actual text of the email on page 46, where it says the conference is being co-organized by a number of organizations?

Omar Ashmawy: Yes, I've seen that.

Rob Walker: There can be more than one sponsor of the event.

Witness: There definitely was more than one spons- [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: My question doesn't include that. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: There can be ... Well, it kind of does.

Omar Ashmawy: Actually, Rob, it doesn't and if you would allow me, the question is ... Let me take a step back, then. Who asked you for the $10,000 that ConocoPhillips ultimately gave for the convention?

Witness: Kemal? I think he asked me.

Omar Ashmawy: What were the circumstances of the request?

Witness: What do you mean circumstances?

Omar Ashmawy: How did he ask?

Witness: Well ...

Omar Ashmawy: Did he send an email requesting the $10,000?

Witness: I think that it was a letter.

Omar Ashmawy: A letter requesting $10,000?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: You guys didn't turn over a letter from Kemal asking for $10,000.

Witness: Was it a letter?

Jason Rother: There's a letter from the Friends of Azerbaijan, sent to COP, I think Mr. Farkhad Kasimov, saying, "Here are the sponsorship opportunities." [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: 11 and 12? I think there are multiple copies in the production.

Omar Ashmawy: Yes. However, it seems, from the emails, that, predating that, the request came from within SOCAR. In fact, page 0044 indicates that you're going to have Farkhad inform SOCAR locally and then have Kemal invoice ConocoPhillips. If the request originated with Kemal and the Turkish Council-AFAZ, it would seem odd to me why Farkhad is involved at all and who he has to inform locally in Azerbaijan. I'm not trying to hide the ball. Keep in mind, we're not investigating you. I want to understand the relationship between Kemal and SOCAR.

Witness: We need to go to Azerbaijan. You will know exactly what I'm talking about. It's one thing, it's reading the email message. Another thing is trying to get something out of those guys. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: But we are not Kemal or SOCAR, so how is it that we are to tell you what their relationship is?

Omar Ashmawy: My question to ConocoPhillips Manager 1is there appears to be a request that originated from SOCAR for sponsorship for this convention.

Witness: It doesn't look to me like it's a request. It looks like, to me, it's an information, because I absolutely refused to talk to Kemal when he mentioned $250,000. I said "You know, you can just forget about that." Okay?

Jason Rother: I think that's borne out by the email on the bottom of 45, where it comes from SOCAR as an FYI to Mr. Kasimov. FYI-here are the structured sponsorships. Correct?

Omar Ashmawy: Sure, except, ConocoPhillips Government Affairs Manager, what doesn't make sense to me, though, and continues to confuse me [crosstalk] is if the

request came from Kemal, then why wouldn't ... Explain then, this email on 0044. It would seem to me if the request came from Kemal, there would be no need to inform anyone locally and you would ... The invoice would naturally come from Kemal, as opposed to 'You need to get an invoice for sponsorship from either AFAZ or Turquoise Council to avoid FCPA issues.'

Witness: Trying to get anything out of Kemal is like pulling teeth. It was easier for me to deal with Farkhad in Azerbaijan than to have somebody locally, here.

Omar Ashmawy: What was Farkhad doing in Azerbaijan to get the invoice for you?

Witness: Not an invoice, he was gathering information for me because from what he understood is that his- that Kemal's organization, working directly with the staff in SOCAR. Since I couldn't get any information from Kemal, Farkhad was trying to do his best to provide whatever little information we got. Okay? I got it kind of through the back door, but I would never paid an invoice coming from SOCAR on sponsorship, unless it's for technical work that they're doing or whatever the ...

Omar Ashmawy: Why not?

Witness: Because we're not paying anything.

Omar Ashmawy: Apologize. I'm not in the oil and gas industry, so why wouldn't you make the contribution directly to SOCAR?

Witness: They're a State Oil Company.

Omar Ashmawy: Explain that to me. I'm sorry, I don't understand.

Witness: Isn't it like a FCPA issue that we're not supposed to make a direct payment to the government officials or whatever?

Omar Ashmawy: Again, I ... That's not my area of expertise. I'm just a congressional investigator, so I'm just trying to understand why you guys didn't make the contribution directly to SOCAR.

Jason Rother: I think she's answered that, right? [crosstalk] That they weren't sponsoring it.

Omar Ashmawy: Actually, she asked you a question. She didn't answer it.

Jason Rother: Okay, so I'll answer her question, and I think we're running a little far-field. This isn't an FCPA issue. If you want to ask her questions about the sponsorship and all that ... [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: I'm trying to understand the relationship between Kemal and SOCAR and the Azerbaijani government, and so the quicker we can actually get that explained, the faster everyone can call it a day. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: Let me just step in with a legal point that ConocoPhillips Manager 1knows a lot and knows a lot about FCPA, but I think you can ... The question is to SOCAR as opposed to a foreign official and so conclusions that people make about what is or what may or may not be an FCPA issue ...

Omar Ashmawy: We're not asking about FCPA issues. I'm asking about the relationship between Kemal's organizations and SOCAR. Why would we give $10,000 to one of the organizations of Kemal for- to satisfy a request that originated with SOCAR?

Rob Walker: That's conclusory. The request originated with Kemal, only at a different level.

Omar Ashmawy: ConocoPhillips Government Affairs Manager, if ... Again, my question stands, which is why would we ask for an invoice from one of Kemal's organizations for a request for money that originated from SOCAR? What was Kemal's relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: I have no idea what his relationship with SOCAR, like I told you before, but you see this in the emails. He originally asked for $250,000, okay? I told him I was not interested at all. I wasn't going to even write an email to my superiors and then ... Usually what happens is the people on the ground- Since he continued to work the issue with-and this is a speculation-with the people from SOCAR, Farkhad, because he is on the ground and he knows what's happening, they kept him in the loop. I am sitting in Houston. I don't know how important or unimportant this conference is until it start growing meat.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, then let us draw your attention to page 00443, that's the first page. In it, there's an email now from Mr. Kasimov to you and Lynn Strickland and Bill Burkett, where he says,"I will check with SOCAR and drop a note to Kemal Oksuz of Turquoise Council tomorrow on the right structuring of the sponsorship." Please explain then what the right structuring of the sponsorship related to?

Witness: That I told him that there's no way we're going to be paying $250,000. No way.

Omar Ashmawy: That's all that refers to?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: It seems to me, in this email chain, though, that it's already been decided that the sponsorship was going to be for $10,000. It seems that that conversation, the different between $250,000 and $10,000 had already been had and was over.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Omar Ashmawy: What concerns- what did Mr. Kasimov have to- What kind of structuring had to be made?

Witness: I have no idea what he meant by- This is his second language. I don't know what he means when he writes this.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Where did this invoice eventually come from?

Witness: I think it came from Kemal.

Omar Ashmawy: Which organization. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: Is there a particular invoice that you have in mind?

Omar Ashmawy: I'm asking ConocoPhillips Manager 1if she recalls where the invoice eventually came from.

Witness: It came, I think, from Kemal. [crosstalk] Which I wouldn't remember exactly what organization he used for the letterhead.

Omar Ashmawy: You know, that's the second time you've referenced the two organizations, almost as if they were the same organization. What was your understanding of the relationship between Turquoise Council and AFAZ?

Witness: My understanding was it ran by the same person.

Omar Ashmawy: Was there a distinction in terms of mission or relationship with your organization, ConocoPhillips?

Witness: With him? No.

Helen Eisner: In this email chain, you say you need to get an invoice- I'm sorry, this is on page 44, 'We need to get an invoice for the sponsorship either from AFAZ or Turquoise Council.' Why the 'or?' Why could it be either/or? Were they interchangeable?

Witness: I have no idea because he- By that point, he confused me. When he called the first time, he said he's from Turquoise organization and I asked him what is that have to do with Azerbaijan? My understanding, like I said, Azerbaijan is only the small part of the regions that he covers.

Helen Eisner: Okay. We'll show you another document. This is OCE-COP 17.

Witness: 17.

Helen Eisner: This is the wire transfer and it was directed to the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan.

Witness: Okay.

Helen Eisner: Given that choice between the two, why the Assembly of Friends instead of the Turquoise Council?

Witness: I don't know. Maybe because I ask him why is he not ... What's his relationship and why is that he is representing Turkey. I don't know why he did this.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Another document: OCE-COP 19. Give you a quick moment. You say in this email, "We feel that our participation will continue to reinforce the relationship between SOCAR and ConocoPhillips-CO. Can I assume CO is ConocoPhillips Co.? [crosstalk 00:43:31]

Rob Walker: Right. ConocoPhillips.

Witness: I don't know.

Rob Walker: I think that's what you meant, by CO.

Witness: I don't know. Usually, I don't do like this. I usually put COP or ... [crosstalk 00:43:48]

Helen Eisner: Is there anything else CO it would have been?

Witness: Maybe 'company?'

Helen Eisner: If it was 'company' can we assume that it was ConocoPhillips?

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Okay. We talked a little bit earlier about some of the reasons that ConocoPhillips might have been interested in sponsorship. What was this

relationship between SOCAR and ConocoPhillips that you reference here, that you wanted to reinforce?

Witness: Like I said, they are potential partners in the country, so ... For example, I did lots of personal-well, not a lot-but some personal involvement in helping her print the brochures about what the cultural things they're going to be offering, like the language courses, the drawing classes for kids-just general introduction to Azerbaijan, because people in Houston know nothing about it.

Helen Eisner: That's the relationship? [crosstalk] Cultural introduction.

Witness: Yeah, because I do a lot, also because part of my job is like social and humanitarian aid development and sustainable development. I always looking-leaving a good mark after we're done.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Why was it important to reinforce that part of the relationship?

Witness: Because it always shows that whatever we do, here or ... I was going to Washington at one point and had a great relationship with the Azeri Chamber of Commerce there and promoted all their events, as well.

Helen Eisner: Okay. [crosstalk]

Witness: We were the members of the organization. She never hit us for the money. I just helped her with the kids and find the teacher to do that Saturday classes and stuff like that.

Helen Eisner: Beforehand, we talked about one of the individuals, who this email is directed to, is Irada Akhoundova, and you mentioned her position at the Azerbaijan Cultural Center in Houston.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Why would she be interested in sponsorship? As you said, she worked for the Azerbaijan Cultural Center in Houston. Why were you emailing her about sponsorship?

Witness: Because I think that she was also involved. I think she, at that time, told me that she is going to be in Azerbaijan at the same time the conference is going to happen.

Helen Eisner: What type of involvement did she have?

Witness: I do not know what kind of involvement she's having but ... I said that she needed to talk to Kemal. I was asking, trying to get her to send me the program for what is going to actually happen.

Helen Eisner: Okay, was her involvement related to sponsorship?

Witness: Her involvement? No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. I guess I'm still just having trouble understanding if her involvement wasn't related to sponsorship, why this email was directed towards her, talking about sponsorship.

Witness: I don't think she's talking about it. I just-for her information, I was telling her that we were organizing this celebration with the Mayor's office here in Houston, in the City Hall, and as a side note, for her information, I said "Oh, by the way, I'm going to be in Baku and we're going to be the sponsor."

Helen Eisner: Okay. Let's talk about a few other issues. Do you know Representative Bridenstine?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Did you ever interact with his office?

Witness: No. [crosstalk] Who's that?

Helen Eisner: Representative ... He's a member of Congress.

Witness: Okay. U.S. Congress?

Helen Eisner: Yes.

Witness: Okay.

Helen Eisner: Clarification-U.S. Congress. Do you know Joe Kaufman-Joseph Kaufman?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Let me give you another document, which is OCE-COP 08 through 09. [crosstalk]

Witness: I'm going to get more water. Anybody want some? [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: In this email chain ... You can see Kay Larcom, who you mentioned earlier.

Witness: Yep.

Helen Eisner: She asks you for information about ConocoPhillips' role in the trip? She says, "It is difficult to find out who these host organizations are," referencing AFAZ and TCAE.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: She says, "If this is a cover for either SOCAR or the Azeri government, he needs to know." When she says 'he,' she's talking about Joe Kaufman and the office of Representative Bridenstine.

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]

Helen Eisner: Why did you say in this email that it was difficult to find out who the host organizations were?

Witness: Because I couldn't find out myself.

Helen Eisner: Were they a cover for SOCAR or the Azeri government?

Witness: I have no idea. I really have no idea. That's why I was asking Farkhad to try to find out at least from somebody who he's working with or ... I explained to Jason, because he asked me a question, how did ... [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: You should probably not talk about [crosstalk] discussions with council.

Jason Rother: Our discussions ...

Witness: Okay. [crosstalk]

Rob Walker: It will be just as important and interesting if you say fresh this time.

Witness: I wanted to make as much clarification because, like I said, I have nothing to hide. In regards to ... Some of these trips are very important. Since I do not live in Azerbaijan, I have no idea what is going on. I can't be over there all the time, waving my flag, or recommending something for my management.

Helen Eisner: Why would somebody think that they could be a cover for SOCAR or the Azeri government?

Witness: I have no idea. Did you ask Kay that, because she was asking the question.

Omar Ashmawy: You spend a lot of time in Azerbaijan, though, right, that's your ...

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: That's your specialty, yes?

Witness: Uh hm [affirmative]. Azerbaijan is my specialty?

Omar Ashmawy: One of them?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you think it's possible that the Turquoise Council and AFAZ were a cover for SOCAR?

Rob Walker: Omar, that's speculation. Come on. [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: It's an interview. She's permitted to speculate. This isn't a courtroom. Do you think they were a cover for the Azerbaijan government and SOCAR?

Witness: Let me turn it the different, and my response, but please see it, because with a name like yours, I think you go visit and I don't know, I'm speculating ... There's certain cultural things, where, like I said, the SOCAR people are very proud of the things that happens in the country and they do not, at this point, have the little fuzzy organization-facilitators. In some respect, it's very, very honorable, you know? They try to do the best to organize the facility, the coffee break, the programs, because nobody else have a budget to bring the programs, to organize the tours ...

That's why Farkhad told me that that's most likely will be happening and it will be organized from the U.S. I couldn't get anything out of the- Kemal. I told Farkhad, "You probably have better chance finding out," because he must talk to somebody who is organizing it on the ground. The persons on the ground was apparently SOCAR.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. [crosstalk]

Witness: You know, one hand ...

Omar Ashmawy: The people on the ground in Azerbaijan that were apparently organizing it, was SOCAR?

Witness: That's my understanding, because the only information that I could get that was to me, a program or whatever or levels of participation-was coming from SOCAR. Where are they getting it from? I have no idea.

Omar Ashmawy: Is it fair to say that the relationship between SOCAR and the Azerbaijani government, the Turquoise Council and AFAZ seem to be a little bit confusing?

Witness: To me, it was very confusing.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Witness: I still don't know what it is.

Helen Eisner: Did you have any conversations with other employees or members of the United States Congress about this convention-the 2013 convention?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Did you attend the convention?

Witness: I did. In Azerbaijan.

Helen Eisner: You didn't travel to Turkey. You were just in Azerbaijan.

Witness: Oh, no, I was not in Turkey.

Helen Eisner: Okay. [crosstalk 00:54:19]

Rob Walker: Talking about the 2013 ...

Helen Eisner: For the 2013 U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention ... [crosstalk 00:54:22]

Witness: Yes. There was a program. You probably have the program of that convention? I actually got the program the day after it started.

Helen Eisner: Who did you get the program from?

Witness: It was in the hotel, left for me at the hotel.

Helen Eisner: What hotel did you stay at?

Witness: I don't remember. Marriott, I think, or ... Is that important?

Helen Eisner: Were there a lot of attendees from the convention at the hotel?

Witness: I'm trying to think and give you the best response, because I do not believe they stay in the same hotel where I stayed. I think they stay in a different ... [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: Exactly where you stayed isn't really important. What may be a little bit more important to us just for understanding, again, not as it relates to you guys, but for us understanding the bigger picture here ... Who paid for your travel?

Witness: My company.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Talking about the conference real fast, you said that it seemed that the people on the ground that were planning it were SOCAR.

Witness: That's ... Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: When you got there, did that seem to be the case?

Witness: Truly, I could not tell you. I was not involved from the beginning. Like I said, I received the program. It was in a hotel and I remember getting a little bit ticked off because I'm already on the second day and we're not involved and we're a sponsor. We were supposed to be involved-Farkhad and I supposed to be out there with our flag, participating in every event and we were not.

Helen Eisner: Who did you travel with? It was Farkhad? Was anyone else from ConocoPhillips there?

Witness: Farkhad lives in Azerbaijan. I travel by myself. [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: Did you talk to anyone about the fact that you were unhappy about how ConocoPhillips was being-or not being portrayed at the event?

Witness: No, but even if I did, they'd probably just told Farkhad, because he's the one was supposed to get the information for me on the ground.

Helen Eisner: What other groups sponsored the convention?

Witness: BP.

Helen Eisner: Okay, anyone else?

Witness: I'm sure it's BP ... I don't recall that. If you pull any of the program from internet or something, there is going to be just like ConocoPhillips logo display, as a company.

Helen Eisner: When you were at the convention, who did you interact with? Did you interact with government officials?

Witness: Which government?

Helen Eisner: From the Azeri government?

Witness: I was there involved in two functions. One was a reception, where everybody dressed up, had an adult beverage and looked pretty and smiling a lot, okay?

Helen Eisner: Uh hm [affirmative]

Witness: It's kind of like non-event. Them all looking like how you dress and ... The second time, it was ... You're not from Houston. Pretend you're sitting in a stadium, because that venues that they picked out?

Helen Eisner: Uh hm [affirmative]

Witness: It was like an arena for thousands of people and we were sitting way in the back somewhere and on the stage, they had a table with I think some Congressman or somebody from the U.S. [crosstalk]

Helen Eisner: Those are the two functions you attended as a part of the convention?

Witness: That's it.

Helen Eisner: You didn't attend any other meetings?

Witness: They had a break-out room, also at this big- The building is like a octopus.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Witness: Some of the break-out rooms- Where is the program. I saw it somewhere, somebody had it. There was something on the ... They had a different topic for on investment and on oil business and maybe on education. I participate in one of those break-out session.

Helen Eisner: Were any of those functions or break-out sessions sponsored/hosted by SOCAR?

Witness: I don't know.

Omar Ashmawy: It's our impression that the conference, in general, was SOCAR's conference and ...

Witness: It was a conference from the Azeri government. [crosstalk]

Omar Ashmawy: Was SOCAR ...

Witness: But do you see, because SOCAR has money, they're the one that get stuck with the task at hand.

Omar Ashmawy: Just to be clear, what would that ... Just for clarity, what do you mean by 'task at hand?'

Witness: All the household issue-providing buses for us to get from the hotel to the ... It was not the hotel doing it. Somebody on the ground had to do it.

Omar Ashmawy: That was SOCAR?

Witness: My understanding from Farkhad-that's who pays for that.

Omar Ashmawy: In addition to the transportation, your understanding from Farkhad ... What else was SOCAR paying for?

Witness: Probably coffee and tea in the ..

Omar Ashmawy: What about the conference in general?

Witness: The conference building belong to the President. Since President blessed it, I don't think that ... It was kind of like pre-opening review. Nobody got to see this building and I think we were the first people ever to have some kind of a function there.

Omar Ashmawy: How about the attendees' hotel rooms and such?

Witness: I don't know about attendees' hotel room because, like I said, I stay usually in a Marriott and there is different hotels. I have no idea where they stayed because there's the Hilton properties, there's Radisson property, there's Four Season, I think. I don't remember ...

Omar Ashmawy: Over 200 people had their travel paid to go to this conference. Did SOCAR pay for that travel?

Witness: I have no idea. It's not my problem. They didn't ask to pay for mine.

Helen Eisner: Did you interact with Kemal Oksuz at the conference?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Did you see him there?

Witness: I think I saw him, kind of far away, but he is always also preoccupied and busy, so ...

Helen Eisner: What was he preoccupied and busy with?

Witness: He's always around, surround himself with business.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Did you receive any gifts during the convention?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. Final question here. We're getting towards final questions.

Witness: All right!

Helen Eisner: Do you remember an event that was hosted by the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan in July, 2013, and this would have been in Washington, at the Hyatt.

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Did you hear of this event?

Witness: No.

Helen Eisner: Okay. There was a delegation there from Azerbaijan, including SOCAR executives. Does that help jog your memory at all?

Witness: For me personally? No, I don't. We have very defined border lines. I do not go to Washington anymore. Kay doesn't come down to Houston anymore.

Helen Eisner: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you ever get a Thank You note for ConocoPhillips's contribution?

Witness: Huh?

Omar Ashmawy: Did you ever get a Thank You note for ConocoPhillips's sponsorship of the conference?

Witness: I don't think so.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you ever get a Thank You phone call or anything?

Witness: I don't think so. Knowing Kemal, I doubt I ever got that.

Omar Ashmawy: Did anyone from SOCAR thank you?

Witness:	No. They didn't thank me, either. Our contribution is like a drop in the sea, compared to the amount of manpower and money that they probably put out, because, trust me, this is not a ...
Omar Ashmawy:	The amount of money ... Finish that sentence, the amount of money and manpower they put out for what?
Witness:	I'm talking about in general functions that the government doesn't have the money or organizations to support. That's involved lots of coordination and planning and so on. I think they were using us in this new palace of theirs, as a guinea pig, because there was the person walking around saying "What do you think? It was enough toilet space in there? Do you think that coffee and tea should be served differently?" Silly stuff like that.
Helen Eisner:	Have you had any conversations with Kemal Oksuz since the convention? Since the conference?
Witness:	I wouldn't know why ... I don't think so.
Omar Ashmawy:	Have you heard from him in any way? By email or text ... [crosstalk]
Witness:	Recently?
Omar Ashmawy:	Talking about this investigation, specifically.
Witness:	No.
Helen Eisner:	Is there anything we haven't covered that you think we should know?
Witness:	No, but leave me your phone number. [crosstalk]
Omar Ashmawy:	Your attorneys have that ... [crosstalk]
Rob Walker:	We have that. [crosstalk] You call me first.
Witness:	Oh, okay.
Helen Eisner:	I will go ahead and stop the recording.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
		No changes	

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: April 26, 2015

EXHIBIT 14

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF ROBERTI + WHITE EMPLOYEE

4/9/15

Paul Solis:	This is Deputy Chief Counsel, Paul Solis with the Office of Congressional Ethics. It is April 9th, 2015. I'm joined by Kelly Brewington with the OCE. Scott Maberry, Roberti + White Employee, and Fatima Merchant. Roberti + White Employee has signed an acknowledgement form understanding that 18-USC-1001 applies and that I gave him a copy of the law. We can begin our interview.
	Roberti + White Employee, where are you employed currently?
Witness:	At Roberti White, LLC.
Paul Solis:	How long have you been there?
Witness:	Since, actually this week, 2013. Two years.
Paul Solis:	Two years? What is Roberti and White. What does it do?
Witness:	We're a boutique government relations and public affairs firm.
Paul Solis:	How many employees does it have?
Witness:	We have ... I have to think about this because we're doing some shifting around and changes. Five? Yeah, five full time.
Paul Solis:	What's your title with Roberti and White?
Witness:	Partner.
Paul Solis:	Have you had that title since the beginning of your employment?
Witness:	Yes.
Paul Solis:	What were you doing before you joined Roberti and White?
Witness:	I was working with Senator Bob Casey.
Paul Solis:	What did you do for Mr. Casey?
Witness:	A host of political activities but primarily fundraising.
Paul Solis:	You weren't on his senatorial staff?
Witness:	In 2007 I was.

Paul Solis: When you were working, doing the host of political activities, were you with his campaign committee? Were you employed by ... ?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: You were. Could you sort of generally describe some of your job duties as a partner at Roberti and White?

Witness: We service a host of clients. Every day, frankly, is different than the one before. We interact with the US government, foreign governments, corporations, to a degree media entities.

Paul Solis: This is to the best of your understanding, I'd like you to answer with your own experience. Then to the extent that you know other employees at Roberti and White. Are employees of Roberti and White registered lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: How many are?

Witness: Three certainly. I do not know if a fourth is.

Paul Solis: Who are the three that are?

Witness: Myself, my colleague Steve Irizarry, and Vincent Roberti.

Paul Solis: How long have you been registered under the LDA?

Witness: My fine council here, I think, is the one who did it. It was either July or August, I don't recall of 2013.

Paul Solis: What about the same sort of set of questions about the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Are you registered under that law?

Witness: I have been. I'd need to defer to these guys. I'm not sure if I still am but I certainly have been, yes.

Paul Solis: Okay, to the extent the time that you knew that you were, what are the dates that you were registered?

Witness: Once again, I apologize. I should know this. It's either late July or early August of '13 is when that began.

Paul Solis: When do you think that you were no longer registered under FARA?

Witness: I believe last month.

Paul Solis: When you yourself ... Let me ask this same question about the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Are other employees of Roberti and White registered under FARA that you're aware of?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Who would those be?

Witness: The only one I know for certain is my colleague Vincent Roberti.

Paul Solis: Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, since you've been registered in 2013, are you registered pertaining to your work with one client or more than one client?

Witness: More than one.

Paul Solis: What about SOCAR? Do you know what SOCAR is?

Witness: I do.

Paul Solis: What is SOCAR?

Witness: It's the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Paul Solis: What about SOCAR USA?

Witness: That's the subsidiary of SOCAR.

Paul Solis: Do you know if they're legally distinct? Are they the same company? Do you have any understanding of that?

Witness: I'm not an attorney so I don't know. I do know that the logo is the same, for example. I know that the reason there is a SOCAR USA is because SOCAR headquarters said there should be.

Paul Solis: Is either SOCAR or SOCAR USA a client of Roberti and White?

Witness: They were.

Paul Solis: What were the dates of time that they were a client at Roberti and White?

Witness: August 2013 until February of this year, '15.

Paul Solis: When I asked you questions about whether or not you were registered under the LDA, you told me the first dates that you were. You said about July or August of 2013. Did you register because of your engagement with SOCAR. Was that a result of that?

Witness: With the FARA question, yes. With the others, my understanding for these guys it was because July is maybe some sort of quarterly or semi-annual period and that's why. At that point, I registered with other clients of the firm in addition to what we were beginning to do in August.

Scott Maberry: That all ought to be publicly available information. I presume that's to the best of your knowledge or recollection.

Witness: Yeah.

Paul Solis: Okay.

Witness: We have folks like this who assist us and I often say, "I probably should look at those forms more closely."

Paul Solis: As Scott just clarified, to the best of your understanding you believe that the engagement with SOCAR, the FARA registration was a result of that engagement.

Witness: Yes, yes it was.

Paul Solis: The decision to register under the LDA may have been for a host of other clients?

Witness: For a host ... Exactly.

Scott Maberry: Just to be clear, as far as we know Roberti & White is a FARA registered agent as a firm for more than just one client.

Witness: That's correct.

Paul Solis: The convention in Baku, this US-Azerbaijan: Vision for the Future. Are you familiar with that?

Witness: I am.

Paul Solis: Did you attend that convention, Baku?

Witness: I did.

Paul Solis: Did anybody else from Roberti and White attend that convention?

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: Did anybody else from Roberti and White work on related issues to that convention or interact with government officials related to that convention?

Witness: I would just respectfully take objection because you said, "else." I did not necessarily work on ... I was just a participant. The answer's no.

Paul Solis: What you're telling me is you didn't work on related issues to the convention, you were just an attendee? I want to make sure ... Why don't you explain to me what your role was with the convention.

Witness: I was on the ground for two days. Before that, significantly before that, I was certainly approached to assist in the planning. I did not. Toward as we got closer, the opportunity to travel with a colleague of ours who received an honorarium did come up about two, three weeks beforehand. We did all attend in that capacity.

Paul Solis: You said, "We." Who do you mean by, "We,"?

Witness: Myself, my colleague, and then her colleague.

Paul Solis: Who is your colleague?

Witness: Valerie Owens Biden.

Paul Solis: You said, "her colleague." Who is, "her colleague,"?

Witness: Jay Rouse.

Paul Solis: You said you were approached to assist in the planning and you declined.

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Who approached you to do that?

Witness: Two individuals. Both Turkish-Americans. Although, to be honest, I don't know if they're technically Americans. Kemal Oksuz and Furkan Kosar.

Paul Solis: About when did they approach you to assist in planning the convention?

Witness: Either late January, early February. Something in that time frame.

Paul Solis: Had you met those individuals prior to that or spoken with them?

Witness: Yes. Furkan more so than Kemal.

Paul Solis: About when would have been the first time that you would have come in contact, either in person, over the phone or email, with both of those individuals? As best you can with dates.

Witness: Furkan, maybe 2009 or '10. Couldn't necessarily give you a month. Kemal, probably shook his hand. Met him sometime around then. Definitely was at an event with him at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte so September, maybe, of 2012. August of 2012.

Paul Solis: In declining to assist in the planning of the convention, why did you decide not to do that?

Witness: I had literally just transitioned out of over eight years work with Senator Casey. I was figuring out, frankly, what I wanted to do, move on to the next phase professionally. I didn't see myself as getting into the conference planning business.

Paul Solis: When they asked you, what did they say? Did they provide some context to the convention? Did they give you some details?

Witness: They provided a list of speakers, quite diverse and some quite illustrious. Speakers who, apparently, were excited about this conference. They shared that there was going to be hundreds of people there and it was going to be a great event and I'd be foolish not to be a part of it.

Paul Solis: Did they say to you that they were the ones putting it on or organizing it? Or they were the ones who started the idea for the convention?

Witness: I don't recall if they actually said that but, I mean, to use the expression, it seemed to me in February that they were driving the bus.

Paul Solis: Did they mention to you, again at these preliminary discussions, did they mention to you SOCAR's involvement?

Witness: At that point, I honestly did not know what SOCAR stood for. I don't believe that that was discussed.

Paul Solis: I think I know the answer to this based on some of your other answers but I just want to be clear. At the time of the convention in May of 2013, were you a registered lobbyist under the LDA?

Witness: I was not.

Paul Solis: Were you a registered Foreign Agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act?

Witness: No, I was not.

Paul Solis: I want to ask you before we get into the convention, specifically, I want to ask you about some people and some organizations.

Witness: Sure.

Paul Solis: To the best you can give me information about that, that would be great. What is the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

Witness: To the best of my abilities, it's an organization. I believe a 501(c)(3). I don't know that for certain. Headquartered in Houston, Texas. Is the regional chapter affiliate, so to speak, of a greater movement or greater organization.

Paul Solis: What is the greater organization?

Witness: Different folks call it different things. The Hizmet movement, the Gülen Movement, the umbrella organization headquartered here in Washington is ... There's lots of acronyms. I think it's called T.A.A. Turkic American Alliance Association. Something to that effect.

Paul Solis: I'll refer to the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians as TCAE.

Witness: Okay.

Paul Solis: Who works for TCAE?

Witness: At this point in time, I have no idea. Kemal Oksuz did at one point in time. I don't know if he currently does.

Paul Solis: Do you know anybody else who worked there at any point in time?

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: How are you aware that Kemal Oksuz worked at the TCAE?

Witness: I've seen business cards that have that. I've seen him quoted in the press as that. I've been to their website.

Paul Solis: I can show you this document. This is from the production you provided to our office. This is 381-382. Yes, R.W.381-382. It's an email. May 25, 2013. At the top you'll see your name. Is that your email address?

Witness: Yes, it is.

Paul Solis: "To: Valerie Owens. CC: Jay Rouse and Arim Ye." The subject is, "Conference Background Material." I'll give you a moment to look that over. First of all, judging by what you see so far, do you recall this email?

Witness: I do.

Paul Solis: First of all, just generally can you tell me, why you sent this email and what is the topic? Other than what I obviously see in the subject line.

Witness: This appears Saturday evening. This is a few days before we're set to fly over there for 48 hours. I don't recall if she had called me or had emailed and requested that I give the one page back story. As I said, this all came about fairly quickly. This was my attempt. I'm doing my homework.

Paul Solis: When you say, "She," is that Valerie Owens?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: If I could draw your attention to, I guess it would be the third paragraph, where it starts, "Similar to last year."

Witness: Oh yeah.

Paul Solis: You'll see in that second sentence. It says, "They are the Southern/ Southwestern member organization of the increasingly politically important," and it's a hyperlink there, "turkicamericanalliance.org."

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Why did you characterize the Turquoise Council there as, "increasingly politically important,"?

Witness: In March of that year ... Frankly, actually, in March of this year, they have these conventions. They're often held in our office building at the Woodward. Political meaning that you often see several members of Congress there. Politically important, I would characterize that as I saw first-hand in my own community in Pennsylvania, how random ... I'll stand by the word random ... State Representatives and other local elected officials attend similar events and trips. I'll characterize that as politically important.

Paul Solis: Then that last sentence of that same paragraph. "The organizations are less than a decade old but have quickly come into their own over the last election cycle." What do you mean by, "come into their own,"?

Witness: As we discussed, I was actively involved in the 2012 election. I had seen, being that Pennsylvania being a swing state and generally democratic politics being fairly incestuous, I had heard and had seen various community members hosting different events. Whether it was rallies, fundraisers, what have you.

Paul Solis: When you say, "community members," do you mean ...

Witness: Of this greater Turkish American community.

Paul Solis: We'll go down two paragraphs there.

Scott Maberry: Paul, if I could just have Witness just briefly clarify. I think your question asked why he was characterizing the Turquoise Council as politically important but, in fact, I think the email has him characterizing the Turkic American Alliance more broadly as politically important.

Paul Solis: You're right. You're right, Scott.

Scott Maberry: I just wanted to make sure the answers were as to that.

Paul Solis: Right.

Scott Maberry: It's not a huge difference, but ...

Paul Solis: I guess I should ask a question then to clarify.

Witness: I'll apologize for spelling Turquoise wrong.

Paul Solis: That happens to everybody, I think. Would the same question about increasingly politically important apply to the Turquoise Council as well as to the Turkic American Alliance? Would you give the same answer? Is there a distinction between the two?

Witness: I don't want to be taken the wrong way. I don't know a lot about Texas. I've only been to Houston once. My understanding, what I had seen and was more aware of in the mid-Atlantic Northeast could very well been a mirror image to what the Turquoise Council was doing in the Southwest but I do not know firsthand what politically might have happened there or what happens there.

Paul Solis: When you answered my question about politically important, that was in reference to the Alliance then.

Witness: Exactly.

Paul Solis: You say more firsthand what they were doing.

Witness: Yes.

Scott Maberry: Thanks for clarifying that.

Witness: You're welcome.

Paul Solis: I guess then I would like to ask, though, "Similar to last year," in that same paragraph. Did you attend a conference the year before?

Witness: I did not. It happened here in Washington. I know that from the website and from the solicitations that we discussed in that February time frame.

Paul Solis: You said that the conference this year has been almost entirely organized by the Turquoise Council. How did you know that?

Witness: As I said, in that kind of February, March time frame, Kemal of the Turquoise Council and then his colleague, his partner of the Northeast version of that which doesn't have as unique a name. I'm noticing I misspelled it there again. Furkan Kosar were the ones who had been sending me emails. I believe the documents will clarify chronologically at this point that we'd already accepted the invitation. We were set to go. It was Kemal who was the point of contact, who was asking for passport copies. Saying, "Here's your travel itinerary." Etcetera.

Paul Solis: I want to go down to two paragraphs down again. "The lead organizer and director of the Turquoise Council is Kemal Oksuz. He is a member of DCCC Speaker's Cabinet and by in large a progressive Democrat. Through his position he has served as the 'lobbyist,' for Turkish Americans throughout the South and Southwest." Do you know whether or not at any point he was a lobbyist registered under the Lobby Disclosure Act?

Witness: I don't know for certain.

Paul Solis: Do you know possibly whether he was?

Witness: I'll tell you what I do know. I do know that the activity that I've seen of the Turquoise Council and of him is similar to many lobbyists that I know. I have not checked out LDA reports.

Paul Solis: The activities that are similar to other lobbyists you know, who I guess who are registered?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: What are those activities? Do you mean in the amount of time that they're spending with members of Congress?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: That's what you mean? Or the amount of money that's spent in lobbying activities?

Witness: To produce events actually on Capitol grounds or events that have members of Congress at various hotels in town, letter campaigns and what have you.

Paul Solis: Would it be safe to say, and I don't want to put words in your mouth but would it be safe to say that there isn't a large distinction or any distinction between Mr. Oksuz's activities and those people you know in Washington, D.C. who are registered lobbyists?

Witness: I don't know a year ago, or two years ago, at this time know what he does every day of the week. I do know, for example, when I've attended an event at the Willard or at the J.W. Marriott and see that level of detail put into the event, generally what it takes to produce something like that. To get that level of participation from US government stakeholders. I would assume that a lot of hours are devoted to it.

Paul Solis: Did you ever talk to anybody about that? Any of your friends, any of your colleagues? Did that question ever come up amongst your circles that, "Hey, is this guy a registered lobbyist?"

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: Did you ever overhear anybody talking about that?

Witness: I know that the former clients at SOCAR USA certainly inquired to me, "What is the distinction? What does it take to trigger this? Why are you, why are the lobbyists that work with our embassy professionals versus these folks?"

Paul Solis: By these folks, you mean...

Witness: Kemal, Furkan, others associated with the movement.

Paul Solis: Individuals of SOCAR USA asked that distinction between these people who are associated with the Turkic American Alliance and other registered lobbyists. Who would have asked you at SOCAR USA about that?

Witness: SOCAR USA is more or less one employee. It's Rauf Mammadov. I don't recall if embassy diplomats may have asked this. It's possible.

Paul Solis: After Mr. Mammadov asked you this question, what was your response to him?

Witness: I probably said the same exact thing. That it's public information. I can't say I spend my evenings looking at the disclosures but I don't believe he is.

Paul Solis: When you use the quotes around lobbyist in this email, why did you do that? Why did you put the quotes around it?

Witness: Because I was almost certain that he wasn't technically registered in the Washington sense. In the back home in Pennsylvania, anyone else would use that term but knowing that I was talking with someone that's quite familiar with Washington, I wanted to be technical.

Paul Solis: I'll go to the next paragraph. "This year Kemal and fellow conference organizers decided to focus on state and local elected officials." Is this knowledge, again, based on your interactions with Kemal and Furkan leading up to the convention?

Witness: Yes. I believe I had seen at this point I think we shared a list of, quite frankly, an eclectic list of various elected officials from around the country.

Paul Solis: I asked you earlier generally about your knowledge of SOCAR and at the time that Kemal and Furkan came to you about potentially your assistance in planning, right? The convention? I asked you if they mentioned SOCAR and I believe you said you don't think you remember at that time whether or not they mentioned it or ... Did you say you did?

Witness: I don't recall when they first approached. I mean, I really don't recall if they mentioned. I do know after the first conversation one of the first thing I did was go on the website to look at last year's convention. I saw the logo of SOCAR and others.

Paul Solis: In this email, again this May 25th email, you do mention the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan. You mentioned the State Oil Company, in reference I believe, to Azerbaijan. Would the knowledge of their involvement then have come later on as time approached towards the convention?

Witness: Certainly when we had gotten to ... I don't remember the exact dates. They'll be in there. Mid-May, two weeks out, this kind of last minute

development that they wanted us to come came about. We obviously started doing our due diligence and spending time on the SOCAR website, using Google, things like this.

Paul Solis: Going back to Mr. Oksuz. What is his relationship with SOCAR, if any?

Witness: Currently, I don't know.

Paul Solis: Did you know at any other time his relationship with SOCAR?

Witness: I mean, I've certainly seen him with employees, officials of SOCAR.

Paul Solis: To the best you can remember those times, when were those times that you saw him with employees, representatives of SOCAR?

Witness: At the event in question for starters.

Paul Solis: 2013 convention?

Witness: Yes. I believe, I seem to recall that photos from the 2012 convention also are him with SOCAR logos and others. There was a ... would have been July 2013, event immediately off of Capitol Hill that he was there with leadership of SOCAR. February of '14 there was another event on Capitol Hill. Actually, in the Rayburn Building, that he was there with officials of SOCAR. I can definitely distinctly remember those events. I apologize for not knowing the exact date.

Paul Solis: No, that's quite all right. What about to the government of Azerbaijan? Any members of Parliament, the President, do you know if he has a relationship with them?

Witness: I don't for certain. At some of the events that I mentioned, there certainly were ... To the extent you're making a distinction between a state owned company and ...

Paul Solis: Yes.

Witness: Yes, there certainly were government employees and government officials at those events.

Paul Solis: Where Mr. Oksuz was present?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: Another email for you. This is RW-558. This is an email March 20th, 2013. There's a series of emails but at the top, that's your email address, right?

Witness: Yes, it is.

Paul Solis: It says, "To: Vincent Roberti." "Subject: Pelosi's Turk." Do you recall these series of emails?

Witness: I do, yeah.

Paul Solis: If I could draw your attention to the middle section there, where you send an email to Vincent Roberti at 7:36 PM.

Witness: What about this Central/Standard time. Okay.

Paul Solis: It says, "This is who you met. You see how they have a lot to learn." Who is they?

Witness: The overall members of this sect of the Turkish American community.

Paul Solis: Would that be the Turkic American Alliance, the people affiliated with that organization?

Witness: Sure, and Turquoise, it's that people affiliated.

Paul Solis: What do they have to learn?

Witness: I'm not sure if it was that week or the week prior, one of these larger conventions that I've referenced happened. I believe it was at the J.W. Marriott. We were invited to come. We did. At that point I was in discussions with Mr. Roberti to join the firm. Being, as I said, our office at the Willard, we went across the street and we went to that event.

I'm sorry. To answer your question, they have a lot to learn. The two of us seeing lots of events over the years in Washington and elsewhere with elected officials, I would say it wasn't the most professionally organized in terms of time keeping, in terms of just logistics of moving.

Paul Solis: Then you write, "I still think there's a play with them." Could you provide further context on what that means?

Witness: At the time, I was transitioning into a new role, thinking about potential clients. At the time I thought that maybe there was an opportunity to provide professional assistance on proper lobbying for their efforts.

Paul Solis: Then I'll direct you to the email above. Again, I assume that you didn't author this email. This is from Vincent Roberti to you. The one labelled, "8:38 PM." I assume it's a response to the one I just asked you about.

Witness: Yeah, it looks like it's coming from him.

Paul Solis: Right. It says, "This guy is nuts. By the way, Pelosi's security team is very worried about doing anything with him again." Bearing in mind ... I'll just ask you. Did you write that?

Witness: I did not.

Paul Solis: Vincent Roberti wrote that?

Witness: I can assume so.

Paul Solis: You can make that assumption. Do you know what he would have meant, to the best of your understanding, what he would have meant by, "Pelosi's security team is very worried about doing anything with him again,"? Maybe, in just your experience, if this ...

Witness: No, I specifically remember what happened. That concerned me too. I think it concerned a lot of folks there. You had a very small room that was clearly over capacity at the J.W. Marriott. You had a stage, a temporary stage. Just one of these things that kind of makes an impression on you. We really thought that that stage was going to collapse and that the leader, and frankly other members who were there, could potentially be trampled.

Paul Solis: This was in, you believe, it was March?

Witness: That, by the way, is what I meant, "they have a lot to learn," when I was talking about logistics and flow of ... There's back doors and ways to make these things work.

Paul Solis: You believe the event that you're talking about, that these emails reference, that would have been in February of 2013?

Witness: No, no, no. I know for certain it was in March of '13. They just had a similar event. For whatever reason March tends to be when these events occur.

Paul Solis: I will move onto ... I'll just ask you finally about that March event. Was that organized by Mr. Oksuz? Was he the person behind putting that together?

Witness: I don't know for certain but he was certainly one of the organizers. I don't know if he was the lead. He was certainly around and about and a presence throughout the event.

Paul Solis: Another email from your production. It is numbered Roberti and White-399. I'll just be asking you about the top email. It's from you, Wednesday May 13th, 2013 to Jay Rouse. Rouse?

Witness: Rouse.

Paul Solis: Rouse. Do you recall this email?

Witness: I do.

Paul Solis: I want to ask you about the portion there where it says, "Per Rauf, he will be consulted for any proposal." Who is, "he,"?

Witness: Mr. Oksuz.

Paul Solis: Why is he consulted on any proposal?

Witness: Just a few months prior, the State Oil Company had opened an office here and dispatched Rauf and his family to be the first and sole employee. Prior to that, Kemal had built a rapport. I've since learned after the fact, and was evident clearly by what, although I didn't attend it, what I saw on the website in that 2012 US-Azerbaijan Convention that happened here in Washington. It was clear to me by that point, middle of May, that Kemal, Mr. Oksuz was regularly going back and forth to Baku. Clearly had deep relationships throughout the highest levels of Baku.

Paul Solis: Why was that clear to you?

Witness: He was clearly going back and forth for a reason. Clearly someone had engendered trust over there to produce or take a large role in producing this convention. I used my power of deduction there.

Paul Solis: When you say you know he's going back and forth, is he telling you that, or ... ? How do you know he's going back and forth to Baku?

Witness: He and Furkan are sharing that.

Paul Solis: Are they doing that over the phone or email? In person?

Witness: There was a combination of all that, yeah.

Paul Solis: You had mentioned that Kemal had built a rapport. With whom did he build a rapport?

Witness: Where did I mention that?

Paul Solis: When I asked you ...

Witness: Just over now?

Paul Solis: Yeah, yeah. Just a minute ago. You said when Mr. Mammadov had come here. He had been dispatched from Baku to come to the US. Kemal was already here and he had a rapport built.

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Who did he have a rapport with?

Witness: The highest levels of official Baku.

Paul Solis: You use the word, "proposal." What is that referring to? Proposals for the convention or what?

Witness: No, we were in discussions. Per Rauf, it was suggested we should put together a professional proposal to assist SOCAR USA in their business development as they were opening this new office.

Paul Solis: On any proposals to SOCAR from Roberti and White, you would have to consult Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: No?

Witness: No. Our point of contact was actually SOCAR's employee, Rauf.

Paul Solis: Then further on, "He's going to claim that they can do everything as evidenced by putting on this conference." Is, "they," again, a reference to these Turkic ...

Witness: Yes, the greater movements. Yes.

Paul Solis: "The conference," is the convention in Baku?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Then, "But he will respectfully be told that he is just one component of the bigger strategy." What do you mean by that statement?

Witness: Our understanding at that point from conversations with Rauf is similar to Washington being very diverse. People having different opinions and different routes to get to the same objective. Baku, albeit smaller and a smaller country, had different ideas of how they wanted to strengthen the Washington, Baku relationship. The role of the oil company, obviously, is distinct than the role of the embassy. My sense at the time, my sense certainly afterward was that Mr. Oksuz was only, to use an analogy, one train going to the same station but not the parallel trains, parallel tracks.

Paul Solis: How did you come to understand that?

Witness: For example, the Embassy had hired a professional lobbying firm even though the Ambassador certainly had a rapport evidently with Mr. Oksuz. The Embassy knew that there was reason to add more artillery, so to speak.

Paul Solis: Was Roberti and White that professional lobbying firm that you're speaking of?

Witness: No. No, we've never worked for the government or the embassy.

Paul Solis: Of Azerbaijan?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: Who would respectfully tell that to Kemal about the overall picture?

Witness: I don't have names. Frankly, I have no rapport with any SOCAR employees beyond Rauf Mammadov and his part-time assistant Sevinj Mammadova. I certainly did get a sense from Rauf that among the different Vice Presidents, or the different elements of the leadership, some felt strongly about Kemal's merits and the greater Turkic merits. Others realized that there was room to engage professional firms.

Paul Solis: In those discussions, were you ... Maybe not discussions but did you get the sense from Rauf and those other individuals, representatives of SOCAR, and specifically those people who are talking about Mr. Oksuz's merits, did you get the sense or is anybody saying about how important he is in DC to this overall strategy?

Witness: I certainly got that sense, yeah.

Paul Solis: That he is very important?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: Do you have a sense of why he is very important?

Witness: He was able to generate photos of him with various elected officials. You can imagine if you're in a foreign capital, especially a capital that doesn't necessarily have the same kind of access and interaction with their government leadership. Here's someone who's demonstrating a lot of access.

Paul Solis: You said, "generated photos." Is that the limits of why he would be important in their eyes?

Scott Maberry: To the best of your knowledge.

Paul Solis: To the best of your knowledge.

Witness: Yeah, I mean, I did not attend the 2012 event but there were members of Congress there. I believe, photos I've seen, he was the M.C. of that event. People certainly greeted them on the way in as if they knew him. I would assume that that would lead someone, even if English isn't their first language, to say, "Oh, he must know folks."

Paul Solis: Another email. Kelly, did you have any questions? Don't want to skip over anything you have.

Kelly Brewington: Yeah. I think I'm okay for right now.

Paul Solis: Another email. This is RW-494. It is dated May 13, 2013. That's your email address at the top from you to Jay Rouse.

Witness: Rouse.

Paul Solis: Rouse, Rouse. I got to get that right. Do you recall this email?

Witness: I do.

Paul Solis: That second paragraph. You said, "For tomorrow morning, the important thing to remember is Rauf is sold." What are you referencing by, "tomorrow morning"? Is that a meeting?

Witness: Yes. I believe we met. I do not honestly recall if it was the first time that Jay met Rauf in person. We met for breakfast.

Paul Solis: Was that in Washington?

Witness: Yes, it was.

Paul Solis: Mr. Rouse, he's not an employee of Roberti and White, correct?

Witness: No, he was the neighbor of a former employee of Roberti and White.

Paul Solis: Why would he be coming to meet with Rauf?

Witness: Generally, we being a smaller firm, sometimes we contract out or subcontract out. For what we were proposing, there would be opportunities to potentially engage Jay. I had met him, for the record, about two weeks prior.

Paul Solis: At this point, and I've shown you a series of emails in May, you've had some conversations about Rauf Mammadov and certainly discussing him and about the convention. What is Roberti and White's relationship with Mr. Mammadov or SOCAR at this point, in May?

Witness: At this point in time, there's nothing formal. Nothing official. It's a fellow my age, recently married, recently a father, in a new city, starting a new chapter in his professional life. I'm engaged to be married at that time. Frankly, I'm in a new city. I was living in Philadelphia prior. We're just kind of going through life changes and we became fast friends in a personal context.

Paul Solis: You and Mr. Mammadov?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: The first time you met him was it more of a friendly setting or was it a ... ?

Witness: Exactly.

Paul Solis: Okay. You didn't then reach out to him about the proposition of engaging in Roberti and White's services to SOCAR?

Witness: Certainly when I was hired in April and I came on board, he was happy for me and excited for me and wanted to learn more. It was at the same time that I got the sense that he was getting a directive from his leadership, similar to the Embassy, to seek professional services and proposals. It only seemed natural to take the relationship to a different level.

Paul Solis: That would have been in April of 2013 when you came on?

Witness: Yeah, when I came on board with the firm. Yeah.

Paul Solis: You had known him prior to that?

Witness: Very casually. Maybe four times or so we had gotten a beer prior.

Paul Solis: Again, I want to direct you to that second paragraph. "We are providing him the best ammunition to sell his chairman." Who is, "his chairman"?

Witness: The Chairman of SOCAR is a gentleman named Rovnag Abdullayev. My understanding now is that Rauf is a direct report to him.

Paul Solis: What is Rauf sold on?

Witness: That a rapport had been built and we certainly could provide a professional service.

Paul Solis: Had an agreement been reached at that point?

Witness: No. A formal, written agreement? No.

Paul Solis: What about a verbal agreement?

Witness: We were told, "We're very intrigued. We want to hire someone. This is the type we want to hire," but as you see, as we've discussed, that did not happen until August.

Paul Solis: I just want to ... For you to say that Rauf, "is sold," I want to make sure ...

Witness: Rauf certainly was sold. Rauf wasn't the sole decision maker. He was sold. Yeah, I can't recall when but probably at one point he had said, "I'm very impressed with you guys. I really enjoy working and getting to know you guys." I'll admit that could very well be a little bit of poetic license and hyperbole to Jay. Someone I had just met, someone that is certainly older than me and quite accomplished. I certainly had the sense, in terms of Rauf, granted he wasn't the sole decision maker, that Rauf was sold.

Paul Solis: Who is Brenda in that next paragraph?

Witness: Brenda is an Israeli-American, PhD, who has done extensive work on the energy nexus and geopolitics between Israel and Azerbaijan.

Paul Solis: Did she join you at this breakfast?

Witness: No, I don't think. No.

Paul Solis: I want to move to the next paragraph. "I don't think we dwell much on the conference as he views it as a cluster ..."

Witness: Apologize for my language.

Paul Solis: Quite all right.

Witness: You see I built a good rapport in a short period with Mr. Rouse.

Paul Solis: Right. "But like all of them is grateful so many visitors will come to Baku." Why did you say that? Why did you say, "he views it," in that way? I assume, "he," is Rauf, correct?

Witness: "He," is Rauf. Rauf's background is as an oil company guy. He doesn't know about event planning. My sense is and was that he was not actively engaged in the planning of that. Frankly, was still learning his way around Washington, geographically, literally. Living in the Ritz Carlton. Still trying to get his feet wet and as all that's happening, someone else, Kemal Oksuz is doing something that he's not always fully kept in the loop on. You can imagine that he's the one giving out business cards, trying to establish a name for himself in a new town, on behalf of an international oil company. Here is a lot of things happening and he might not have been the first to know.

Paul Solis: I want to make sure I understand, then. If Rauf is coming from Baku and he's getting established in the US and he might not be kept in the loop on everything that Mr. Oksuz is doing ...

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: Is Mr. Oksuz then getting directives back in Baku from SOCAR?

Witness: Once again, to the best of my knowledge, I don't know where he was getting directives from. I do know he was not getting them from Rauf Mammadov.

Paul Solis: Is he doing things, to the best of your knowledge, on behalf of SOCAR, for SOCAR? Is he doing things that Mr. Mammadov would want to know about?

Witness: He's definitely doing things that Mr. Mammadov, professionally and personally, would want to know about because whether it was SOCAR, the government of Azerbaijan, other oil companies working over there, in the eyes of the people that Rauf was beginning relationships with, it's all the same boat.

Paul Solis: To the best of your understanding and your experience with all this, given that Mr. Oksuz is affiliated with these organizations, the Turkic American Alliance, and the Gülen Movement, why is he doing things potentially for

the government of Azerbaijan? Why is he doing things potentially for SOCAR? How do those two align to the best of your understanding?

Witness: I think there's very little I know. I honestly don't know. There's the greater goals of the movement. I only know about from 60 minutes and other reporting. Their geographical spread. I have no idea.

Paul Solis: It's clear to you at this time, as we've discussed, that Mr. Oksuz has a connection to the government of Azerbaijan and to SOCAR?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: The next paragraph of the same email, "You will clearly get a sense from Rauf his dynamic with Kemal." What is the dynamic between Rauf and Kemal?

Witness: I got the sense during that month, as you can imagine if you have several hundred people coming from overseas, that there was some friction. The long hours are being worked. There's already a large time difference. It's nine hour time difference. Rauf's getting all sorts of things. Second wind, he might be getting certain directives but not knowing the full picture. By dynamic, you get the sense that some friction at that time was developing.

Paul Solis: Was Rauf getting a lot of information at that time about the convention?

Witness: I don't know. At that point we weren't professionally engaged. I'd see him for a meal, for a beer here and there. I did get the sense that he was under a lot of stress.

Paul Solis: About the convention or other things?

Witness: I think the combination of brand new city, all of a sudden you've got hundreds of people going to your small country. This whole maelstrom coming together.

Paul Solis: At that time, did you get a sense of what Rauf's role was with the convention? What his duties were?

Witness: I generally got the sense that he ... How should I say? On the bus but not driving the bus. As it got closer, as I said, it was Kemal saying, "Here's your travel agent." Kemal saying, "I need copies of your passport." Throughout all of it, Rauf wasn't even on those emails.

Paul Solis: Did Rauf ever tell you what his job duties were? Let's say, for example, that representatives from SOCAR asked him to do something to help get people to Azerbaijan? Did he ever talk to you about that?

Witness: No, I don't recall. No. I generally got the sense that he, frankly, did not know his job duties. That it was everything from, "We just bought a new office. We need to get handymen to ... " These types of things. "There's an event happening on energy policy at Brookings. You need to attend." Every week, I got the sense that he was just under a lot of stress and it was ever changing what his role was.

Paul Solis: The next sentence there, "The SOCAR chair, Parliament Speaker, and Ambassador value Kemal's opinion and according to Rauf, Kemal will be consulted after Rauf delivers our proposals." How did you know that the SOCAR Chair, Parliament Speaker, and Ambassador of, I assume, Azerbaijan value Kemal's opinion?

Witness: The logical thing. I asked Rauf. It takes time, obviously, to put together a proposal. I asked him point blank. I said, "Is this ... Who is looking at this? Who is the decision maker? We're going to take time and we're going to put something together but we want to know that it's not going in the waste bin or it's just sitting in an inbox."

Paul Solis: This, again, is a proposal for potential services.

Witness: Professional services, yeah.

Paul Solis: Professional services.

Witness: To SOCAR USA.

Paul Solis: What was his answer when you asked, "Who is going to be looking at this?"

Witness: He explained, more or less, the pecking order of the totem pole.

Paul Solis: That would be the SOCAR Chair ...

Witness: That he reports to the Chairman. That we have this many Vice Presidents. Giving me the sense ... If you were to give the sense to a foreigner that we have three branches of government in this country. What's happening in this country that, in Azerbaijan, a country that I frankly didn't know much about at the time and had not been to.

Paul Solis: Did he mention that the Parliament Speaker was also involved in that decision?

Witness: I don't recall about that. The Parliament Speaker was someone who had been in Kemal's presence, who had a relationship there and attending events in this town. I since have not, frankly, thought about the Parliament

		Speaker. I don't even know the name of that person. Clearly at the time, back two full years ago he must of mentioned it.
Paul Solis:		You mean Rauf mentioned it?
Witness:		Yes.
Paul Solis:		Okay. They value Kemal's opinion. You write on, "Kemal will be consulted." Does that mean that after Rauf delivers your proposals to engage in professional services, Kemal would be consulted on that?"
Witness:		It was my understanding that there essentially would be a little bit of a turf battle. That Kemal wanted to be perceived by all parties involved in Baku as, "If you need anything." ... "You," meaning anyone from Azerbaijan, "I am your guy. I'm frustrated that Embassy has a firm. I'm frustrated even that elements of SOCAR is talking about having a firm. I am your guy."
Paul Solis:		Is that limited to the universe of the convention or in general?
Witness:		In general.
Paul Solis:		By firms you mean ...
Witness:		Professional, brick and mortar, registered lobbyists.
Paul Solis:		It was your understanding that Kemal thought he could take on those roles?
Witness:		Correct.
Paul Solis:		For the government and SOCAR?
Witness:		For any other parties in between. Yup.
Paul Solis:		Kelly, do you have any questions?
Kelly Brewington:		You mentioned the turf battle. Beyond the turf battle, or maybe you could characterize what their relationship was?
Witness:		Who is ... ?
Kelly Brewington:		Rauf and Kemal.
Witness:		Yes.
Kelly Brewington:		Can you describe what that relationship was like?

Scott Maberry: To the best of your knowledge.

Witness: To the best of my knowledge, at that point in time, I think we discussed there was friction.

Kelly Brewington: Friction, turf battle, but beyond that.

Witness: I can't say that I saw them together, I was privy to any shouting matches, or even pleasantries across tea. I just got the sense that there was friction for the reasons we discussed.

Paul Solis: What is the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

Witness: I honestly do not know. It's an organization that Kemal was certainly with. I don't know. I don't know its tax status. I don't know where it's headquartered. Frankly, I've been very curious but I do not know.

Paul Solis: Okay, let's start with how do you know that Kemal Oksuz was affiliated with that organization?

Witness: I don't recall but at a certain point he moved to the Washington area. It seemed I would see him at some of the events I mentioned, standing in front of a podium, M.C.'ing events. Rayburn, for example, with that logo behind him. Things like this.

Paul Solis: Do you know what it's mission is or what it does? The organization, it's general ... ?

Witness: I assume it's, like all of us, to bring two countries closer together and create better understanding.

Paul Solis: By that you mean the United States and Azerbaijan?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: You said you were curious about it. What do you mean by you were curious about the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

Witness: I'm a naturally curious person. It's a pretty meager website. I was curious. Is this a subset of the greater TAA, Gülen Movement? The logo looks quite similar to SOCAR. What is this? By this point in time, we had been retained. As a professional, it's good to know if we're, in theory, all on the same team going to the same end zone, who else is on the field.

Paul Solis: Did you do some research on, I'll call it AFAZ from here on out ...

Witness: Sure.

Paul Solis: Did you do some research on AFAZ after you had engaged SOCAR in professional services?

Witness: I tried but it didn't seem like there was, to use the expression, a lot of "there," there.

Paul Solis: Did you ask around? Did you talk to anybody about AFAZ?

Witness: I did.

Paul Solis: Who did you talk to about that?

Witness: I asked Rauf.

Paul Solis: What did he say about AFAZ?

Witness: That it's an organization that's mission is to bring the two countries closer together.

Paul Solis: Did he talk about it's relationship to SOCAR?

Witness: No. Now, I will say, at their offices ... I don't recall when I first met him or when it ... I thought there was a new SOCAR employee. A fellow who had graduated from the University of Delaware, an Azerbaijani national. Rauf quickly corrected me, "No. Even though he's here, he's an AFAZ employee."

Paul Solis: Did Rauf tell you anything more about AFAZ beyond that?

Witness: I believe he's on the board or was on the board of it along with, I know Kemal was on the board of it or is on the board of it, as I said before.

Paul Solis: By, "he," you mean Rauf?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: How did you come to that understanding, that Rauf is on the board of AFAZ?

Witness: I think at one point it lists the board members on their website. It was interesting. At certain points the website had more content, at certain points had less content.

Paul Solis: We spoke with Rauf. Rauf told us that there is a relationship and that SOCAR established AFAZ. Now that I'm telling you that, I don't know if that helps you conjure up any memories of conversations you might have had.

Witness: Look, I always assumed that. As I said, there's a fellow named Rafig Gurbanzade, who was sitting just a few meters from Rauf even though he had different business cards, different email address, different reporting, so to speak. As I said, it was always peculiar to me that their logo was almost identical. I always assumed but I never knew for a fact. Is it a registered non-profit? Where is it incorporated? What is it's exact mission? How is it ... As I said, we're all kind of trains going to the same station and are members of the same team, going to the same end zone. What's their role versus ours versus the Embassy's versus the Embassy's lobbyists? It just was unclear to me.

Paul Solis: Given that you had all those questions about AFAZ, other than Rauf, did you ask anybody else to answer those questions?

Witness: There wasn't really anyone else to ask.

Paul Solis: What about Kemal?

Witness: I have not had conversations with Kemal since ... After the trip and then after the signing of our contract, the relationship just ... I did not have conversations with him. Frankly, I didn't pursue conversations with him even though countries do this. Certainly Azerbaijan does this. They have a big national day, kind of their July 4th event. This was, it's always in May. It was May of '14. He would have been at that event but he saw me, I saw him across the room. I actually tried to introduce him to my wife. He never met my wife. She used to work with Turkish Americans. The man literally, so ...

Paul Solis: I asked you previously about TCAE, the Turquoise Council. You said that, at one point at least, you were aware that Kemal Oksuz was affiliated with that organization. To your understanding, what is the relationship between AFAZ and TCAE, the Turquoise Council?

Witness: I have no idea. They're really playing in the same sandbox but I have no idea the relationship.

Paul Solis: When you say, "playing in the same sandbox," what do you mean by that?

Witness: You have the same principle, it seems to be. Kemal Oksuz is attending events that have both logos, things like this. Events tend to involve folks from the Southwestern United States, elected officials.

Paul Solis: You have attended more than one event where you've seen both AFAZ and TCAE's logos together?

Witness: Yeah, yeah. As I said, in July of '13 there was an event at the Hyatt, New Jersey Avenue. We talked about in February of '14, I guess that would have been, there was an event in the Rayburn Building I distinctly remember.

Paul Solis: Not too much longer. I just wanted to ask you about the convention now. We're actually going to talk about the convention. You attended ...

Scott Maberry: Is there going to be a field trip?

Paul Solis: I've heard Baku's nice.

Witness: It's not easy to get to.

Paul Solis: You attended the convention?

Witness: For a whopping day and a half, yeah.

Paul Solis: Given that Kemal Oksuz and Furkan Kosar had come to you and asked you about planning issues and you declined, why did you ultimately decide to go on this trip to Baku?

Witness: I'm intrigued with that part of the world. I think most people are. If someone offers you a first opportunity to go to a unique place for free, I'm not going to turn down those airline miles. I was, as I said, in this new profession. Didn't know who I was going to be able to network with. To be very honest, at that point it looked liked the date period was going to be my then fiance's bachelorette party and it just seemed like a no-brainer.

Paul Solis: You went with Valerie Owens and Jay Rouse?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Did anybody else go with you?

Witness: I mean, it was packed Lufthansa flight but ...

Paul Solis: I meant ...

Witness: Leaving from Philly International airport, although Jay did not leave from Philly, I did not know anyone on the flight.

Paul Solis: Do you know why those two individuals went with you? Or why the three of you went together? Why did they decide to go on the trip to Baku?

Witness: As Jay was getting to know Rauf and Rauf was soliciting our ideas and opinions to put together a proposal, it became evident that Azerbaijan had and has a tremendous story to be told about women in the Muslim world. Jay had done work over the years with Valerie and suggested to Rauf, would this be someone as you're finalizing your speakers and your panels, that should attend?

Paul Solis: What did Rauf ... What was his response to that?

Witness: He said, "This sounds very interesting but the guy you've got to speak with is Kemal." We know Kemal. Kemal, I think as is evident, leapt at the opportunity and said, "Sure. We'll create a special panel and we'll fit her in."

Paul Solis: The first actual time you heard about the convention, when would that have been?

Witness: I mean in terms of the dates, in terms of the real kind of meat, I think it was when this development came up that maybe Valerie and they wanted to do a women's focus. Earlier, as I said, I think it was February-ish Furkan and Kemal ... Furkan, since I just knew him better, approached me and pretty much said, "How can you help? We want you to help organize."

Paul Solis: This is prior to your employment with Roberti and White?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: Had they asked you about Senator Casey doing something for the convention?

Witness: Yeah, they certainly did. The only reason they knew me was because of him.

Paul Solis: What did they ask of him via you?

Witness: They were pushing rather aggressively. This may or may not be evident in black white documents, for his attendance. I told them categorically I did not feel comfortable doing that. That's not ... I'm not in that business.

Paul Solis: What business is that?

Witness: A, conference planning and, B, after 8 plus wonderful years, I'm not going to be making requests of my former boss weeks after leaving and, frankly, still now.

Paul Solis: Who paid for your travel to go to Baku?

Witness: I've wondered that a lot during this. I do not know. I know that Kemal put us in touch with a travel agent based in Brooklyn with Turkish surnames.

Paul Solis: Nil Travel or Tursan Travel, does that ring a bell?

Witness: I honestly don't recall but I know it will be in these. Maybe Nil sounds more familiar.

Paul Solis: It's N-I-L, spelled N-I-L.

Witness: Sure.

Paul Solis: Nobody explained to you specifically how your ticket is getting paid for to go to Baku? Your flight?

Witness: No, in retrospect it's kind of crazy because we didn't even know who was going to be picking us up at the airport on the backend. I did not know.

Paul Solis: What about Valerie Owens and Mr. Rouse? What about their tickets? Do you know how theirs were paid for?

Witness: It was the same travel agent but I don't. I have no idea how.

Paul Solis: Could you walk me through specifically how that happens? They invite you to go. You say yes. I can tell you what I would do, I would say, "How am I going to pay for it?" Does Kemal say to you, "It's all taken care of"?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: He says, "It's already been paid for"? Okay.

Witness: It was maybe wrongfully assumed. They're asking us all these questions. "Which airport do you want to fly out of? Can we get passport copies? We need these right away. We need to get you visas." There's never a question of, "Are we flying this class versus this. Let's go on Kayak and take a look." It was just kind of assumed that everything was ...

Paul Solis: You never got a bill.

Witness: We did not get a bill.

Paul Solis: Were you talking to anybody else at this time about the logistics of getting to Baku?

Witness: My fiancé.

Paul Solis: Besides your family and besides Ms. Owens and besides Mr. Rouse, are you talking to anybody on that end about ...

Witness: That end being ... ?

Paul Solis: Mr. Mammadov, Mr. Oksuz, Furkan Kosar, anybody, are you talking to them, anybody else besides Mr. Oksuz about logistics of getting to Baku?

Witness: No, he was the funnel. I mean, I think I even volunteered, "Do I need to go the Embassy? I've never been to the Embassy." I looked up online we need a visa. He said, "Don't worry. Don't worry. Just get us passport copies." He has an associate, a younger fellow, Saim, something like that, that was sometimes handling these logistics.

Paul Solis: Mr. Oksuz did? Or Mr. Kosar?

Witness: I got the sense that he was kind of a shared employee.

Paul Solis: I believe that individual, his formal employment is with Mr. Kosar's organization but if he was representing himself as also an assistant to Mr. Oksuz, I'd like to know too.

Witness: I've seen the three of them together quite often. I definitely got the sense that he was helping in the overall planning.

Paul Solis: When you're talking to Mr. Oksuz about the logistics of getting there and the tickets and all of this, how is he representing himself? Is he sending emails from his Gmail account, from the Turquoise Council? Is he saying, "I am with the Turquoise Council?" How is he holding himself out to you?

Witness: In terms of which emails, I don't know. It's probably all here. I know I've seen emails from multiple addresses from him. I'm getting the sense that Turquoise Council is, yes, taking the lead but it's part of this greater tapestry of regional organizations. There's the various lieutenants and he's one of them along with Furkan and others but it seems like he was, for whatever reason, the lead.

Paul Solis: What about AFAZ? Do you think AFAZ at that point had anything to do with the logistics of getting you there?

Witness: I don't remember. I don't think I became curious about AFAZ or even knew of it until later. Even almost a full year later. Whereas, the organization that Furkan is associated with, or their Chicago counterparts, or these other kind of regional Turquoise, those I certainly knew about and could picture their logos, had been to their websites.

Paul Solis: As far as we can tell, I mean publicly AFAZ was a stated "organizer" of the convention so their logos would have been present at the convention itself in Baku. I don't know if you recall seeing the AFAZ logos there.

Witness: There were a lot of logos. I was ridiculously jet lagged, travelling 16 hours each way to be on the ground for less than a day and a half. There were logos I definitely recognized, like a BP logo. Logos that I had seen before like a Turkic logo. It's very possible that their logo ... But it's not an acronym or a logo that I'd seen before and didn't really register, I think, much about ...

Paul Solis: When you got to the convention, what was SOCAR USA's role in the convention? General question.

Witness: During my time on the grounds, a small, small fraction of the time, maybe cumulatively one hour, I saw Rauf Mammadov. The sole employee and representative of SOCAR USA. To be candid, that kind of frustrated us because he was the only Azeri, so to speak, that I knew. I thought we were going to see him more. Just like night life or what have you. SOCAR, we stayed across the street from their headquarters. We saw their logo many different places. Many SOCAR employees were clearly there giving interviews to local media, greeting folks.

Paul Solis: Did you get the impression they were working or was this on their free time?

Witness: I don't know if you'd call that work but, I mean, it's during the work day, during the work week.

Paul Solis: The conference was called ... You know, you've done this. You go to conferences. You know this stuff. The conference was called, "US Azerbaijan: Vision For the Future." In the promotional materials, a lot of it is about the relations between the two countries, right? The public relations.

Witness: Yup.

Paul Solis: Was this about that? Was it about SOCAR and energy related issues? Was it about both? What do you think?

Witness: I'm not the best person to ask because we arrived 10:00 or so at night. You can imagine collapsed into bed. The next morning, got on a shuttle bus to the convention center. There was a big opening session. Had a lot of speakers, frankly, not really with a coherent message. They had everything under the sun. War on terror to energy to Israel, what have you. At that point, then, we broke out. We went to our panel which, unfortunately, was not very well attended or it seemed like a sideshow.

Paul Solis: Were you on a panel?

Witness: No, I went with Valerie.

Paul Solis: She was on a panel.

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: What did she speak on?

Witness: Empowering women. At that point, after her panel was done, about lunch time, we were, frankly, on our own, the three of us. Part of us felt grateful, we were pretty exhausted. Still part of us felt pretty confused. That they had us all the way over here, we felt like maybe there should have been more activities or something for us to do. Over the course of the rest of the day, I'm not really sure what happened at the conference and what the messaging was.

Paul Solis: Did you see members of Congress there?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Did you talk to any?

Witness: On our flight, connecting flight from Frankfurt to ... I was in coach but there certainly were members on the flight and then when we landed and were going through the visa check, immigration check, we saw members. Then when we were waiting and waiting, it was completely unorganized, at 10:00, 11:00 at night, for the shuttle bus. Figuring out we didn't even know what hotel we necessarily were going to be checking into. On that shuttle bus there were members of Congress and other prominent folks from around town.

Paul Solis: Did you have any role whatsoever in getting those members of Congress to go to Baku? Is Valerie Owens the only person that you had any type of role at all in coordinating her travel to get to Baku?

Witness: Jay Rouse.

Paul Solis: Jay Rouse.

Witness: Yeah.

Paul Solis: Show you a document here. Not too much left. Do you want to take a break?

Witness: I could just use one of those waters if you don't mind?

Paul Solis: Okay, you bet. Anybody else?

Scott Maberry: All set.

Kelly Brewington: Fine, thank you.

Witness: Thank you.

Paul Solis: You're most welcome.

Scott Maberry: This is 160.

Paul Solis: Yes, RW160.

Witness: Turquoise is spelled correctly this time.

Paul Solis: Middle of the way down there, this email. Again, you're CC'd on it. It doesn't look like you're the author of this email. It says, "Dear Kemal, thank you for all your great help with this. Who should Val make the invoice out to? Thanks, Jay." Again, at the top, Mr. Oksuz responds. You're CC'd. Do you know what the word, "invoice," do you know what that refers to?

Witness: I do. At this point in time, I had never met Valerie. Jay, as I said, had known her for years and was coordinating. Was essentially the liaison between me, between Mr. Oksuz, and her.

Paul Solis: What's the invoice about?

Witness: They had negotiated an honorarium.

Paul Solis: For Valerie Owens?

Witness: For Valerie's presentation panel.

Paul Solis: Where would that honorarium come from? Who was paying for that?

Witness: I don't know. I did not receive an honorarium. I assume the invoice was ... I mean, he replies that it should be made out to the Turquoise Council.

Paul Solis: Do you know if anybody else at the convention received an honorarium?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Who else did?

Witness: I mean, there were other folks such as Jim Messina, David Plouffe. There was Paul Wolfowitz was on our shuttle bus. Those were all folks on our shuttle bus. I don't know for certain if ... Former Senator Luger, he was on our shuttle bus and was there. I believe I saw former Governor Richardson was there.

Paul Solis: How do you know they received honorarium?

Witness: There was an article in the Washington Post that suggested as much. I don't know for certain. I would assume, you know what they say about assuming but, if they offered her an honorarium, they offered others.

Paul Solis: Okay. General discussions, overhearing conversations, do you know at all whether or not members of Congress received honoraria for speaking at the convention?

Witness: No, I didn't. I mean, there was definitely chit chat on that shuttle bus and on the backend but there was no talk about that.

Paul Solis: Did you see Congressional staff members at the convention? Anybody you recognized?

Witness: Not that I would know names. Actually, come to think of it, on that shuttle bus I did not ... Not to stereotype but did not see any kind of younger Americans holding the bags of members. I did not get that sense.

Paul Solis: I'm going to read to you a couple names and you tell me if you're familiar with the names. Turkic American Federation of the Midwest?

Witness: Yup.

Paul Solis: You've heard of that before?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Do you know who heads that organization?

Witness: I know that at one point, Kemal lives in Chicago and I believe was the head of that, but I don't know.

Paul Solis: Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations, MAFTAA?

Witness: I've heard of it but I don't know much about it.

Paul Solis: Do you know who heads that organization?

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: The Turkic American Federation of the Southeast?

Witness: No.

Paul Solis: The Council of Turkic American Associations?

Witness: Is that the one out of New York?

Paul Solis: Yes.

Witness: Yes, then yes.

Paul Solis: You know who Furkan Kosar is.

Witness: Kosar is, yeah, yeah.

Paul Solis: You've known him longer than you've known Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: His territory includes Pennsylvania.

Paul Solis: Did Mr. Kosar attend the convention?

Witness: Yeah, he was there.

Paul Solis: What did he say beyond those requests of you to plan the convention or help to organize the convention, what did he say to you about the convention? I'm specifically asking about Mr. Kosar.

Witness: In the lead up?

Paul Solis: Yes, the lead up.

Witness: "It's going to be the greatest event ever. It's going to be the highlight of my professional career. Everyone's talking about this. You'd be foolish not to want to get active." These types of things. "What do you mean you can't

reach out to Senator Casey? I know you are so close with him. I'm saddened that you won't reach out to him." These types of things.

Paul Solis: Did he talk about whether or not his organization, this CTAA, would be sponsoring members of Congress to go to Baku?

Witness: I don't recall. I think when I ... I honestly don't recall. I think when I turned down Casey, he started asking, "Are there other members from Pennsylvania that you would feel comfortable reaching out to?" Things like this.

Paul Solis: Do you generally know anything, whether it was discussion at the convention or lead up to the convention, do you generally know anything about some of these organizations I just listed? The Turkic organizations, about them sponsoring members of Congress to go to Baku?

Witness: I think when you say, "sponsor," it's a technical term. Having never gone on a staff DEL, as they say in these things, or a CODEL, I'm not necessarily familiar but if you want to elaborate on that ...

Paul Solis: It is, I guess, a technical term that does have a specific meaning to it and a definition to it. I will ask in a more generalized, maybe colloquial sense about sponsoring.

Witness: I apologize for my ignorance.

Paul Solis: No, no, no, no. That's an important distinction to make. Did anybody, were there any conversations, to your general knowledge leading up to the convention or at the convention, do you have any understanding of members of Congress, their relationship to these Turkic associations?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Yeah? What did you know about that?

Witness: For example, I had cited that March conference. Every year they have conferences like this. They do similar conferences with the KAZACs, with the KIRGIs. I knew that members of Congress and their staff had gone to Turkey with them previously. Including my hometown Congressman, for example. I knew that they would have community events back in various ... Like during the month of Ramadan and these types of things. They'd have these inter-faith dialogue dinners around the country that would have members of Congress or their staff attend.

Paul Solis: Specifically related to the Baku convention in 2013, do you know if any members of Congress had a connection to these ... ?

Witness: I knew that upon chit chat in that shuttle bus and then when we got into the backend of the airport, that some were going on to Turkey with folks and others were going back to America. Some might have come from Turkey on the front end. That employees of these organizations were essentially chaperoning or tour guides.

Paul Solis: For the members?

Witness: Yeah.

Paul Solis: Did any members say that to you on the shuttle bus or through conversations with other people?

Witness: It's just you're on an 18 passenger bus. You overhear things. Waiting at the airport. "Which hotel are we going to?" Things like that. I distinctly remember and it was incredibly painful was a 4:00 AM return flight. We're waiting, the flight's delayed. You're in an area with a lot of random State Representatives, members of Congress, others pretty sleep deprived. You just overhear things as you're milling about getting tea.

Paul Solis: I may have already asked this question to you but the hotel you stayed at in Baku, what hotel was that?

Witness: It was the Four Seasons.

Paul Solis: You stayed two nights or one night?

Witness: Technically two nights. I say technically because we checked in around midnight and then the following day left at 3 something in the morning.

Paul Solis: How was that hotel paid for?

Witness: I don't know.

Paul Solis: Your hotel room, I should say?

Witness: I don't know. I assume the same way that my airfare was but I don't know.

Paul Solis: It's all, again, the same way that your airfare was covered, it was paid for when you got there. You didn't receive an invoice, a bill, and you didn't ask any questions about ... ?

Witness: No, I distinctly remember ... It's somewhat odd, that's why I remember it. We didn't even go to the front desk and put a credit card down for incidentals. Kemal and Furkan were in the lobby, giving out room cards.

Paul Solis: What about meals in Baku?

Witness: I'll just say, I was like, "Oh my God. Thank God. There's someone we recognize. We flew half way across the world. At least there's someone we recognize in the middle of the night." Meals? I cannot remember at the convention when we went for the opening ceremony if there was nuts and chips and things like that. I assume that there was in that convention hall. As I said, we were frankly kind of abandoned come lunch time on. We just went to a private restaurant. Then there was back at the hotel, I learned about, there was a dinner, a kind of gala. We did go to that. That was at another hall. There were members of Congress there. I didn't get the sense it was exactly the same folks. It was kind of a smaller subset of folks who we had seen in the much larger hall in the morning. I don't know who paid for that dinner but it's the first decent meal we got.

Paul Solis: Did you have a sense, generally, just by the presence of certain organizations whether it's an American corporation or SOCAR, who is paying for all this? The lecture halls, the panels, the dais the water, all in together. Did you have an idea of who ... Did anybody talk about, did you have a sense of who was paying for this all?

Witness: I mean, we've all attended these events. Normally you see like, "Here's the gold sponsor, the silver sponsor." I don't remember necessarily seeing the demarcation. Saw all these different logos and printed material on the silk screens. Things like this. It did strike me to see the BP logo. I wasn't necessarily hearing lots of American accents or seeing the executives from BP, for example. I did see people's name badges and didn't see a lot of people who had those types of affiliations listed.

Paul Solis: Did you talk to anybody from BP or ConocoPhillips?

Witness: No, and frankly it kind of struck me. I mean, I assume they were there. There were hundreds of people but I did not see any.

Paul Solis: Kelly do you have any questions about the convention at all? About anything?

Kelly Brewington: I was going to move on. I had a question about, you had talked about honorarium. I wondered if ... You said that Valerie Owens, or Biden Owens, received an honorarium and others did. Did any of the guests receive any gifts?

Witness: Yeah, there was tea sets. You know, like little tea cups and what have you. Carpets. The country is known for its handwoven ... It's actually where the flying carpets come from. I distinctly remember trying to get a shirt. They had all these volunteers with polo shirts but no one would give me one.

Paul Solis: How many carpets did you receive?

Witness: Did I receive? Just one.

Paul Solis: Just one. Did Mr. Rouse and Valerie Owens receive carpets as well?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Tea sets as well?

Witness: I don't remember the tea sets. I assume. I mean, I got a tea set. I think a lot of people must have gotten tea sets. She gave all of hers then to Mr. Rouse for his children. Yeah, I can't recall about the tea sets.

Paul Solis: Do you know what the value of those items are? For example, did you ever get the carpet appraised? The rug appraised?

Witness: No, I never got it appraised.

Paul Solis: How big is it? What's the size?

Witness: About half the size of this table.

Paul Solis: I mean, that's ...

Witness: Five feet by ...

Paul Solis: Five feet by four feet, three feet? Okay, all right.

Witness: When you pack for a two day trip, and then they spring this on you. It wasn't that easy to ... It was actually, frankly, more frustration.

Paul Solis: Did you see other convention attendees carrying rugs and tea sets?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: About how many?

Witness: Attendees? I mean, as we were waiting there at 4:00 AM for the delayed flight, almost everyone had.

Paul Solis: At the airport?

Witness: Yeah.

Paul Solis: I'll show you one last email on that topic. This is the last one I have. It's RW40.

Scott Maberry: Is this the last one for the interview or ...

Paul Solis: Last one for the interview.

Scott Maberry: Just quickly before that, you'll see that in a lot of the stuff that we sent you, we've been over responsive in some ways so a lot of stuff ... We wanted to make sure you got everything that was ... By the way, we're also continuing to do that. As you know, we've had a couple more come through. In connection with those, there was a printing glitch on a few of them. We've got better print outs of all those for you. We can give you those before you go. There's nothing new on them except there's a photograph that didn't come through.

Paul Solis: That's what I figured. I had sent you an email asking about that. I figured it was the printing.

Scott Maberry: Sorry for the confusion on that. That was just a glitch in our printing. We're kind of in your hands on some of the things that we provided to you. There are probably a lot of stuff in there that's not directly relevant to the conference and other stuff. I'd hate to see some of that stuff go beyond you guys.

Paul Solis: I've been doing this for awhile.

Scott Maberry: So have I.

Paul Solis: I do understand when there is sensitive materials that might relate to the overall context. You've sent us emails and requests that some of the information that you had at least have a heads up on if we're thinking of using. That's not a problem for us. We will go to great lengths to make sure that some of the information that, unless we have to use it to prove, potentially, something in a referral but that wouldn't be part of the [crosstalk].

Scott Maberry: Appreciate it and we're trusting you guys so thanks a lot.

Paul Solis: No problem.

Scott Maberry: All right.

Paul Solis: This is the last email I wanted to show you.

Scott Maberry: This is 0405.

Paul Solis: Again, this relates to gifts. I assume at the convention. Valerie writes, "Hi guys, do either of you know who the appropriate person is to thank for the gifts? Please advise." Then you write back, "I believe it was entirely coordinated by Kemal Oksuz," and you give his email address. "He is the one from Houston who was M.C.'ing most of the day." Do you recall writing that back to Valerie?

Witness: I do.

Paul Solis: Why did you believe it was, at least the gifts, were entirely coordinated by Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: As I recall, he physically handed them to us in the lobby. He was handing them to others.

Paul Solis: Was there anything on the rug or the tea set that would denote who it's from or who's taking credit for the gift?

Witness: I think the tea set was in some sort of wrapping paper. In fact, actually, inside that wrapping paper it had tissue paper and I think the logo for the conference was the Vision for the Future two flags. I'm just remembering this in my sleep deprived state because I'm like, I didn't want to check a bag. I don't have physical luggage. What am I doing with this? I consolidated all this tissue paper.

Paul Solis: Did you notice whether a seal of the government of Azerbaijan was on anything or SOCAR, Turquoise Council, AFAZ? Did you notice those logos?

Witness: The rug, it's stitched in. It says, "Azerbaijan," on it. The tea set, I don't ... I didn't keep the tea set. I don't know if had a logo or anything chiseled on it.

Paul Solis: You mentioned that sleep deprived state, waiting for the flight back at the airport in Baku.

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: You said you saw people with rugs and gifts from the convention. Convention attendees had these items. Did you recognize any members of Congress carrying rugs or gifts?

Witness: Honestly, not that I recall. I remember having a conversation as we were sitting there with a State Representative from Indiana, as I'm jogging up, but I don't remember. I know that on our flight back there were members

of Congress but I don't recall seeing them in that waiting zone of the airport.

Paul Solis: Have you spoken to anybody besides your attorneys about our review?

Witness: My colleagues at Roberti and White.

Scott Maberry: Several people at Roberti and White had to know about this because we issued the Preservation Notice and we searched their ...

Witness: Multiple accounts.

Scott Maberry: Email accounts. They had to know.

Paul Solis: What about Rauf Mammadov? Have you spoken to him about our review?

Witness: Not about the review.

Paul Solis: Have you spoken to him about the convention recently?

Witness: Recently, no. I went in December with my father to Baku for the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. We certainly talked about my last time, my previous only time in Baku. In that context, it's going to be a much calmer, different trip. You're going for 8 days versus less than 48 hours.

Paul Solis: When's the last time you spoke to Mr. Mammadov?

Witness: I don't think I've seen him for three weeks, almost four weeks now.

Paul Solis: You know, I asked you the question if you had spoken to Mr. Mammadov about our review. You said, "Not about the review." Have you spoken to him at all recently about issues ...

Witness: About ending our contract, for example, things like that?

Paul Solis: Yes.

Witness: Yeah.

Paul Solis: Was there a reason?

Witness: About his future plans, yeah. As I said, we're friends.

Paul Solis: Did the convention have anything to do with the reason the contract ended between ... ?

Witness: No, no. I get the sense that oil at less than $0.50 a barrel is why. My understanding is that they're closing their operations in the United States or suspending.

Paul Solis: Meaning the SOCAR USA office may no longer be present?

Witness: That's what I was told. I don't have reason to doubt them.

Paul Solis: You've seen some of the public reporting about the convention?

Witness: I certainly have.

Paul Solis: You know, just the document production that your attorneys provided ...

Scott Maberry: We sent some of it to you.

Paul Solis: Yesterday there was some emails back and forth between you and Rauf about, for example, the Houston Chronicle article that came out on the convention. Did you have any conversations after those emails were exchanged? Did you have any conversations with Rauf over the phone about that or in person?

Witness: About the Houston Chronicle article? Yeah, he was certainly very frustrated. I was hired to be his counselor, his advisor. That was the term he always used, advisor. He was quite frustrated. I told him that, as a rule, I have never talked to the press. I don't talk to the press and I encourage you to have that same rule.

Paul Solis: He was concerned that maybe you had spoken to the press? Is that an issue for him?

Witness: Yeah, he reached out to me beforehand, saying, "Are reporters from the Houston Chronicle reaching out to you?" I said, "Yeah, they called our front desk and we never called them back." "Have you heard from others?" I said, "Yeah, the reporters call our front desk all the time but as a rule we do not talk to them." I encouraged him to do the same.

Paul Solis: Did he talk to you at all about the truthfulness of the article or whether he thought it was ...

Witness: Yeah, he suggested he thought it was biased. He suggested, as do many of his peers and people from that country, that there's a bias among the American media.

Paul Solis: A biased against ... ?

Witness: Against the country.

Paul Solis: Against Azerbaijan?

Witness: Yeah, against its compatriots, so to speak.

Paul Solis: You may have mentioned this before but when's the last time you talked to Kemal Oksuz? Either verbally or over email?

Witness: I think it was when several ... I think we've got those, right?

Scott Maberry: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: Several months afterward, he inquired about a W-9 tax form. As I said, I distinctly remember at their National Day celebrations trying to introduce my wife to him. Mm-mm (negative). He came across the room trying to avoid us. We haven't seen or spoken with each other for quite some time. As I said, that was May of '14.

Paul Solis: I guess the last question I just wanted to follow back on. When you mentioned that there was an employee at SOCAR USA's office who sat near Rauf Mammadov ... ?

Witness: Correct.

Paul Solis: University of Delaware graduate.

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: Who was identified by Mr. Mammadov as being an AFAZ employee?

Witness: Yes.

Paul Solis: When did that occur?

Witness: When did I first meet him?

Paul Solis: Yeah, when did you first meet him or when did you first talk to Rauf about him?

Witness: Maybe February ... There was an event. It was a tragedy that happened during their war of independence and there's an event in February. I believe they did it again ... They being Mr. Oksuz ... this year. February of '14 was the first time I think that I met Rafig at this event in Rayburn at this memorial service, so to speak.

1	Paul Solis:	Do you know if he's still in those offices? The SOCAR USA offices?
2	Witness:	I don't.
3	Paul Solis:	Do you have any other questions?
4	Kelly Brewington:	I just want to make sure we got the spelling of his name.
5	Witness:	Whose?
6	Kelly Brewingtno:	You said his name's Rafig?
7	Witness:	Let's see if I got this.
8	Kelly Brewington:	If you know.
9	Witness:	R-A-F-I-G? Last name, G-U-R-D-A-N-Z-A-D, maybe.
10	Kelly Brewington:	Okay, that's good.
11 12	Paul Solis:	Is there anything you want to tell us about the convention, about anything else? As your lawyers look at you with dirty looks?
13	Scott Maberry:	And say, "Not if there's not a specific question."
14 15	Witness:	The amount of time it takes in an airplane is equivalent to the time on the ground, it's probably not worth it.
16	Paul Solis:	Okay.
17	Scott Maberry:	I hope this was helpful.
18	Paul Solis:	Yes, it was. Thank you very much for your time.
19	Kelly Brewington:	Thank you.

EXHIBIT 15

TRANSCRIPTION OF INTERVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN HINOJOSA

4/8/2015

MS. EISNER: This is April 8, 2015, I am Helen Eisner from the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by Omar Ashmawy. I'm also joined by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa and Mr. Trey Lewis we have given the Congressman the documents under 18 USC 1001 and have the acknowledgement form and we will go ahead and get started with the interview. Alright so to start things off do you know Kemal Oksuz?
REP. HINOJOSA: I know him.
MS. EISNER: Okay and how do you know him?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well, I know that he was somehow connected to the Turkish American Council which had different social events in Washington D.C. that invited members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which I was the Chairman and that's how I met him.
MS. EISNER: Do you remember when you first met him?
REP. HINOJOSA: No, I don't remember when I first met him but my number of contacts with him were few.
MS. EISNER: Do you remember, sort of, an approximate period or year range when you might've met him, maybe 2012, 2013?
REP. HINOJOSA: Honestly I don't remember the date. There were other members who knew him better like colleagues from Texas and I asked, they said that they knew him and that he was a good guy. That's about the way that friends of mine that included Congressmen Cuellar, Jane Green, others that were very, not very but knew him better and gave me comfort that he was okay.
MS. EISNER: How did that come up in conversation with them? Did you… were you not familiar with who he was and you wanted to know a little bit more so you went to some of your colleagues?
REP. HINOJOSA: They were asking that we write letters of this, letters to that, and I told Connie I don't want to get involved in that. When they start making a lot of requests of me I just don't do it.
MS. EISNER: Okay and…
REP. HINOJOSA: So naturally when that occurs we are members… I am chairman of the Texas Democratic Caucus and when I haven't been in previous years we meet once a week and we have an opportunity to eat and talk and ask questions. And bottom line is his name came up, you know, once in a while.
MS. EISNER: Okay and you said you probably had met with him a handful of times. Do you know what you spoke about generally during those meetings?
REP. HINOJOSA: Often times they're wanting to know about the caucus members and how they participate, they like to travel or they don't. But they put together a group of all 27 to go to their country and my response was always we've never done it as a group. We just… we have such busy schedules that we've never been able to do that. But all I can say is that question came up several times.

MS. EISNER: You mentioned that you knew he worked for I think you said the Turkish American Council.
REP. HINOJOSA: Because he told me so.
MS. EISNER: And that's the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians is that… does that sound familiar or is that the organization?
REP. HINOJOSA: Yes I didn't pronounce it correctly it is correct.
MS. EISNER: They're confusing lots of different names and acronyms. Getting Turquoise and Turkish, just making sure it's correct. So, what do you know about that organization, the Turquoise Council?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well, that they have a presence in Washington. They were trying to, I guess, increase the relationship, you know the relationship with the United States, both Turkey and Azerbaijan. And they would always emphasize how they had some of their soldiers participating in those two wars. And more importantly their location and how important strategic it was to land our planes with war supplies to send to Iraq and to Afghanistan. So, having visited the war front as I did, with CODELs, that were always escorted by either Army or Navy or Air force, that's very very important to our country.
MS. EISNER: SO they… it seemed like they were largely focused on foreign policy issues, military issues, is there anything else that they were focused on beyond those issues that you can recall?
REP. HINOJOSA: Not that I remember.
MS. EISNER: Okay and I think you said that you interacted with Kemal Oksuz, Mr. Oksuz. You knew he was connected to the Turquoise Council. Was there anyone else that you interacted with from the Turquoise Council?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember the names of some of the other people, cause some were Turk and some were American working for them. And truthfully I don't remember their names since we didn't meet often. It was one of many many many meetings that we have with so many different American and foreign groups that want access through members of Congress. You know the schedule that we keep and all I can say is that having a family of little ones. I limited the amount of events that I did so…
MR. LEWIS: So Congressman you don't remember their names?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MS. EISNER: Okay, are you familiar with a group called the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?
REP. HINOJOSA: Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?
MS. EISNER: Sometimes they're referred to as AFAZ, A-F-A-Z.
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember them or haven't been invited to any social with them.
MS. EISNER: Okay. So let's talk a little about travel and when you do get these invitations to attend various events. So, what is the process in your office when someone receives an invitation for privately sponsored travel?

REP. HINOJOSA: Well I had a scheduler by the name of Erin at the time that we are talking about, worked for me for about 3 years. She receives my mail opens it and if there are invitations she then goes to her boss which is the Chief of Staff Connie Humphry, and together they look at them and if they think it has something to do with financial services, which is one of my committees, or with education and workforce, they then come and bring it to me for my consideration and I'll probably ask a lot of questions, they have to follow up come back and report and then we look at the schedule and I make the final decisions on if I want to travel.
MS. EISNER: What kinds of questions would you ask as follow up, once they come to you and think it's relevant event?
REP. HINOJOSA: Has this been approved by the Ethics Committee? I saw a lot of other members of congress often times having trouble and I've never been… I've never had problems with the Ethics Committee. By simply asking both in writing and a phone call if there is… first the phone call if it looks like it has a possibility. I also want to know who is heading it, who is the CODEL chair. In most cases it would be somebody from the majority. Since I've only had four years of Democratic Majority during my Tenure I would then just pick of the phone and just call that particular Democrat and they would answer any questions I might have.
MS. EISNER: So in a situation where it's not a CODEL so you can't pick up the phone and call that person who's maybe responsible.
REP. HINOJOSA: There's so few of those… so few of those that I couldn't begin to say that that was a common occurrence. It just wasn't.
MS. EISNER: I know you said that one of your top questions is: Has this….
REP. HINOJOSA: Let me give you an example. You get an email from Nancy Pelosi that, would I like to go to Rome to see the new pope get ordained as our pope? A very few, she and the Vice-President were heading the group and of course I said yes, on short notice. Those were not necessarily CODELs we were going to go represent our country for something as important as this. That's a good example.
MS. EISNER: Okay.
REP. HINOJOSA: I traveled for that. One other one that was later, Normandy the 75th year of or the 70th – 75th – 70th year, now that I remember, anniversary of D-Day. Very few were invited I was one of them. And again those are different than the co-dels that I attended.
MS. EISNER: So when you're dealing with that type of situation, that it's the unique, you know, handful of cases where it's not a CODEL
REP. HINOJOSA: I always call a Head that I know closely, like Nancy. I never did call the Vice-President because I knew his plane was going to be taking a few senators and we were flying commercial.
MS. EISNER: So in a situation like the conference that we are talking about, where the invite came from a private organization, is there somebody you would pick up the phone and call and talk to about that type of travel?
MR. LEWIS: Are you asking generally or specifically?
MS. EISNER: Well, let's talk….

MR. ASHMAWY: Generally, I mean generally. I guess maybe it is easier to talk specifically when the request, the invitation came, for this particular trip for Turkey and Azerbaijan. Did… what kind of questions did you ask your staff? Did you reach out to anybody?
REP. HINOJOSA: I asked my… I asked Connie, can my wife attend? She called they said, your wife may attend and you may take one of your children. And I said, will they pay for this or will I pay for this? They said, I will have to pay for that. That's when I made the decision to invite my senior in high school Kaity Hinojosa. And she attended and I paid for that.
MS. EISNER: Do you know who Connie would've picked up the phone and called to ask those specific questions about?
REP. HINOJOSA: I gave you her phone number in the responses that I sent you. You can call her and she can tell you.
MS. EISNER: … and talk to her about it, okay.
REP. HINOJOSA: But it's more common that my chief of staff would call than a scheduler. Even though the scheduler filled out a lot of forms because Connie has to oversee three offices and all the staff so naturally she gets help.
MS. EISNER: Any conversations about funding or sponsorship? Would those be questions you would ask for this type of trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well it was clear on the page that it was being done by this council, so I understood that.
MS. EISNER: Were there any discussions back and forth with the Ethics Committee regarding this trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: Yeah, there were different phone calls that were made because I wanted clarification if we were going commercial and I'm taking my daughter for the first time on at trip like this so naturally I wanted to have clarification.
MS. EISNER: Well let's get into some of the documents and some of the specifics of this trip in particular and I wanted to ask: How did discussions about you attending this trip begin? When do you remember this first coming to your attention, the trip to Baku?
REP. HINOJOSA: In my opinion, I think that because I was chairman of the National Hispanic Caucus and I was a good candidate. Number two they talked about being an educational trip and that they would have accommodations from the academics higher education and it's spelled out… well I was at that time, I was chairman of the Higher Education. So I figured I was a very good candidate for that.
MR. LEWIS: So the question was: How did the trip come to your attention?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well it was in an email, first started out.
MS. EISNER: Okay, well actually let's take a look at a few of those emails and talk them through. I'm going to provide MCRH 0301. I'm just going to say the numbers for the benefit of our transcript here so we know what we are referring to.
REP. HINOJOSA: What was the date of that one?
MS. EISNER: I actually have documents for both of you.
MR. LEWIS: She has a copy for us… Thank you so much.

MS. EISNER: Take a moment and look these over.
REP. HINOJOSA: I remember this.
MS. EISNER: So I guess I'll just first confirm that Erin who's on this email is the Erin you were....
REP. HINOJOSA: Erin was our scheduler.
MS. EISNER: So Erin Dominguez is the scheduler, okay. So in the second part of this page, the second paragraph here, there's an email between Erin and Mr. Oksuz, where is says: You came by the office in February and my boss is really interested. And this is all with regards to the trip. Do you remember that meeting when he came by the office, when Mr. Oksuz came?
REP. HINOJOSA: It's been too long I don't remember.
MR. LEWIS: And that's Kemal right?
MS. EISNER: This is Kemal Oksuz yes, that's who... and I think he is... yes he's referred to in the subject line of this email. And do you know if Erin met with him in this initial?
REP. HINOJOSA: In a meeting like this, the most likely to be there would be my chief of staff because her office is adjacent to mine and I trust her to be able to make sure that we comply with everything that ethics requires.
MS. EISNER: Okay and this is around, I guess April 2013 do you remember them mentioning this meeting to you or any discussions with Kemal Oksuz relevant to this meeting?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember.
MS. EISNER: Okay, and then in the first part of that email he says, should I stop by tomorrow Tuesday to brief you about the details? This is a follow up referring to a later email... or sorry a later meeting that would've occurred in April rather than the first meeting which seems to have occurred in February. Do you know if this meeting in April happened if he did stop by as he was planning to?
REP. HINOJOSA: Whenever I was involved in voting at the capitol or in a committee where I was chairman, like education, my chief of staff would have to step in and represent me, and that's very common.
MS. EISNER: So I guess then you don't remember this particular...?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't
MS. EISNER: With this kind of background, understanding there was this going back and forth going on about the convention, at that time did you know what the primary purpose of the convention was, or the convention trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: It was in the first document that we received and...
MR. LEWIS: And I think he's referring to the formal invitation letter.
MS. EISNER: Okay. Was... So your understanding of the convention was based on that formal invitation?
REP. HINOJOSA: I'm looking for....
MR. LEWIS: She'll have the documents Congressman.
REP. HINOJOSA: Well it's this one I remember reading very specifically and that it talks about what the trip... what the mission statement and the purpose.

MR. LEWIS: Do you all have a copy of this?
MS. EISNER: I just want to make sure we are referring… I'm sure we do as a part of the production. Your production was quite comprehensive but I just want to make sure we are looking at the same document which is an invitation from the Turquoise Council to the Representative, signed by Alpyara Danakul. I'll just spell that for the record A-L-P-Y-A-R-A - D-A-N-A-K-U-L. Who's the Regional Director for the Turquoise Council, and this letter says, all trip related expenses will be paid for by TCAE and all aspects of the trip will be in full conformity with the House Ethics Rules. Okay so, you know….
MR. LEWIS: And it also has a statement or purpose of the trip I believe, at the top.
MS. EISNER: Yes it does at the top it says the trip will explore critical foreign policy and it goes on to describe the … some of the aspects of the trip. This document is actually not a part of the documents we have here today.
REP. HINOJOSA: We can give you a copy of that.
MS. EISNER: Yeah that might be helpful. I don't recall this from the production it's possible that it was in there but this… I'm not sure if this is familiar to you.
MR. ASHMAWY: I don't recollect it either so yeah if it's possible to get a copy, that would be helpful.
MS. EISNER: That would be great to get a copy.
MR. LEWIS: Absolutely
MS. EISNER: SO our understanding of the trip was based on this invitation?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well you'll notice what caught my attention, I underlined it, because as I've explained earlier, I made CODEL trips with bipartisan members to the war front. I knew because the generals would tell us about our allies and in some cases Turkey always came up as one of the bases, I mean the countries that have bases that allow our planes to come in and drop off supplies, and they were very very very important. So, having been to Iraq and having been to Afghanistan and Kuwait, and Pakistan on CODELs with other as I said members of both parties. I had very good briefings by the generals in charge of the bases where we went to. And I wanted to be informed.
MS. EISNER: Do you… So this individual and I'm sure I'm pronouncing this incorrectly, Alpyara Danakul. Do you remember him? Do you remember this?
REP. HINOJOSA: No I don't, whoever signed that letter I don't remember him.
MS. EISNER: Okay so this is February 28th 2013, did you… do you know… did you follow up at all about the substance about this letter to see you know who TCAE was, any further than what….
REP. HINOJOSA: I trusted what they put in writing and signed was truthful. My staff did what they have to do in terms of checking it through ethics on the House floor knowing some members who were going to be on that trip. I would ask them and they all felt that it was a legitimate and that it… a legitimate trip and that I didn't have anything to fear.

MS. EISNER: Were you concerned? Yeah I know it seems like you did talk to some members and you had your staff talk to the Committee on Ethics, was there a concern that you were following through with?
REP. HINOJOSA: No I didn't have concerns otherwise I would not have taken my wife and I wouldn't have taken my child 18 years old. As I said earlier knowing that there were three different groups one that had mostly US Senators, our had all members of congress, an then a third on that had government officials and the fact that we were going to meet with the president of each of the two countries and we did. We met with the President of Azerbaijan twice and with the heads of the parliament in each of the two countries. That was common in CODELs that we went to different countries that we would meet the equivalent of a congressman or the equivalent of a Senator and ministers like our cabinet members.
MR. LEWIS: I assume you all have a copy of the itinerary.
MS. EISNER: Yes we do have… we were actually… we've got a few documents including that to go through.
MR. LEWIS: To keep going through… okay
REP. HINOJOSA: We didn't have concerns.
MS. EISNER: Had you attended a 2012 US Azerbaijan Conference that was held in Washington?
REP. HINOJOSA: Before that trip there was one that we were invited to my wife and I attended.
MS. EISNER: Where was that?
REP. HINOJOSA: It was in a big hotel, a big ball room and it included dinner, speakers and a singer and dancers of their country.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember what city? Was that…
REP. HINOJOSA: It was in Washington DC.
MR. ASHMAWY: It was Washington.
REP. HINOJOSA: And there were lots of members there.
MS. EISNER: Lots of members. Do you remember if that was a US-Azerbaijan Convention or was that a separate event?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well at that time I was a little confused about the different groups that were saying that they were all connected to the Azerbaijan government. And one that I trusted a great deal on the Department of Defense Committee, Congressman Ortiz, is somebody I would go to and say, I didn't quite understand this event that I got invited and you weren't there. And he says well this was a different group. So to me that was confusing but I just let it go he was very high ranking on the department of defense he knew them, he said they were okay.
MS. EISNER: It does seem to be like there's this very complicated web of many different organizations who are connected and you sort of mentioned that there were a number of different…
REP. HINOJOSA: At least I know of those two because when I went to that event in 2012 in DC I met with lots of other members who were there members of congress and it was a dinner and the speaker. Very young person who was supposed to be the… I don't know what his title was

supposed to be but let's call him Chairman or President of the organization. And he was like the MC, he was the… maybe not MC would be the word but … he spoke. He was like the welcome everybody there.
MS. EISNER: What were some of the other Turkish organizations that were present in 2012, some other ones that were….?
REP. HINOJOSA: I remember the… I was trying to think if the Azerbaijan Ambassador to the United States if he was there.
MR. LEWIS: Congressman she asked about organizations.
REP. HINOJOSA: I see organizations… no.
MR. LEWIS: I mean if you can recall their names.
REP. HINOJOSA: No I know it was a big attendance if I had to guess, I'd say, probably 350-400 people but I don't know the organizations who were invited.
MS. EISNER: Well I think we'll just kind of keep moving on and keep moving through the documents and of course let us know if you need to stand up and take a break at any point.
MR. LEWIS: Can we take a break and I'll make a copy of the paper for you. I actually need to run to the bathroom.
MR. ASHMAWY: Sure
MS. EISNER: Yeah we can do that.
REP. HINOJOSA: That would help me.
MS. EISNER: Okay the recording is back. And I am going to show you another series of emails which is MCRH 0317-0321 and give you a moment to look these over.
MR. LEWIS: Thank you.
MS. EISNER: So what we are really focused on is the first page of the whole… I didn't want to cut off the chain and not give you context.
MR. LEWIS: Okay.
MS. EISNER: And my question is really on the first page of this email exchange, which is between Kemal Oksuz and Erin Dominguez. Kemal writes, "I saw the congressman on Thursday at the members dining room and talked with him to encourage their daughter." So this is April 2013 do you remember speaking with Kemal in the members dining room?
REP. HINOJOSA: It's possible. I usually meet with some of the representatives of different organizations particularly on my committees, in the members dining room and on this particular trip it's very possible that we ate there. My wife was uncertain if she and our daughter would travel. She was just against uncertainties of travel like this, which are very different than the CODELs, and I guess he must have come figuring that if she didn't go I probably wouldn't go.
MS. EISNER: So you think he probably came to the dining room?
REP. HINOJOSA: It's possible. I can't tell you because we eat there often times.
MS. EISNER: I mean if you don't remember, maybe this specific one do you remember any other conversations with Kemal Oksuz before the trip leading up to the trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: I'm sorry I just don't remember.
MS. EISNER: It's okay.

REP. HINOJOSA: We meet with so many people our schedules are hectic So many different sectors and all I can say is I cannot remember what conversation other than questions that my wife might've had about this trip and to be sure that my daughter would be protected.
MS. EISNER: Any other conversations, maybe not with Mr. Oksuz but with anyone else that you can remember, related to the trip before you actually traveled to Azerbaijan and Turkey?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. LEWIS: Aside from staff or both?
MS. EISNER: Aside from… well I guess I should ask; any conversations with staff that you recall related to the trip or sponsorship of the trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: I may have asked them some questions that my wife might've had like; what dress attire? And how you know what was expected? Questions like that.
MS. EISNER: Do you know who they would've gone to, to ask those questions?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well they would ask me and then I would transfer those on to Connie or to Erin to get answers as to how she should pack for a trip like that.
MS. EISNER: And without, you know, speaking directly to Erin and Connie right now, do you know who they asked those questions to?
REP. HINOJOSA: I couldn't tell you, no.
MS. EISNER: So continuing on with documents here we have MCRH 0036 -0041 and these are the traveler forms that you provided to our office. I'll give you each a copy of these.
REP. HINOJOSA: Well this is… one of many documents that you're showing us that staff is responsible for trying to help them… I mean help me get them filled out properly and approved by chief of staff, and then released. And I can say that in the first document that I underlined it talks about what was in my committee, education and universities, and exchange student, study abroad and forth. I was not a member of the energy committee, energy and commerce, and on number 8 of this traveler form, as a member from an energy producing state. Yes I am. We have eagle ford shale very important to me and my district four counties that are big like Carnes County producing and eagle percept. Naturally there's interest in knowing about something that produces a lot of jobs in my district. But I'm not in the committee. Others were, other member of the team that traveled were commerce, were energy and commerce. So I could speak very much whenever maybe we got into a discussion on that.
MS. EISNER: I think you said, you know, this is one of the many forms that your staff would look at and be responsible for, would this form come to you? Would you look at it before it was filed with the Ethics Committee?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well this was filled out by Erin and signed by Erin so I just cannot tell you that I questioned it. If they filled it out and my chief of staff had reviewed it they did their job. They were very well informed about my interest in meeting Ethic's requirements. So if they've gone and done that as they have for other trips that I made on CODELs I had no problem. I trust my staff.

MS. EISNER: So just to clarify do you think you would've seen these forms before they were sent to the committee or was that something that was… that you chief of staff would've looked at?
MR. LEWIS: Or you don't remember.
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember. I can only tell you my chief of staff is very thorough and I'm sure that she, even those it was signed by Erin, that she reviewed it before it went out to the committee.
MS. EISNER: So these forms list the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians as the sponsor. Did you raise any issues, were there any conversations about sponsorship with regards to these forms?
REP. HINOJOSA: When we first started like February 28th I thoroughly had to study this because that was going to determine whether I would make the trip or not. But once the decision was made and we had to fill out travel forms and so forth. I had to depend on my staff because we have so much work to do and so many meetings to run to and buildings to go to and so forth. Speak in so many places that I have to trust my staff.
MS. EISNER: And I know we've gone through a lot of these questions but just for further clarification, and kind of thinking of these forms, but also generally with regards to this trip and the convention. Who did you understand was paying for the travel?
REP. HINOJOSA: The Turquoise Council. It says so here in this, join us for an educational trip to be sponsored by Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. That's who I thought was paying for it.
MS. EISNER: Any conversations about the travel specifically any reason to question the Turquoise Council was paying for the travel?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't question it. I thought that much of what they had given me was already seen by the Ethics Committee that if they say something that was questionable they would've alerted us because we have a good relationship with the Ethics Committee. I've never had a problem, you know, this is the first time.
MR. ASHMAWY: You've talked to Mr..... to Kemal a couple of times. Did you ever have a conversation with him about where his organization got its money from?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall who arranged the logistics for going on this trip?
REP. HINOJOSA: From my office? It would have to be Erin and Connie.
MR. ASHMAWY: And from the Turquoise Council side do you know who arranged any of the logistics?
REP. HINOJOSA: No I don't know.
MR. ASHMAWY: You said that you went with your wife and daughter correct?
REP. HINOJOSA: Yes they went… they traveled with me.
MR. ASHMAWY: Who paid for your wife? Do you remember?
REP. HINOJOSA: I think they did.
MR. ASHMAWY: And your daughter?

REP. HINOJOSA: I did. We were very specific because we questioned the cause and all that and they gave me a pretty good estimate and it turned as they told me because they called the airlines.
MR. ASHMAWY: For your daughter was that just for the flight or is that flight and accommodations? What did you pay for, for your daughter?
REP. HINOJOSA: They billed me and we paid what I was supposed to pay.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember where you stayed in Baku in Azerbaijan?
REP. HINOJOSA: In the schedule it's exactly the schedule, the name of the hotel like one time it was the Four Seasons, and in different countries there was a different name. But we followed that schedule to the T.
MR. ASHMAWY: Alright so that schedule that, you know, that you provided us that is, you know, that is part of you know MCRH 0036-MCRH0041 that schedule is to the best of your recollection, that's what you followed.
REP. HINOJOSA: I think that I went through it a few days ago and the only variation that I remember seeing here was on Wednesday after the big meeting in that auditorium that had a thousand people and the president of Azerbaijan Addressed us. All the American delegation was there. We were going to eat, I think a box lunch or something there. And then somebody from their hosting, the hosts group said there are 30 of the American delegation that have been invited by the president to have lunch with him at his venue. And so that was… but it did not include my wife or daughter it was just members and we were either congressman or former officials. I remember sitting next to me was Bill former Secretary of energy, Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico. To my left was the director of the export import bank. And it was a… a very causal diner where he addressed us and he allowed members to ask questions of him. It was very informal. That was not here and evidently he and the American Ambassador took… I'm sorry Azerbaijan Ambassador to the United States decided who to invite it included I remember Michelle, from New Mexico, Lujan Grisham, and Shelia Jackson Lee, Greg Meeks. Some of us were in that group of 30, that was the only thing that I didn't see that was in the first program that they gave us and that was a little deviation for two hours and then we came back.
MR. ASHMAWY: The program says that you spoke at the Convention on that Wednesday, did you in fact speak?
REP. HINOJOSA: I spoke.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember what you spoke about?
REP. HINOJOSA: They told us a minute and a half and it was that we appreciated the relationship that we had with Azerbaijan and that they were our allies and that they had always, you know, were ready to help President Bush in the war that we were involved in. That was just thanking them for being our partners.
MR. ASHMAWY: After you spoke do you remember who invited you to the president's venue?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you get an impression while you were there what organization was running the convention or…?

REP. HINOJOSA: Excuse me you should know that at the Auditorium because there was limited seating and so many countries represented it was their 15th anniversary of their breaking away from the Russian Empire. That my wife and child did not go. They didn't have room for them. So they didn't… they were not there and they did not go to eat… no spouses and no children or you know were invited to that.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you get an impression of who was in charge of the convention? What organization or entity?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't question it, I figured that the people who invited us had something to do with it. But it's interesting though that we met with so many of their parliament and that, for example I requested to meet the Minister of Education and sure enough they took me to the building where he was. So I just never questioned I knew that they were Azerbaijanis and Turkish People that were hosting us. I didn't question it.
MR. ASHMAWY: We've got another email to show you.
MS. EISNER: This is actually… this is an invitation.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah that one, not an email my apologies.
MS. EISNER: This was part of the production. And this is MCRH 0003. There's your copy.
REP. HINOJOSA: I remember that we were in a hotel and we accepted to go to this program it was supposed to have dancing and music and dinner. And we attended we travelled maybe a half-hour to the hotel of this particular place and they had a nice program of dancers singers and a good meal. I remember this.
MS. EISNER: And the invitation came from this group, the American Friend of Azerbaijan. Were they present at that event?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't know who they are.
MS. EISNER: Who else was present at that… were there Azeri Officials at this event at the Gulustan Palace?
REP. HINOJOSA: They always have…
MR. LEWIS: What kind of officials I'm sorry?
MS. EISNER: Azeri officials or Azeri… Members of the Azeri Government.
MR. LEWIS: Members of the Azerbaijani Government for clarification?
MS. EISNER: Yes
REP. HINOJOSA: I'll tell you there were so many folks that all said represented the president and their parliament. That I just never questioned it.
MS. EISNER: Are you familiar with a group called the well…. The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MS. EISNER: They are kind of, commonly referred to as SOCAR. Are you familiar with them and that SOCAR?
REP. HINOJOSA: I've heard the term SOCAR but not being on the committee I just don't have that much knowledge of these oil companies.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you have any knowledge of Kemal's relationship with SOCAR?

REP. HINOJOSA: I just assumed that he was like a representative of the organization and that…
MR. LEWIS: Of the SOCARs organization?
REP. HINOJOSA: No not SOCAR. I figured that he represented the ones who invited us.
MR. LEWIS: The Turquoise…
REP. HINOJOSA: Yeah.
MR. ASHMAWY: Speaking only of SOCAR did you have any knowledge of their involvement in paying for the convention?
REP. HINOJOSA: No the answer is no
MR. ASHMAWY: In organizing the convention?
REP. HINOJOSA: No.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember seeing sort of SOCAR officials around the hotels helping with logistics?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember that.
MR. ASHMAWY: Fair enough.
MS. EISNER: In one of the documents that I think, not his invite but the one before, which is all the travel documents, including the itinerary. So let's make sure you get the right one. I think it's the one your hand is on right there, on the top.
REP. HINOJOSA: Oh yeah this one right here.
MS. EISNER: According to I think it's…
MR. LEWIS: Let's see what page number.
MS. EISNER: Yeah it's page 40 of the documents which is the second to last page.
MR. LEWIS: Congressman I'll show it to you. She's talking about… yeah.
MR. ASHMAWY: MCRH 0040
MS. EISNER: So this is May 30th, Thursday it says at 1 PM lunch with SOCAR Exect.… Sorry… Executive team. Do you remember that lunch?
REP. HINOJOSA: No.
MS. EISNER: Do you know if you attended?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't think I attended because I remember having breakfast at the hotel and a former congressman and former member of the committee, Dan Burden, said Ruben I'm taking my wife, bring your wife so we can have breakfast. And it was a small group for breakfast I remember that but no lunch.
MS. EISNER: Was there any presence, and we've talked about Mr. Kemal Oksuz, any other Turquoise Council officials or officials or you know staff from the Turkish organizations of the United States that was presence?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't know them. So I couldn't even begin to say that I recognize them because I just didn't know them.
MS. EISNER: Did the convention have any corporate sponsors, evidence of corporate sponsorship?
REP. HINOJOSA: Excuse me just a minute. Yes?
[Someone speaks]: I'm sorry to interrupt…

MS. EISNER: Back on the record.
MR. ASHMAWY: So the question was just simply, did you… as far as you know did the convention have any corporate sponsors?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't pay attention if they were listed or if they were named I just don't… I can't tell you because I don't know.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall needing a visa to enter the country of Azerbaijan?
REP. HINOJOSA: We must have had one.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know how you obtained one or who obtained one for you?
REP. HINOJOSA: I would have to ask my chief of staff ho that was handled but every time we did co-dels we always had a visa. And of course we always updated our passport so I'm sure that was handled through my office staff.
MR. ASHMAWY: Now I know you've already said that you don't have any recollection really of SOCAR but it turns out that your visa was sponsored by SOCAR. Did you know that at the time?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't know that.
MR. ASHMAWY: One more document, this is going to be MCRH 0035 it's just the post travel disclosure form.
REP. HINOJOSA: The date is 31st of May no that's the date of the trip. When was this… oh here it is. June the 7th it was much later. Okay. What about this?
MS. EISNER: So did you review this form before it was filed?
REP. HINOJOSA: I was in the district. That has to have been filled out by the staff which is common. We always have to do, all CODELs, forms like this. And this was done by my staff.
MS. EISNER: Okay, so the form it also lists the Turquoise Council as the sponsor. You know when you came back did you have any reason to question whether the Turquoise Council was the sponsor?
REP. HINOJOSA: No. No reason for me to question it.
MS. EISNER: Did you know that not all the members, who went on the trip, who went to the convention, were not sponsored by the Turquoise Council?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't ask so I didn't know.
MS. EISNER: What other members were you traveling with?
REP. HINOJOSA: Since we went commercial, many went at different times and we met up there at the hotel. At the hotel I remember some of the republican members like Stockman, Ted Poe, I remember Al Greene and Shelia. I remember Amy the chief of staff for Henry Cuellar. I remember Michelle Grisham, Greg Meeks, and the former Congressman Dan Burton. Those were among the names I would see often at gathering places at the hotel or getting ready to go on the bus, yeah.
MS. EISNER: And who was… you say go on the bus and the bus would take you, you know the itinerary was very long, so to go from one place to the next, that's how you got around.
REP. HINOJOSA: You have to know that members of congress choose what they want to attend so that doesn't mean that everybody went to all the events that are listed here. I followed what

was of interest to me. And I would get on the bus that would take me to say the Ministry of Education or possibly to go see the building where the parliament met. Thinks that were of interest.
MS. EISNER: Who was driving the bus?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't pay attention to that.
MS. EISNER: Did they introduce themselves to you or do you know if they were connected to the convention in any way?
REP. HINOJOSA: The answer is I didn't pay attention to that. Get into the bus and you're talking to all these members who are on and what they're learning and so forth. I just didn't pay attention to who's driving.
MS. EISNER: So in these conversations with the other members did you talk about, you know, who the sponsor was for this conference or you know the involvement of any other organizations?
REP. HINOJOSA: That was not subject of conversation.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall getting a rug at the convention on the last day?
REP. HINOJOSA: Not there. They gave us a little one that came in a box about 3 or 4 weeks after.
MR. ASHMAWY: After the convention?
REP. HINOJOSA: It came to the… to my office. After the trip.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you receive a rug in your room on the last day of the convention the night before you left?
REP. HINOJOSA: If I got something in my room, there was one that they said they use to kneel in prayer and if I had to guess I would say it's maybe 20 inches by 20 inches and ….
MR. ASHMAWY: It looks like members may have gotten two rugs one in their room, which was maybe delivered to you instead, and another one at a briefing with boarder security. Do you remember receiving a rug with the border security officials, on your last day in Baku?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. ASHMAWY: The rug that got delivered to you, was there a note attached to it? Was there like a thank you note or anything like that?
REP. HINOJOSA: Honestly I don't remember that there was a note but I knew that it came from them because it said something about Azerbaijan.
MR. ASHMAWY: When you say them just to clarify who do you mean?
REP. HINOJOSA: People who invited us.
MR. ASHMAWY: Would that be, again just to be specific, cause there are a couple of possible entities here. Do you think the rug… was it your impression that rug came from the Turquoise Council, the Government of Azerbaijan, or some other entity?
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't remember.
MR. ASHMAWY: What did you do with the rug?

REP. HINOJOSA: We still have it in Washington, it's about the length of this sofa, it's a small one and it's not an expensive rug. I have bought rugs on trips like to China and a few places and they don't come anywhere close to the quality of what I bought.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know if everyone else got a rug also, all the other members?
REP. HINOJOSA: I didn't ask.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you ever have… so when you said the rug's in Washington, is it in your office, your house, is it…?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well we were living in Mclean in a leased home and Marty had it stored there. Then we did not renew that. We moved to a one room apartment close to the… where I work and it's stored there.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you ever have the rug formally appraised or talk to the ethics committee about it?
REP. HINOJOSA: Never. I never discussed it with them but when it was called to my attention by my staff I said well lets amend it, let's declare. If they want me to give it back to them, we have the container in which it came, and we'll be glad to give it back.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did… do you know if your staff… I mean when you said that to your staff do you know if they did anything. I mean did…
REP. HINOJOSA: I have to ask my chief of staff.
MR. ASHMAWY: Fair enough. Moving past the rugs it seems like members, especially the ones that went to Turkey and Azerbaijan, may have also gotten some other gifts at these events. Do you remember anything about that?
REP. HINOJOSA: I remember that they gave me a little box that has some tea cups… tea glasses. I have those in my office in Washington.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember things like being given any kind of jewelry or silk scarves or anything like that?
REP. HINOJOSA: No, I do not.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you remember a DVD Box set on the president of Turkey?
REP. HINOJOSA: A DVD box set?
MR. ASHMAWY: Box set about the president of Turkey?
REP. HINOJOSA: What would be a DVD Box set?
MR. ASHMAWY: Basically a set of DVDs…
MR. LEWIS: Like videos.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah, on the President of Turkey.
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. ASHMAWY: Any other gifts that you recall while you were attending?
REP. HINOJOSA: I have a couple of books that the ministry of education gave me while we visited him, and it's about the President and that he traveled to Houston and lived there for several months right after breaking off from the Russian Empire and because they were treated so well there in Houston that they set up a city to city relationship. So anyway he was showing us

how in his books it talks about the father of the now president and the president. I have those books in my office in Washington. There's two of them.
MR. ASHMAWY: We have only two documents left to show you. This one's going to be marked THYC 0187 it's basically a congratulations birthday letter to the President of Azerbaijan from your office.
REP. HINOJOSA: I remember this letter and this was discussed with Elin the ambassador. He was on that trip being that I was the chairman of that committee when the president said that he wanted to expand that, he called it person to person study abroad program. They talked about their interest in agriculture. I said that in my district in Weslaco we have a Kika De La Garza the agriculture research center. We invite them to come and anyway… They… he asked for a letter congratulating them for the birthday and I asked Connie…. So often times I'm asked to do this and that for other countries and I don't do it. The fact that there was the president both when he addressed audience and when he invited us to lunch and I was across the table he said, I want to be able to feed my country and the region around us. I am interested in agricultural research to get better yields. Well we have it in my district, when he spoke about education and study abroad particularly in petroleum I said that we have Texas A&M who has both agriculture and petroleum. So I mentioned that to the president and the Ambassador knows that because he was there. It's mentioned in the last paragraph.
MS. EISNER: That's really helpful, you know, that same paragraph at the beginning you say, your ambassador and Kemal Oksuz as well as Irada Akhoundova of Houston, Texas and I are working together on your goals.
REP. HINOJOSA: Yeah but notice the second sentence from the last on the first paragraph. Our nations are tested allies. Remember that I talked about that. And they wanted to make a stronger friendship with us. That's mentioned here because that was always….
MR. LEWIS: Let Helen… I think she had a question to ask you specifically about one of these sentences.
MS. EISNER: That's helpful background. Just so I know because we've talked about Kemal, we've talked about Elin. It says "as well Irada Akhoundova of Houston", do you know who that is?
REP. HINOJOSA: That lady is the director of the sister city relationship between Houston and what's the name of their capital?
MR. LEWIS: Baku.
REP. HINOJOSA: Baku. She was there, she was on the trip and she actually went to Texas A&M college station and nothing ever happened because I don't think they had room for bringing their… I mean accepting them in the petroleum engineering program.
MS. EISNER: Was she on the trip with the Houston sister city foundation or was she representing any organization when she was there?
REP. HINOJOSA: Well I don't know how that sister city relationship is set up. You could probably find out from them but she was on that trip. When I went to see the minister of education she was in the bus that took several of us.

MS. EISNER: And the letter also says kind of this ongoing work with both Irada Akhoundova and Kemal Oksuz. How you know….
REP. HINOJOSA: She's in Houston she lives there, she works there in that facility. And it makes sense that she be the one that took a group a small group of people to College Station to see if indeed there was a way that their students could go study there.
MS. EISNER: And how was Kemal Oksuz connected to that effort then?
REP. HINOJOSA: Which one?
MS. EISNER: The second one who's listed in this first sentence.
MR. LEWIS: She's talking about that first sentence.
REP. HINOJOSA: Irada? Oh that's the lady who runs the program for Azerbaijan.
MR. LEWIS: I think her question congressman is about Kemal. See his name is listed here, Ambassador Elin and Kemal Oksuz as well as Irada.
REP. HINOJOSA: I guess I just threw those names because they were involved in that trip but the one asking for this letter was Elin. What relationship there is Kemal and Irada I don't know.
MS. EISNER: Do you know what relationship Kemal has with the Ambassador?
REP. HINOJOSA: I never asked. I just assumed they were all tied to the parliament and the government of Azerbaijan. Those were assumptions on my part and excuse my lack of knowledge about those relationships.
MS. EISNER: Okay I think we just have one more document so we are very close to the end here. This is THMLG 0010.
REP. HINOJOSA: It's got Michelle Lujans' name at the top. I don't recognize this.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah we're just showing it to you because if you look at the address….
REP. HINOJOSA: It say's Rain Drop Foundation.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah and if you look at the top though you'll see a number of emails at the top it includes an email that looks like it includes….
REP. HINOJOSA: Ruben and Marty.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yes, and then another one that looks like it's for your daughter.
REP. HINOJOSA: Amy is the first one and she works for Henry Cuellar. I'm second and Marty, so, evidently we're being invited all of us that got this email invited to something. I don't know where we are being invited to.
MS. EISNER: Do you know the person who sent the email is, the Mehmet Okumus?
MR. LEWIS: Up here at the top Congressman she's asking.
MR. ASHMAWY: Or at the bottom you'll notice a signature block the bottom the name on the signature block is, Mehmet Okumus.
REP. HINOJOSA: I don't know the name.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know the Rain Drop Foundation? Do you know what that is?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know why he may have been emailing your personal email?

REP. HINOJOSA: I would assume that I'm still chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus at that time. I ended it December 2014 and that's the only thing that I can imagine that I'm included.
MR. ASHMAWY: Any idea why it would've gone to a personal email account as a opposed to your house email account?
REP. HINOJOSA: That's a good question. I can only imagine that if it went to this personal… that I would get it. Cause that's my wife's business [redacted]com is my wife's personal email.
MS. EISNER: Do you know who, there's one other person on this chain, Faruk Taban it's F[redacted]m it's on the second line. Do you know who that is?
MR. LEWIS: Congressman she's asking right there.
REP. HINOJOSA: I have no idea I don't know that person.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you recall receiving emails from, on your personal email account, from any of these people?
REP. HINOJOSA: In most cases it'll be thrown out because my wife's an architect and she gets, this is her business, and I don't like to have to be answering so I don't give out my email. I can only imagine it was dealt with as trash.
MS. EISNER: Have you had any communications with Kemal Oksuz recently or anyone related to the Turquoise Council?
REP. HINOJOSA: Regarding this no.
MS. EISNER: Regarding anything?
REP. HINOJOSA: No
MS. EISNER: And anyone else from any of the Turquoise or Turkish…
REP. HINOJOSA: Remember I've been recuperating from the knee surgery for two months and I just have not contacted.
MS. EISNER: Just one more question on that line. Has anyone contacted you to talk about the trip besides our office?
REP. HINOJOSA: Nobody
MS. EISNER: Anything else that you, you know, we haven't covered that you think we should know?
REP. HINOJOSA: I think that closing comments would be that we wanted to always abide by the rules of the Ethics Committee. I've never had problems with Ethics Committee. It's amazing how many times we write them a letter or in an inquiry to see if it's ethical if it's acceptable by the rules and they give us back a written response. My staff knows the importance to me to comply and being in my 19th year I'm pleased to say that my staff has done exactly what I said, that we be ethical and that we not do thinks that would be violating the rules of the house, the ethics committee. So I'm glad you came here I appreciate it very much because I haven't been able to travel. I couldn't drive for 7 weeks. I have to be dependent on somebody to take me and bring me and so your coming here certainly is greatly appreciated.

MR. ASHMAWY: You're welcome we also equally grateful for your offices cooperation and for your time. Thank you guys very much we really appreciate it sincerely.
REP. HINOJOSA: Are you okay with… Something that could be presented for that meeting the 22nd and that I am personally requesting an opportunity to address them.
MR. ASHMAWY: As we explained in the letter you guys can… your office can prepare any kind of written statement you want and you are welcome to appear personally before the board so that is no problem. If in addition to letting us know here today if you can just respond even briefly in writing to the letter just so that we have a record of it.
MR. LEWIS: To you all?
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah I think the letter specifically says how to contact on the letter.
MS. EISNER: Does it list me?
MR. ASHMAWY: Helen so…
MS. EISNER: You can just respond to my email so we have that.
MR. LEWIS: Okay
MR. ASHMAWY: That'll be it
REP. HINOJOSA: Today is Thursday; you'll have it next week.
MR. ASHMAWY: Excellent Thank you very much we're going to end the recording now.

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
4	15	pick (up) the phone	transcription typo – incorrectly reads "pick **of** the phone"
8	6	(and) then a third	transcription typo – incorrectly reads "**an** then a third"
10	26-27	(Karnes) County	Misspelling – proper spelling is "Karnes" not "Carnes"
12	1	we questioned the (cost)	transcription typo – incorrectly reads: "we questioned the **cause**"
12	23	(casual) (dinner)	transcription typo and mispelling – incorrectly reads: "**causal diner**"
15	9	(how) that was handled	transcription typo – incorrectly reads: "**ho** that was handled"
16	2	(Things) that were	transcription typo – incorrectly reads "**Thinks** that were"
20	36	(things) that would be	transcription typo – incorrectly reads: "**thinks** that would be"

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: Ruben Hinojosa

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: April 21, 2015

EXHIBIT 16

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF SOCAR USA DIRECTOR

4/1/2015

MR. SOLIS: This is Investigative –oh sorry, Deputy Chief Counsel, Paul Solis with the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by Helen Eisner, John Missner, SOCAR USA Director and Ed Meyers. SOCAR USA Director has signed an acknowledgement that he understands that 18 U.S.C. 1001 applies to our discussion today. It is April 1, 2015. And we will begin the interview with SOCAR USA Director. SOCAR USA Director, where are you employed right now?

WITNESS: State Oil Company of Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: I'll just ask you to speak up as best as you can so we can –

WITNESS: State Oil Company of Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: Is that commonly referred to as SOCAR?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: How long have you been employed there?

WITNESS: 8 years, 8 months.

MR. SOLIS: And what is your title?

WITNESS: I'm currently representative for SOCAR in United States.

MR. SOLIS: Is that your actual title, Representative for SOCAR in the United States? Or is there a different title?

WITNESS: Director for the Representative Office of SOCAR in United States.

MR. SOLIS: What are some of your duties as director?

WITNESS: Managing the representative office.

MR. SOLIS: Could you go on a little further and give us some generalized duties you have there and some of your roles?

WITNESS: It's another representative office for Oil Company located in Washington D.C. It's…my duties is to represent the company it's same from the name of the title and to…there's a business side of it, there's a government side of it – government liaison side of it. As it's the only office of SOCAR in United States, unlike the other engineer companies who also have offices in Houston, we do the business side of it as well; we haven't opened any business…we haven't created any business relations yet, but we have…we have tried to find the business opportunities in the United States.

MR. SOLIS: I think you mentioned government liaison work? Is that correct?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: What are some of the duties you have in that capacity? Are you meeting with the Executive Branch people, Congress?

WITNESS: Yeah, we…usually in the events, like think-tank events, we meet with the government officials, legislators if they're present there and the main, one of the main responsibilities is to get as much as information about the current status of the international projects going on because SOCAR is involved with international projects, so politics are involved in that and there's educational part of it as well, to inform the legislators and the government officials about the current status of the projects and you know our position mainly these kinds of issues.

MR. SOLIS: Are you a lobbyist? Do you register under the lobbying disclosure act?

WITNESS: No. No.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do you have meetings with members of Congress or staff on the Hill in their offices?

WITNESS: I have been in meetings with staffers and the Congressmen.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. How often do you do them?

WITNESS: Probably…once a month, sometimes, every other month.

MR. SOLIS: Who else works at SOCAR-USA or the division office here in Washington, D.C.?

WITNESS: Well there are…currently there are three more employees and we have hired and then people left for another job, currently there are three of them and there's a manager, there's a part-time assistant and then there's a driver.

MR. SOLIS: A driver?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do they all report to you?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Who do you report to at SOCAR?

WITNESS: I report directly to the CEO of the company and that's the president of the company in that position.

MR. SOLIS: There's nobody in between?

WITNESS: There are vice presidents, but officially I report to the president of the company.

MS. EISNER: And who is the president of the company?

WITNESS: Rovnag Adbullayev.

MR. SOLIS: Could you spell that for us?

WITNESS: R-O-V-N-A-G A-B-D-U-L-L

MR. SOLIS: You got that?

WITNESS: A-Y-E-V

MS. EISNER: Oh, there's …

WITNESS: Abdullayev.

MR. SOLIS: Abdullayev. Okay. What is the relationship with your office here in D.C. to the barren company in Baku? Is there a division between the two offices? Is there a subsidiary?

WITNESS: It's representative office. We're not incorporated in United States.

MR. SOLIS: So it's just an office of SOCAR in Baku placed in Washington, D.C.?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. What is the relationship between SOCAR and the government of Azerbaijan to the best of your understanding?

WITNESS: It's 100% state owned company.

MR. SOLIS: Does SOCAR hire lobbyists to represent the company in Washington, D.C. or anywhere in the United States?

WITNESS: SOCAR-USA…has hired a PR company and being extension of SOCAR, we can consider SOCAR as hired the company, Roberti & White in July 2013 and there was a two month contract with Epcott, but that was only for…more for PR activity, media activities actually.

MR. SOLIS: And you said Epcott?

WITNESS: Yeah and this was in 2014, April.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if Roberti & White, if they registered as lobbyists on your behalf?

WITNESS: I know that Arie Mittleman was registered right after the contract.

MS. EISNER: You said you attend meetings on Capitol Hill, would Ari Mittleman have been present at those meetings?

WITNESS: In some cases, he was there; in some cases he was not.

MS. EISNER: Anyone else from Roberti & White present at those meetings?

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: Or from APCO?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: What about foreign agents; does SOCAR hire foreign agents registered under, again to the best of your understanding, registered under the foreign agents registration act? Do they hire anybody to represent on their behalf?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: I want to talk about some individuals and some entities that you may be familiar with next and get some background on them. Do you know Kemal Oksuz is?

WITNESS: Yes, I do.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do you know him personally?

WITNESS: This is based on professional relations.

MR. SOLIS: How long have you known him?

WITNESS: Since 2011, November.

MR. SOLIS: What does he do for a living? Where is he employed?

WITNESS: I think he's employed at Turquoise Council. He's also CEO of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Is Turquoise Council the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

WITNESS: I think that's the name.

MR. SOLIS: And AFAZ is the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do you know what his title is at those organizations?

WITNESS: For AFAZ, it's CEO and the president; for Turquoise Council I think it's CEO. I'm not sure.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if he's still in those roles with those two organizations today?

WITNESS: For AFAZ I know that he is; I don't know about Turquoise Council.

MR. SOLIS: You mentioned you have a professional relationship with him, do you have a, you know, personal friendship with him at all?

WITNESS: No, I don't.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Where was that professional relationship developed?

WITNESS: I'm also in the board of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: We'll get to that in a moment. How often would you say you speak with Kemal Oksuz?

WITNESS: Uhm…

MR. SOLIS: Or communicate with him?

WITNESS: Recently, I see him only in the events. For example, the last time I saw him in March…March 21st? 20th in the event; I don't communicate with him on a regular basis.

MR. SOLIS: And March, you meant March of 2015?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: And what event?

WITNESS: It was a national holiday in Azerbaijan, organized by AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: And you said that was your recent communication and not very much, what about in 2014, the last year?

WITNESS: Usually, very rarely.

MS. EISNER: And 2013?

WITNESS: 2013…little bit more than 2014, but I cannot quantify.

MR. SOLIS: Is Kemal Oksuz from Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know where he's from?

WITNESS: He's from Turkey.

MR. SOLIS: What is Mr. Oksuz's relationship to SOCAR?

WITNESS: SOCAR is a founder of AFAZ and he's the CEO of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what his relationship is to the country of Azerbaijan? Does he have family there? Does he have business interests there?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: You mentioned that SOCAR founded AFAZ, right? Can you talk more about that, when did that happen or how did that happen?

WITNESS: Officially, it was established in 2013, April, just prior to the event. It was established in Houston, Texas. And –

MR. SOLIS: And the event you're speaking of, is this the convention in Baku?

WITNESS: Yes. And the goal, as it's seen from the title, is to create as many friends in Azerbaijan and to kids, United States about Azerbaijan, the society and that was the goal of Friends of Azerbaijan. That's when it was established.

MR. SOLIS: Were you part of the decision to establish the organization?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Who was part of that decision?

WITNESS: The leadership of SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: So the CEO, you know, the executives of the company, they were…the leadership of the company?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Why did they choose, well was Kemal Oksuz chosen to lead AFAZ?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: And who made the decision to choose him to lead the organization?

WITNESS: I don't know exactly.

MR. SOLIS: So he didn't volunteer to do it, or apply for an open position?

WITNESS: I don't know the process.

MS. EISNER: Who would've had the authority to select him?

WITNESS: It could be anyone in the management; vice president, president of the company.

MR. SOLIS: You mentioned that one of the goals was to you know, get friends of Azerbaijan to strengthen awareness, things like that. Was the convention – was it in the founding of AFAZ, was there an eye towards the convention? Was that part of the goal to put this convention together?

WITNESS: I don't have that knowledge.

MR. SOLIS: You said that AFAZ is based in Houston?

WITNESS: It was established in Houston. Since I'm not following AFAZ works, to my knowledge it has moved to D.C. I don't know if it has been registered officially in D.C.

MR. SOLIS: Who works there? Who's employed by AFAZ?

WITNESS: Currently to my knowledge, there isn't any employee of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Kemal though, is the CEO?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: The president?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: So he does that on a volunteer basis?

WITNESS: I'm not sure, but he was doing it on a volunteer basis. I'm not sure whether he's being paid at the moment.

MR. SOLIS: Okay and you are affiliated with AFAZ as well?

WITNESS: I'm in the board of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: You're on the board. Okay. Is Kemal on the board?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Who else is on the board?

WITNESS: Irada Akhoundova, forgot the last names of two other people, me, Kemal… I'll have to get that information to you; I don't exactly remember two other people.

MR. SOLIS: Well I have the 990 here and I think there are some names on this, so maybe that will refresh your recollection. Given that there's no current employees at AFAZ, you know what is the organization doing right now?

WITNESS: I'm not following the exact activities of AFAZ in terms of organizing or doing events, but one of the last events was the Novruz holiday, which is a national holiday of Azerbaijan. It's called Novruz – spring holiday, established by and organized by AFAZ, but these kinds of events. And then prior to that, there was [indecipherable] event, which is…there was a massacre back in 1992 and to commemorate that, there was an event held in Rayburn building, I think at the end of February.

MR. SOLIS: How many events would you say, since the creation of AFAZ, has AFAZ taken a part in?

WITNESS: I don't know the exact number.

MR. SOLIS: Would you say, less than 5 maybe?

WITNESS: More than 5.

MR. SOLIS: More than 5, less than 10?

WITNESS: I would say around 10-15?

MR. SOLIS: Just a second, we have a train passing by.

MS. EISNER: It happens occasionally here. Was there a time when AFAZ had more employees?

MR. SOLIS: That was my next question.

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: No?

WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

MR. SOLIS: So AFAZ has only had a board basically?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And has the board members always been the same?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Given that you're a board member, do you have any other title with AFAZ besides board member?

WITNESS: Treasurer.

MR. SOLIS: Treasurer? What are some of your duties as treasurer?

WITNESS: The by-law effects…it's all written in the by-law. I don't recall the exact activities, but –

MR. SOLIS: Well just based on your experience, of being the treasurer there, you know –

WITNESS: I haven't done anything as a treasurer being in the board of AFAZ so…my activity as treasurer in the board was zero.

MR. SOLIS: I mean have you done anything related?

WITNESS: I have voted for decisions and…I think that was in April, 2013.

MR. SOLIS: And what are the decisions you voted on?

WITNESS: As I recall, there was a voting on spending almost $450,000.00 on the expenses of the trip - of this trip.

MR. SOLIS: This convention in Baku?

WITNESS: Yes. For the guests.

MR. SOLIS: You said $450 –

WITNESS: $450, around $450 I don't recall the exact number.

MR. SOLIS: And what are those expenses related to?

WITNESS: The motion was introduced by Kemal Oksuz to cover the expenses for the guests. And it was done by email and the response was verbal.

MR. SOLIS: And by expenses, would that include airfare?

WITNESS: It wasn't indicated there.

MR. SOLIS: It wasn't indicated?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Then who would Kemal have carried out you know, sending the money to the travelers for whatever expenses they might need?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: And who are the travelers that those expenses would be applied to?

WITNESS: I don't know exactly whose expenses were covered by that amount.

MS. EISNER: You don't exactly know the individuals, but do you know the types of people of that the expenses would've covered?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: And you said it was an email to the board members of AFAZ and from Kemal?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: What did the email say exactly to the best of your recollection?

WITNESS: I think it's said, "we are close to the convention" I think…and you know, "we have certain amount of money that's in the budget and if you approve, we want to allocate $450,000.00" I think almost $450,000.00 to the expenses of the guests – didn't specify any guests.

MR. SOLIS: Where does AFAZ get its money?

WITNESS: There's a knowledge that I have collected that I knew, very limited knowledge, prior to the event and during the event, I wasn't actively involved in the organizing of the event. And there's a knowledge that I have came throughout the process by helping SOCAR main office, providing with information.

MR. SOLIS: So let's start with the limited knowledge you have in 2013. What did you know about how AFAZ was funded?

WITNESS: I had no idea how – I knew that SOCAR was the founder and SOCAR was supposed to finance AFAZ activities.

MR. SOLIS: Why do you know that? How do you know that?

WITNESS: Being a founder, I assumed that it will finance AFAZ activities, but I had no idea how much was transferred and on the time I had learned that was from that email that this amount is there and this amount is proposed to be allocated for expenses.

MR. SOLIS: And what -- did Kemal say in the email where that money came from?

WITNESS: I don't recall that.

MR. SOLIS: I think I'll show you this Form 990. Can you guys share that one?

MR. MISSNER: Yeah, that's fine. And we're – I know this, we're obviously here representing SOCAR, not AFAZ so…you know. I don't know if AFAZ have attorneys, I don't know what you're doing with AFAZ, but just…I know you know this, but just want to make sure that we're here in that capacity…yeah as I said.

MR. SOLIS: Right. And you know, because WITNESS has a role with AFAZ you know, I'm asking him questions based on that, but I totally understand where you're coming from. So what I'm showing WITNESS right now and his attorneys, is a Form 990 an IRS Form 990, 2013 covering calendar year 2013, regarding the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan. WITNESS if you'll look on page 7, is that your name under number 4 there?

WITNESS: Mhmm.

MR. SOLIS: That's you?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Before, when I asked you who else was on the board, you mentioned Irada and Kemal.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Those are the other two names there –

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Milla Perry Jones?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And Mary Susan Savage?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Who are those individuals? Do you know them?

WITNESS: I saw them only in that board event and I've never seen them after that.

MR. SOLIS: You saw them at a board event?

WITNESS: There was only one…with the board of directors. It was in April, it was held in April. I don't recall the exact date and that's the first time I saw these people.

MR. SOLIS: What was discussed at that board event, the meeting?

WITNESS: I don't recall the exact discussion in that meeting. It was years ago, I don't exactly recall, but that was the first like ground-breaking event for AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: That was the first board meeting?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Was anyone else there besides these, the five people who were listed on page 7 of this form?

WITNESS: There were two other people that I don't know the names of before the official start of the board meeting, but we had asked them to leave and they left.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know who those people were?

WITNESS: I don't remember their names.

MR. SOLIS: At that board meeting, did the subject of the convention get brought up?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: No? And so the only time then there would've been board action or board discussion about the convention was that email that Kemal sent you?

WITNESS: There's one other meeting that I was involved in the discussion in the organization of the event.

MR. SOLIS: And when did that happen?

WITNESS: I don't exactly remember the time; I'm assuming…I'm guessing it was also the beginning of 2013.

MR. SOLIS: Prior to the convention?

WITNESS: Prior to the convention. And the participants were me, Kemal Oksuz, Ambassador of Azerbaijan and Vice President of SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: Were – was Milla Perry Jones present?

WITNESS: Those were the only people that were present there.

MR. SOLIS: Only people? Why would've…why would those people have been there for that meeting if they weren't affiliated with AFAZ?

WITNESS: Can you repeat the question?

MR. SOLIS: I'm…so. These are the five people who are you know affiliated at least, or disclosed as affiliated with AFAZ, you mentioned that a Vice President of SOCAR was at that meeting and also the Ambassador to Azerbaijan, from Azerbaijan, was also at that meeting with you and Kemal Oksuz?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Why would have those two people, the Vice President from SOCAR and the Ambassador, why would they be there?

WITNESS: There was a convention to be held in Azerbaijan; one of the main sponsors of the convention was SOCAR and there were Americans coming from the United States and being Ambassador to United States, I think it made sense for Ambassador to be there.

MR. SOLIS: Did you invite them to the meeting?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: How did they know about the meeting?

WITNESS: They invited me to the meeting.

MR. SOLIS: Okay, fair enough. What, specific as you can be, what was discussed?

WITNESS: It…there was discussion about the certain people to be invited to the event. I recall several names; I don't recall any Congressmen to be discussed whether to be invited or not, but I recall Jim Messina, David Plouffe, Bill White, the former energy Secretary…forgot his name, he was there. I mean his name was mentioned and we were discussing whether to…I was very passive; I didn't know those people. I was very fresh in the United States for 4-5 months, but the discussion was whether to invite these people, whether they had any history with Azerbaijan, whether it's good idea to invite them or not; that was the discussion.

MR. SOLIS: You said, you didn't think any specific names of Congressmen was discussed.

WITNESS: I recall that Congressmen were not discussed in the event.

MR. SOLIS: Were they generally discussed? Did somebody say for example, you know, "we've got members of Congress coming"?

WITNESS: I don't recall that.

MR. SOLIS: Were staff members, employees of the House discussed at all?

WITNESS: I don't recall that.

MR. SOLIS: I want to go back to this form. And I want to ask you about Irada?

WITNESS: Sure.

MR. SOLIS: Who is Irada?

WITNESS: Irada is the head of the Baku sister association and she's also head of the Azerbaijan Center, cultural center, in Houston.

MR. SOLIS: Does she work for SOCAR?

WITNESS: Recently, Azerbaijan center in Houston, I signed a contract with SOCAR-USA office and they're being funded by SOCAR-USA office, but this happened the second half of 2014.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So right now, Irada is employed by SOCAR-USA?

WITNESS: I don't know whether legally she is employed by SOCAR-USA. She's not employee of SOCAR-USA; I know that for sure, but I don't know… the only official relation is the contract between SOCAR-USA and Azerbaijan Center.

MR. SOLIS: So the Azerbaijan Center and SOCAR-USA have an agreement, have a contract or agreement?

WITNESS: If I recall correctly, yes.

MR. SOLIS: And what does Azerbaijan Center do?

WITNESS: It mainly holds cultural events to raise awareness about Azerbaijan in Houston, to collect – to make sure the community of Azerbaijanis mainly expense working for oil companies, they come to the events and you know they integrate… that's the main goal.

MR. SOLIS: Is there a community of Azerbaijanis in Houston?

WITNESS: Yes. There's a good community of Azerbaijanis – a fair community of Azerbaijanis in Houston.

MR. SOLIS: Would you have an estimate of how many Azerbaijanis live in Houston?

WITNESS: I don't know an exact number, but I know that there's a long standing relation between Houston and Baku being both oil…oil related cities.

MR. SOLIS: How does the Azerbaijan Center – how is it funded?

WITNESS: Currently, it's being funded by SOCAR-USA.

MR. SOLIS: Alright, do you have a position there at the Azerbaijan Center?

WITNESS: I'm the president of the Azerbaijan Center.

MR. SOLIS: Does Kemal Oksuz have a relationship with the Azerbaijan Center?

WITNESS: I don't think they have any professional relation. He's not…related to the center.

MR. SOLIS: I want to draw your attention to page 9 of the Form 990. There's a section there near the top, it's called program service revenue.

WITNESS: Mhmm.

MR. SOLIS: And it's $840,000.00. Well first of all I guess, I should ask, did you have any part in filling out this form?

WITNESS: No, I haven't.

MR. SOLIS: Okay did you ever see the form?

WITNESS: No, I haven't.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what the $840,000.00 number represents? What is that?

WITNESS: I don't…acknowledge that I have about that number is again. There's a prior to the investigation, there's an after the investigation.

MR. SOLIS: Okay, so let's do both.

WITNESS: Okay. Prior, was that email saying that there's 700 something thousand dollars of amount in the budget of AFAZ and that's how I know there was that amount of number and then after the investigation, I recently was checking AFAZ' account and I saw that there was an entry, I think around $750,000.00 coming from SOCAR to AFAZ bank account and there was another, I don't exactly recall the number, there was another entry transfer coming from…I think it was MI Drilling or Caspian Drilling Company. So, I'm assuming that's them.

MR. SOLIS: What is MI Drilling?

WITNESS: I don't remember the exact name. I think Caspian or MI Drilling; it's a drilling company contractor of SOCAR in Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: And Caspian Drilling, is that also a contractor with SOCAR?

WITNESS: Well, I might confuse the names. I'm not sure.

MR. SOLIS: So, you know you mentioned that, going back after you know, we had contacted you, you had taken a look at the numbers and you saw a $750,000.00 amount from SCOAR to AFAZ. Is that correct?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what that $840,000.00 number represents?

WITNESS: I don't know the exact – the remaining of that number. I mean, apparently there's $750,000.00 then there's $9,000.00 difference, but I don't know where that $9,000.00 came from.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. I want to draw your attention to the next page, page 10. And if you look at line 19 there…

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: You'll see, it's called, "Conferences, conventions, and meetings: $504,400.00 in total expenses". Would you know what that – do you know what that figure represents?

WITNESS: Uhm…

MR. SOLIS: Again, based on your prior knowledge and then after the fact.

WITNESS: All my knowledge about the number, or approximate number, is based on that email from Kemal Oksuz about covering the expenses of guests.

MR. SOLIS: And you believe he said $450,000.00, roughly?

WITNESS: I don't recall the exact number; almost $450,000.00.

MR. SOLIS: This says $504,400.00; would that be the expense related to that convention? Just the best as you can recollect?

WITNESS: All my knowledge was based on that email and it said that the convention is almost there and should…the motion was to spend $450,000.00 to cover the expense of guests. That's all my knowledge about it.

MR. SOLIS: So that number…you're not aware of that number, $504,400.00?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Does AFAZ hire lobbyist to work on its behalf in Washington, D.C. or elsewhere in the United States?

WITNESS: Correction, the contract with APCO was signed with AFAZ, not with SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: Oh, okay.

WITNESS: That was the only PR Company that, to my knowledge, signed a contract with AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know when that happened?

WITNESS: April, 2014.

MR. SOLIS: So, just so I'm clear. APCO has a relationship with AFAZ and Roberti & White has a relationship with SOCAR.

WITNESS: That's correct. Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. What about foreign agents? Do you know if AFAZ is registered under the foreign agents registration act?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if they hired anybody?

WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

MR. SOLIS: To you know, act on their behalf in the capacity as a foreign principle?

WITNESS: The only contract that I was involved with was AFAZ-APCO contract in 2014 to do the media work for 2014 convention, similar convention held in Washington, D.C.

MR. SOLIS: Did AFAZ hire anybody to do that work at 2013 for the conference in Baku?

WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

MS. EISNER: Do you the names of any individuals at APCO that you worked with that's a part of that contract?

WITNESS: I don't recall any names.

MR. SOLIS: I want to talk about the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. I understand, you know, you have no role there. Is that correct?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. This is just going to be based on your general knowledge and experience and understanding of dealing with Kemal or anybody else who works there, okay?

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. SOLIS: So, what is the Turquoise Council? I'm going to refer to it as TCAE. So what is TCAE?

WITNESS: I don't have enough knowledge about TCAE, but from the name it says Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians; that's the only knowledge I have.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what they do?

WITNESS: I don't.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what the organization's mission is?

WITNESS: I don't. I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: When's the first time you heard that name?

WITNESS: I don't recall exactly; I mean again, this is a prior-after issue and I did know the name of the organization –

MR. SOLIS: This is prior to the convention?

WITNESS: Prior to the convention.

MR. SOLIS: And how did you come to know the name?

WITNESS: I don't recall exactly, but it was probably because of Kemal? I don't know the details.

MR. SOLIS: And now, since our review has commenced, what do you know about TCAE now?

WITNESS: I know that TCAE was involved in the organization and the assigning of the pre-trip documents for the trip of the Congressmen.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. How are – how is AFAZ and TCAE related? Do they have a relationship?

WITNESS: There wasn't any discussion about the cooperation between AFAZ and TCAE to my knowledge. The only relation is Kemal Oksuz is both CEO of TCAE and AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Would he ever talk to you about TCAE?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Never mentioned it to you at all?

WITNESS: No. The first board meeting was held in TCAE office.

MR. SOLIS: The first AFAZ board meeting?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: And that's in Houston?

WITNESS: That's in Houston.

MR. SOLIS: How is TCAE funded?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: Do AFAZ and TCAE share a bank account?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: And your capacity as treasure of AFAZ, do you have any understanding of any sharing of money between the two organizations?

WITNESS: The only time that I accessed AFAZ's bank account was recently to check the expenses of 2013 and I didn't see TCAE name or title there.

MR. SOLIS: Did Kemal have access to AFAZ's bank account?

WITNESS: Yes, he did.

MR. SOLIS: And this is back in 2013?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: What bank does AFAZ use?

WITNESS: Wells Fargo.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what bank TCAE uses?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: I want to talk about Roberti & White, Ari Mittleman.

WITNESS: Sure.

MR. SOLIS: How long have you known Mr. Mittleman?

WITNESS: I think early 2013.

MR. SOLIS: Did you meet him in person or was he introduced to you by somebody? How did you come to meet him?

WITNESS: I don't recall how I met him, but I knew him before he work – started working for Roberti & White.

MR. SOLIS: And how did you know him before?

WITNESS: I met him in the event. We created friendship; we established a friendship.

MR. SOLIS: What event?

WITNESS: I don't remember.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what Roberti & White – what they do? What the organization does?

WITNESS: It's a company, it's a PR company located in Washington, D.C.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if they conduct lobbying work or registered lobbyists in any capacity?

WITNESS: I know that Ari is registered lobbyist.

MR. SOLIS: And how do you know that? Because he told you?

WITNESS: No, I checked it through the website, our website.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. The FARA website or the lobbying disclosure website?

WITNESS: I think it was FARA website.

MR. SOLIS: What was Ari's role in helping out with the convention?

WITNESS: He was, if you see – if you look at the emails, his job was to coordinate Valerie Biden Owen's trip to Azerbaijan. Jay Rouse from the Roberti & White introduced me to Valerie Biden. I think we had breakfast prior to those emails. She expressed intention to go to the event and speak about the women leadership; I think that's what she does. I then introduced her to Ari Mittleman and said that he will be coordinating the trip,

her logistics, to Azerbaijan and then later on, Kemal Oksuz was also involved in directly arranging the logistics of the trip, the tickets and the hotel.

MR. SOLIS: I'll show you that right now. I think that's directly on point to a document I wanted to show you. This is numbered SOCAR-USA_00000005. It's an email and is that your email address?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Do you recall this email?

WITNESS: I pulled it out when I was asked…requested to provide the documentation regarding the conference.

MR. SOLIS: And as I think you just mentioned, you said, "Dear Valerie, I would like to introduce you to Arie Mittleman. Arie will be helping us with coordinating our trip" and is that trip to the convention in Baku?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: "As well as providing information of the convention." So, when you say, "helping us with coordinating our trip" could you explain what coordinating means?

WITNESS: Coordinating the logistics of her going to Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: Did Mr. Mittleman coordinate anybody else's logistics?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Solely…

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Valerie?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And you also say, "providing information about the convention." What information would he provide about the convention?

WITNESS: General information, public information about what the convention is about, that's it.

MR. SOLIS: The actual, contractual relationship between SOCAR and Roberti & White occurred after the convention?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Why was there no contractual relationship around this time?

WITNESS: We…this was based on the relation, friendship-relation created…established by me and him and there wasn't any contract.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Did you hear from the people you report to that they wanted Valerie to attend the convention?

WITNESS: I reported to them as I recall that's she's interested in speaking there.

MR. SOLIS: And what did they say?

WITNESS: They said yes.

MR. SOLIS: And these are…this is the CEO of SOCAR –

WITNESS: I don't recall exactly who was it; I don't think it was CEO of the company. I think it was…one of the VP's or heads of department.

MS. EISNER: Did Mr. Mittleman get paid for the coordination that he provided?

WITNESS: No, he wasn't.

MR. SOLIS: Did he go on the trip to Baku?

WITNESS: Yes, he did.

MR. SOLIS: What do you know about Mr. Mittleman helping out with getting people visas to travel to Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: Mr. Mittleman's involvement about the trip was solely regarding Valerie Biden's trip to Azerbaijan. If I recall…I mean…I don't remember what the visas provisions back then, it has changed to Azerbaijan, what is required visa, but I think there was invitation to be provided and I don't recall exactly, but he might be involved in the process for getting visa for himself. I think Jay Rouse was there for Jay and Valerie Biden.

MR. SOLIS: Alright. I want to move onto the actual convention and talk about that. When did you first hear about the idea of the convention?

WITNESS: The same convention was held in 2012 in D.C. I think it was April…at the end of April. And that's what the notion of the convention was clear to me and it was supposed to be annual. I don't recall exactly when the decision was made or by whom the decision was made to be held in Baku, but the general knowledge about the convention itself and the location was from that 2012 event.

MR. SOLIS: So why, again I'll ask sort of the same question about 2012 then, you know, how did that come to be you know, to actually have a convention in D.C., I mean who's idea was that and why did that happen?

WITNESS: I don't recall whose idea was that. I wasn't a representative of SOCAR to United States. I had different responsibilities back then. I was a participant in the event.

MR. SOLIS: Was there an office in D.C. back then for SOCAR?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: So…I should've asked this at the beginning, but how old is the office in – how long has it been in existence?

WITNESS: I was official appointed as representative of SCOAR to United States on July 2012. We…I moved with my family to United States in August 26…or 25th. That's how I started.

MR. SOLIS: So the office, SOCAR-USA presence, has been around since that time?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: What's the purpose of the convention?

WITNESS: If you see from the title, it's about U.S.-Azerbaijan relations. It's a cultivated relation to raise awareness about Azerbaijan. The same, you know ideas about educating Americans about Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: Is the government of Azerbaijan involved in helping to formulate the plan for the convention?

WITNESS: The certain entities of government of Azerbaijan, namely immigration department or immigration industry was involved in providing documentation invitation for the…that's the only knowledge that I have about participation of any government extension in the process, besides SOCAR. SOCAR is 100%.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. That was going to be my next question. You know, what's generally SOCAR's role in this convention?

WITNESS: SOCAR was a sponsor; the gold sponsor for the event and so we…if you see from the emails, the protocol department of SOCAR, which you will be interviewing, they were responsible for providing invitations, so this kind of actual work for…to facilitate the visits of Americans to Azerbaijan.

MR. SOLIS: You said, providing invitations?

WITNESS: Invitations for the visa.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

WITNESS: Official letters from the immigration department to facilitate provision of immigration letters to the Americans…to acquire these.

MR. SOLIS: Does Azerbaijan require a sponsorship to enter the country?

WITNESS: The rules have changed, I don't remember when exactly the rules have changed, but it requires an invitation for certain person or certain entity to invite…person, foreigner to Azerbaijan. This is true for Americans…United States.

MR. SOLIS: So, SOCAR filled that role as the entity that invited people to come?

WITNESS: There was a certain person working for SOCAR. Dehyar Mammadov and he's mentioned in the emails; he was facilitating together with the protocol department of SOCAR doing provision of invitations for the visa for the Americans.

MR. SOLIS: And that's for all Americans coming for this convention?

WITNESS: To my knowledge, yes.

MR. SOLIS: Was there anyone else providing invitations to your knowledge for Americans to come to –

WITNESS: No. I don't have any knowledge about that and all the knowledge that I know is through the provision of the documents to cooperate with OCE; I didn't have any knowledge about that before the event.

MS. EISNER: You said that SOCAR acted as a gold sponsor. What is a gold sponsor?

WITNESS: It's a certain criteria. I don't know exactly the details or requirements for becoming gold sponsor, but that was the title for the sponsorship.

MR. SOLIS: Who developed the criteria?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MS. EISNER: Were there other gold sponsors?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: Is there a person or a set of people who are really in charge of developing how the convention works and setting the agenda and plan?

WITNESS: All my knowledge about the facilitation or arrangement of logistics were based on the emails that we provided to you and from that I can see that the protocol department, the investment department was involved in the process and the legal department, of course.

MR. SOLIS: Of SOCAR.

WITNESS: Of SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. I'm just trying to get a sense of you know, when I go to a convention or I go somewhere, I kind of know who the people are, who – basically it was their idea to have it, they make the phone calls and secure the funding and kind of make it all happen. And I'm wondering if there's anybody like that you can identify about this convention; a person or a set of people who you felt to be the people who put the – made the convention go.

WITNESS: I don't have any knowledge about the exact responsible person for like decision maker or for the main focal point for the event. I see that, and again this is based on my knowledge that I obtained after looking through all these emails, I see certain entities of departments of SOCAR involved in the process.

MS. EISNER: What about, you know, you mentioned you had attended the convention, correct?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: What about your knowledge from just being at the convention? Did you have a sense that there was somebody was responsible for the logistics, day to day?

WITNESS: I was there very shortly and I don't have any … I didn't see any…I did not see anyone solely responsible being a focal point for the convention.

MR. SOLIS: I mean, as an employee of SOCAR during that convention, I mean did you have job responsibilities or duties at the convention?

WITNESS: I was participant only. I was solely participant in the event.

MR. SOLIS: And what did you do as a participant?

WITNESS: I attended the opening event and I think I was late for the event; that was the only thing. And then…if I recall correctly, there was a luncheon or dinner that I attended.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do you know if any of your friends who work at SOCAR or anybody else you know at SOCAR, do they have job duties at the convention? Did they

have you know, job requirements that made them have to be there or they had to do certain things at the convention?

WITNESS: I worked for the company for 9 years and 6 years I worked in the main office so I know all those people involved. I didn't see them actively being, visually active in organizing the event. It was a big event. I recognized them from the emails that they were involved in the process, but my knowledge about their involvement in the process was minimal.

MS. EISNER: You went to an opening event, a luncheon, how did you know to go to events? Did you receive an itinerary?

WITNESS: Yes, I did.

MS. ESINER: Who did the itinerary come from?

WITNESS: The Vice President of SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: Did anybody from the government, either the national assembly or the president, somebody, speak at the convention?

WITNESS: As I remember, president of the country speak in the convention.

MR. SOLIS: Anybody else from the legislative side?

WITNESS: I don't recall any.

MR. SOLIS: Did you speak to the president at the convention?

WITNESS: President of the country?

MR. SOLIS: Yes.

WITNESS: No, I didn't.

MR. SOLIS: Just wondering. Did you – given that there's going to be these Americans coming to Baku, did you reach out to the State Department, the United States State Department in any way about the convention beforehand?

WITNESS: I wasn't involved in any aspect of the event besides…making the introduction for Valerie Biden and the only meeting that I had that I mentioned with the Ambassador, Kemal Oksuz and Vice President. That was the only affiliation with me about the event.

MR. SOLIS: Alright. Do you know anyone else at SOCAR; either they told you or you just have awareness that they reached out to the State Department prior to the event?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: What about your understanding about Kemal's role at the convention? What was his role?

WITNESS: He was the exact focal point, or contact person from his side, from United States in organizing the event.

MR. SOLIS: How do you know that?

WITNESS: From my observations, from that meeting…he was referred as a main person who's organizing it.

MR. SOLIS: And that's the meeting – that was the meeting with the Vice President of SOCAR and the Ambassador

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: I think I might have asked you this, but again now that we're talking about it, to the best you could sort of recollect about that meeting, specifically what was discussed at that meeting? Was financing the convention or how to get people there at all discussed at the meeting?

WITNESS: I don't recall any finance issues to be discussed/was discussed there. What do you mean how to get there?

MR. SOLIS: The logistics of getting Americans to Baku.

WITNESS: That's…the only way is plane.

MR. SOLIS: Alright, was…were planes discussed? Was travel discussed? Was visas…was – were those issues discussed?

WITNESS: I don't remember any logistic, technical issues discussed that was – that wouldn't be the subject of that discussion. The only thing that I recollect, I recall that was the names of people that was presented by Kemal Oksuz, the initial draft of people that I mentioned the names of Jim Messina, Plouffe, White and many other non-legislative people that were discussed there and the Ambassador was making his own recommendations being invested.

MR. SOLIS: You said non-legislative. How did you know it was non-legislative?

WITNESS: Because they were…I was asking or they were mentioning that this person is and that's how I recall that. They mentioned their positions like I don't really know those people as well.

MR. SOLIS: Did anybody say you know, we're talking about inviting these people there, not members of Congress or Senators, did – was there a discussion about the fact that they weren't?

WITNESS: I don't recall anyone making the distinction.

MR. SOLIS: We'll go back to – I had asked you about Kemal's role at the convention, you said he was the point person, was… is it your understanding he was the sole person who was responsible for the logistics of getting everybody to Baku? All the Americans?

WITNESS: He was the only person that I know was responsible for coordinating the trip.

MR. SOLIS: Who attended the convention, now I know a lot of people did so you don't have to name them all, but generally who was there?

WITNESS: There were legislators, Congressmen and Congresswomen from United States Congress, there were State Senators and State Representatives. There were think-tank people; I don't recall anyone specifically, but experts on Azerbaijan, on energy issues, on Eurasian energy issues and then the names that I mentioned that was discussed in that meeting.

MR. SOLIS: Who organized the convention to the best of your understanding? Was it like a stated organizer, someone who was helping themselves out to be the organizer of the convention?

WITNESS: I don't exactly know who was the, whether there was only sole organizer of the event; I know that SOCAR contributed by providing some of the facilitation and being the gold sponsor. That's my only knowledge about the event.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if SOCAR pitched in for you know hotels, or for transportation between meetings in Baku, do you know if SOCAR spent any money on the invitees, the Americans, to move them around in Baku at all?

WITNESS: I don't have any knowledge about SOCAR spending money on those expenses because I wasn't involved in the process.

MR. SOLIS: If I… read off some names of some organizations here, sort of business entities or non-profit entities who I think may have attended, just tell me whether they attended and what you know about them.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. SOLIS: The Turkic-American Federation of Midwest? Do you know what that is?

WITNESS: I've heard the name; I don't recall whether they…someone from the organization has attended.

MR. SOLIS: Okay, well what do you recall about the name or how did you come to know the name?

WITNESS: There are similar organizations mentioned in there; mainly Turkic Federation of Americans and Eurasians and it just rings a bell that you know there were several organizations and you know my knowledge about those organizations are based again, post-inquiry period where I actually tried to understand what is the relation and I understand to my knowledge they were the trip sponsors. This was organization who signed documents for pre-trip and post-trip.

MR. SOLIS: But at the time of the convention, you were aware of their name, but didn't know what role they had?

WITNESS: I had very blurred information about them besides I knew the name of the names of these organizations, some of them actually.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know who Suleyman Turhan is?

WITNESS: Suleyman?

MR. SOLIS: Suleyman Turhan?

WITNESS: I don't know who the person is.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. The Turkic-American Federation of the Southeast?

WITNESS: No. Again, this is knowledge based on the after trip.

MS. ESINER: Do you know who Cemil Teber is?

WITNESS: Cemil Teber? Yes. Cemel…I knew him…almost as the same time as I know Kemal. As to my knowledge, they used to work together in Houston.

MR. SOLIS: In what capacity did they work together?

WITNESS: I don't exactly know, but I've seen them together and I'm assuming that he might worked for TCAE.

MS. EISNER: Did you see him at the convention?

WITNESS: I don't recall exactly, but I know him personally.

MR. SOLIS: Does he come to Baku often, Mr. Teber?

WITNESS: I recall seeing him in Baku, I don't exactly recall whether it was in 2013 event.

MR. SOLIS: The Council of Turkic-American Associations? Do you know what that is?

WITNESS: Again, it rings a bell and again it's post-inquiry period knowledge.

MR. SOLIS: Mr. Kosar? Furkan Kosar?

WITNESS: Furkan Kosar, yes, I know him.

MR. SOLIS: You know him? How long have you known him?

WITNESS: Maybe two years? Two-three years?

MR. SOLIS: How are you – how did you come to know him?

WITNESS: I know him through Kemal.

MR. SOLIS: Through Kemal? And you met him in Baku or the United States?

WITNESS: I met him in the United States.

MR. SOLIS: The Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic-American Associations?

WITNESS: Again, didn't know exactly about the organization before the convention. My knowledge is based on the after-inquiry.

MR. SOLIS: Mahmut Yeter? Does that name –

WITNESS: I know him.

MR. SOLIS: You know him?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: How long have you known him?

WITNESS: Since I got to the United States.

MR. SOLIS: And how did you come to know him?

WITNESS: He was with Kemal Oksuz…when I first landed in United States as in the capacity of SOCAR representative and he helped me out with accommodation.

MR. SOLIS: With documentation?

WITNESS: Accommodation.

MR. SOLIS: Oh, accommodation.

WITNESS: Finding the place to stay – I think he's based in this area, in Virginia area so that's how I know him.

MS. EISNER: Do you know what the purpose is of the organizations, the four organizations that Paul just listed?

WITNESS: I don't know exactly their function or purpose.

MR. SOLIS: I mean they all have Turkic in the names and you know we've spoken to these people and you know they have interest in Turkey and representing Turkish-Americans here and people from Turkey who are not living in the United States, you know, why would these organizations focus on Turkey, why would they have a…why would they be coming to Baku in Azerbaijan, do you know?

WITNESS: Turkic actually means Turkic nations, not the Turkey itself so that's… that would be their…their logic probably. You probably interrogated them and they would give comprehensive answer about their activities or about their functions, but you know being from a Turkic nation, speaking the Turkic language, I can tell you that this you know, the name Turkic means actually the Turkic nations and there are many of them.

MR. SOLIS: Turkic people?

WITNESS: Yes. There's Azerbaijan, there's Central-Asian countries, they speak the different dialogue of Turkish language.

MS. EISNER: Do you have any sense of how they're funded, these organizations?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MS. EISNER: Do they have members?

WITNESS: Members as…

MS. EISNER: Anyone who's a member of the organization, people who pay dues to be members of the organizations?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: We touched upon Caspian Drilling. I believe it's Caspian Drilling Company Limited? A little bit earlier, you know, what do you know about that entity?

WITNESS: The involvement of that entity, indirect involvement of that entity in AFAZ or direct involvement of that entity was AFAZ, but my knowledge about it was again, at the end of the March, I was checking the bank account of AFAZ and that was only time I

checked it and I saw their transfer from Caspian Drilling to AFAZ and I saw logo of Caspian Drilling on AFAZ along with many other oil, gas companies in the event.

MR. SOLIS: So, after you took a look at the bank statements, after our review began you know, you said you noticed a transfer to AFAZ from SOCAR, you know a transfer of money, and you also noticed a transfer of money from Caspian?

WITNESS: That's true. Caspian Drilling.

MR. SOLIS: Caspian Drilling Company. What amount was that?

WITNESS: As I mentioned before, the amount from SOCAR was almost around $750,000.00. I don't recall exact number from Caspian Drilling.

MR. SOLIS: And there was another entity who had supplied funds as well, correct?

WITNESS: Those were the two I remember from my –

MR. SOLIS: You mentioned MI Drilling.

WITNESS: MI Drilling, yeah.

MR. SOLIS: Is that – is Azeri MI Drilling?

WITNESS: I guess it's…that was Azeri MI Drilling.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. And they also had contributed some money around that time to AFAZ?

WITNESS: I know both these companies working in Azerbaijan. I don't exactly remember which one was there that I noticed so; I'm almost confused on those two companies so that's basically my big confusion. My inclination it was Caspian Drilling.

MR. SOLIS: Does Caspian Drilling Company have a relationship with SOCAR?

WITNESS: SOCAR main office, yes. They're contractors and they always guest projects in Azerbaijan and SOCAR is the participant of those projects.

MR. SOLIS: BP? Was BP at the convention? Or representatives of BP at the convention?

WITNESS: I didn't see any representative of BP. I saw the logo BP.

MR. SOLIS: What about McDermott?

WITNESS: Again, I didn't see any representative of McDermott, but I saw the logo.

MR. SOLIS: KBR?

WITNESS: The same thing.

MR. SOLIS: MI-SWACO? Same?

WITNESS: MI-SWACO. Yeah.

MR. SOLIS: MI-SWACO. Conoco-Phillips?

WITNESS: Same.

MR. SOLIS: Chevron?

WITNESS: Same.

MR. SOLIS: You saw Chevron's logo?

WITNESS: If I recall correctly, I saw those logos there.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. I ask you that because you know, we've been looking into this stuff for a while and there's some doubt as to whether or not Chevron actually was there or whether their logo was present and whether they actually took a place in sponsoring so, just wondering if you recall at all…

WITNESS: I don't possess the exact knowledge, whether Chevron was actually there. I remember BP, I remember McDermott, MI-SWACO, and Caspian Drilling, I'm not even sure about KBR, but I…if my memory doesn't tell me wrong I mean, I think KBR's logo was there and this is based on the initial observation which took place two years ago.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Who paid for the convention? You know, generally.

WITNESS: Who paid for…exactly for what?

MR. SOLIS: You know, the food, the drinks that were there, the space where the convention was held –

WITNESS: I wasn't involved in the process of the financing of the convention.

MR. SOLIS: Do you generally know either before or after how it was paid for?

WITNESS: Generally about the convention?

MR. SOLIS: Yeah, the convention.

WITNESS: I don't…I don't really know. I'm not involved in the process.

MR. SOLIS: But since you've had the chance to since our review and you've had a chance to look at documents and all that, have you come to be aware of how it was paid for?

WITNESS: I remember that there was a contract between SOCAR and AFAZ. That's the only contract I remember that took place.

MS. EISNER: In your capacity as treasurer of AFAZ, did you get a sense of how the convention was paid for?

WITNESS: I wasn't active as a treasurer of AFAZ. My…my affiliation would-- in that responsibility, my only activity and responsibility was voting for…for the allocation of those expenses and I think there was one more, probably voting, I don't recall exactly what was the content and my activity about AFAZ as treasurer, in the capacity of treasurer, was almost close as zero.

MR. SOLIS: And you just referenced this, this should be a familiar document then. Do you recognize this? This is SOCAR_0000001.

WITNESS: This document, I first acquain – got acquainted with this document when we were in the process of provision this document.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. You never heard about this agreement or saw this agreement during the time of the convention or before the convention?

WITNESS: No, I haven't.

MR. SOLIS: If I can draw your attention to this article 1…1.2 at the bottom.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. SOLIS: It says, "the total cost of the convention is $750,000.00 U.S. dollars; the funding should cover accommodation, traveling expenses, venue rental and all other expenses and fees" you know, that $750,000.00 is that…does that represent…do you think that amount that you saw in the AFAZ bank account?

WITNESS: It's exactly the same amount of $750,000.00 that I recall seeing in the bank account of AFAZ which I checked maybe 15-20 days ago.

MR. SOLIS: And again, this is an agreement entered into as of May 6, 2013 between SOCAR and AFAZ. I probably already know the answer to this, but I'll ask anyway. At the bottom of the section I just read, "Accommodation, traveling expenses, venue rental and all other expenses and fees" do you know what accommodation means in the context of how it's used here?

WITNESS: I wasn't involved in the process of signing this contract. The contract was signed, as you see, by…between CEO of the company of SOCAR and the CEO of… president of SOCAR and president of AFAZ. I wasn't involved in this signing process; I was not aware of the contract before…before the inquiry. The only time I saw the contract was when our legal department send me and told me about the existence of the contract.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. If I could just draw your attention to he last page. It's an attachment. It's SOCAR_5. Again bear in your mind, you didn't have anything to do with the creation of this agreement, but you know it reads, "Proposed budget for the convention" and then the bottom it says, "Total" and that is $1,500,000.00; I assume it's U.S. dollars. Either bef…either at the time of the convention or now, since our review, do you – have you come to understand why there's a difference between that $750,000.00 that was set to be given to AFAZ and this $1.5 million for the budget, do you know if those numbers – why those numbers are different?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: Have you come to know later on since we've, since you've taken part of this review?

WITNESS: I haven't learned anything new.

MS. EISNER: You mentioned that you became familiar with this document during your review and this is a document that was produced by SOCAR, and you know we also got a separate production from SOCAR-USA for the purposes of our request, did you, you know, how did you become familiar with this document, if these documents were produced separately?

WITNESS: I was helping SOCAR main office in coordinating as…stand admissible are represents SOCAR and SOCAR-USA being the same entity as SOCAR, it's not a different entity, but since the inquiry was sent to other addresses, we felt like we should cooperate and since my involvement was different from SOCAR's involvement, so we provided our documents first and then…since the document, this letter, reached to Baku in Azerbaijan very late, we…I corresp – in the process of coordinating the provision of the documents from the legal department of SOCAR.

MR. MISSNER: And we asked them to review them.

WITNESS: Yeah and then I went through and reviewed them. There was some documents in Azerbaijani local language, I was helping…given the shortest of time.

MR. SOLIS: I have another document here. This is SOCAR_00001356. Same set of questions you know, do you have an understanding of where this document comes from or what it is?

WITNESS: I recall seeing this document after the inquiry throughout the process of provision the document.

MR. SOLIS: And you hadn't seen this at the time of the convention in 2013?

WITNESS: No, I haven't.

MR. SOLIS: Okay, this is the International Bank of Azerbaijan Republic. There is, if you'll see a little bit way down there on the right hand side, this $750,000.00, which and it looks like to be a transfer from SOCAR to the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan… dated May 13, 2013. Do you believe that this $750,000.00 – do you believe this is the actual transfer from the bank of Azerbaijan? The government bank to AFAZ?

WITNESS: The only thing that I can mention about this, this is the exact same number that I saw in the bank account of AFAZ, about the transfer from SOCAR to AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: And you'll see that next to the number 57 there is Wells Fargo Bank. Would that be the same bank that you referenced earlier about that AFAZ has?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And because you know, because the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic is mentioned here, but at the top this is the International Bank of Azerbaijan Republic; I can assume that you know the government of Azerbaijan is making this expenditure on behalf of SOCAR or in SOCAR's name. I mean is that… would that be a fair characterization?

MR. MISSNER: That's a bank.

WITNESS: It's just a bank.

MR. MISSNER: It's where… SOCAR banks.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

WITNESS: It has private share –

MR. MISSNER: It's like saying Bank of America.

MR. SOLIS: Okay, so it's not a government's bank. It's just a private bank?

WITNESS: It's 50%...50 point some percent belongs to government, but it has private share holders. It's another bank that government has a share of. It's just another bank we use among other banks.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Good to know, I didn't know that. Alright. I want to show you this…this is also from the production that you provided to our office. This is SOCAR_0000007 through –

MR. MISSNER: I'm waiting for you to stop saying 0. You're getting there.

MR. SOLIS: I decided to just give it up. From 7 to 12. Do you recall this document; what can you tell me about this document?

WITNESS: The only time I saw that document was – throughout the provision of the documents for the inquiry, for the review.

MR. SOLIS: You didn't take part in the creation of this agreement?

WITNESS: No, I wasn't.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. What is Practical Solutions Group?

WITNESS: My knowledge about Practical Solutions Group is very limited. I saw their name here throughout the process and I recall seeing their logo in the event as well.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know people who work there, or affiliated with Practical Solutions Group?

WITNESS: Uhm… I know that Irada Akhoundova is also manager of Practical Solutions Group, United States. That's the only person I know that works for Practical Solutions Group.

MR. SOLIS: And what does that company do?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. SOLIS: You don't know? Given that – I mean how long have you know Irada?

WITNESS: I've known Irada for almost…the same…2-3 years, but in the capacity of the head of the Azerbaijan Center and Baku sister-cities.

MR. SOLIS: And also, she sits on the board of AFAZ, correct?

WITNESS: And the board of AFAZ, yes.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Given all those circumstances where you would come to interact with her, has she ever talked about Practical Solutions Group?

WITNESS: What I recall…I don't recall exactly before the inquiry, the after the inquiry I recall her mentioning that she has received this same letter from the OCE.

MR. SOLIS: I mean…does she ever say what the company does?

WITNESS: We have never discussed what Practical Solutions Group from United States was doing.

MR. SOLIS: Do you have any understanding, any awareness either at the time of the convention or now based on publicly available information or any type of information, do you have any awareness of what Practical Solutions Group in Azerbaijan or United States, what they do?

WITNESS: The only information that I have about Practical Solutions Group regarding to this event is based on this contract and…as I see from the contract, they have provided some services.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know if they were paid by SOCAR?

WITNESS: I don't exactly have the information about that.

MS. EISNER: For the services that they were asked to provide, was there any discussion at the meeting that you had, I guess it was in April of 2013, of those services and who would be providing them?

WITNESS: Are you referring to the board direc –

MS. EISNER: I'm referring to the meeting with –

WITNESS: Ambassador?

MS. EISNER: With the Ambassador, yes.

WITNESS: For the record, I don't exactly remember the month of the event, so I don't know whether it was in April, but…I don't recall Practical Solutions Group mentioning…being mentioned in that event.

MS. EISNER: Were the services that Practical Solutions Group was contracted to provide mentioned at the event?

WITNESS: I don't recall.

MR. SOLIS: We're nearing the end here. I'll give you a copy of that. This is also a document that you produced to our office; it is SOCAR_some 0's 1209. It's an email chain. And if you look at the bottom there, you see your name about three lines down there?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And that's your Gmail address?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And this is an email, April 10, 2013.

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Who is aes@azembassy.us?

WITNESS: That's a uhm…the email for the embassy…I can only assume from the abbreviation, it could be Ambassador Elin Suleymanov from AES. I don't know exactly whose email is that.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Could that be the Ambassador? That could've been an email from him?

WITNESS: That's what I said. AES might be Ambassador Elin Suleymanov who is the current Ambassador.

MR. SOLIS: Do you recall receiving this email back then in April?

WITNESS: I don't recall it, but I was aware of the email when I was…throughout the provision of the documents.

MR. SOLIS: And I'm not familiar with the language there next to your name. Is that a CC?

WITNESS: Which one?

MR. MISSNER: He wants to know what that means.

WITNESS: That's CC.

MR. MISSNER: That's copy.

WITNESS: CC.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

WITNESS: That's in Russian, CC.

MR. SOLIS: In Russian?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So that's from aes@azembassy.us to Kemal Oksuz and then you are CC'ed?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: I want to make sure I get this name right; is this Xalik?

WITNESS: Xalik.

MR. SOLIS: Xalik Mammadov?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Who is that?

WITNESS: That's the Vice – he's Vice President of SOCAR.

MR. SOLIS: Was he the person who was at that meeting?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: With Kemal, you and the Ambassador?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And Elshad Mesarauf?

WITNESS: He's also Vice President.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Was he at that meeting?

WITNESS: He was not.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. It says, "Kemal Bae" – what does Bae mean?

WITNESS: Mister.

MR. SOLIS: Mister? "I spoke to Congressman Fortenberry – NE, Bustani – LA, and Mark Meadow – NC. AESP Bustani are interested in visiting Azerbaijan, can you extend an invitation to them for the convention?" Do you know if Kemal extended an invitation to these people?

WITNESS: As you can see from the thread, I was not CC'ed in the email. The following emails, I don't recall what happened to the fate of this email, whether they were eventually invited, where…I don't even recall whether they attended the event.

MR. SOLIS: Did you follow up with a phone call to any of the individuals on this email?

WITNESS: I did not.

MR. SOLIS: So you got this email and…you were copied so you didn't make any follow ups on it?

WITNESS: Ambassadors sending email to Kemal Oksuz, copying me and then…copying the two vice presidents, that was the…this email was the only email that I received, I recall receiving from them.

MR. SOLIS: If you wouldn't mind, the email up above that, I know you're not on it, but if you could translate that for me.

WITNESS: Oh, okay. So it's from Vice President Mammadov sent to Tamer Mammadov who's the person responsible was responsible for immigration invitations, liaison with immigration department of Azerbaijan. And Rufat Zamanov who you will be interviewing, he's now the head of the protocol department. I don't recall exact his position back then.

MR. MISSNER: He doesn't want to be on the phone?

WITNESS: Yes. And it means consider…and rush…? I don't know…wait. Yeah, consider and rush it. Expedite. Expedite would be the correct translation.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. And that's, "best regards KH.M" is that an abbreviation for his name?

WITNESS: Yeah. The pronunciation of Xalik is KH.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Xalik Mammadov…best regards, Xalik Mammadov. Okay.

WITNESS: Then Tamer Mammadov goes on with the email, follow up email to Kemal and that's all English.

MR. SOLIS: Yes. Okay. The you know, your recollection of around that time in getting people together, you know you mentioned that there was this meeting at AFAZ's office with the Ambassador and Vice President –

WITNESS: I don't recall the exact location of that meeting.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Generally speaking, was the Ambassador involved in asking about the convention, you know recommending invitations, things like that?

WITNESS: Like I said, I wasn't involved in the process of the organization or planning of the event.

MS. EISNER: How would the Ambassador have had your email address?

WITNESS: We communicate…he's the Ambassador of the country; I'm the representative for the company…of the biggest company in the country, so we communicate. And he does have my email; he has had it since I came to United States.

MR. SOLIS: Other than this email and that meeting that I've been referring to, are there any other circum – any other times that you can recall where the Ambassador was talking about the convention, or in any way referencing the convention?

WITNESS: I recall only that event and I didn't even recall…remembering this email when I saw it when we were providing the documents. That's the only time that…that rings a bell.

MR. SOLIS: Let me show you the last document here. This is not a production from you. It is labeled NIL_0075. If you look at the top there, you'll see Tursan Travel Corp. Do you see that name?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Do you know what Tursan Travel Corp. is?

WITNESS: My only knowledge about Tursan Travel Corp. that I acquired was…again, when I was checking the bank account and checking whether and when I saw that…that transfer from SOCAR and then below that line, it was another transfer…probably was next day transfer from AFAZ to Tursan Travel. That was the – I don't exactly remember the number, I think it was almost $450,000.00 and that was the only time…first time that I saw the name and I googled it and it turned out to be travel company.

MR. SOLIS: Have you ever spoken with anybody who works there?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: So I'll draw your attention to…let's see 1, 2, 3…

WITNESS: What date?

MR. SOLIS: Yeah the 5/16…the…yeah 5 lines down. There's a figure of $378,452.00 and that's Wells Fargo Bank, Assembly of Friends of Azerba - Houston, Texas. Does that figure mean anything to you? That $378,000.00?

WITNESS: I don't recall the exact number, but the…after when I was checking the inquiries and checking the numbers and there was only time that this bank account AFAZ, I saw the name Tursan Travel and that was probably one or two days after the transfer from SOCAR to AFAZ and the number was almost the…around that number, I don't exactly remember the exact number.

MR. SOLIS: So you didn't make the expenditure?

WITNESS: I personally was not involved in that.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Who would have made the expenditure then?

WITNESS: The only person that has an access besides me is Kemal Oksuz.

MR. SOLIS: But you would've been part of the vote to make the expenditure.

WITNESS: According to the by-law I was supposed to be aware and there was supposed to be a signature of me for that transition.

MR. SOLIS: And did you provide a signature?

WITNESS: I did vote for travel expenses based on that email, I did not have my signature. In fact, I Never had the…I don't recall having a signature of me for the AFAZ payments more than $25,000.00.

MR. SOLIS: Did that bother you that you didn't have a sign – that you didn't provide your signature?

WITNESS: First of all I had no idea about that transition so…

MR. SOLIS: The transition or transaction?

WITNESS: The transaction, sorry.

MR. SOLIS: I mean did that bother you that you had no idea about the transaction? Were you upset by that?

WITNESS: I'm a professional…I don't get upset by those stuff, but it was surprising.

MR. SOLIS: Why was it surprising?

WITNESS: Because I didn't know about it.

MR SOLIS: So what I'm trying – what I'm understanding is that Kemal made this transfer of money without your signature…

WITNESS: Without my signature.

MR. SOLIS: Did you talk to him about that?

WITNESS: No, I haven't. In fact…Kemal wrote us email, by us, I mean… I remember me and Irada in the beginning of 2015 about dissolution of board of directors of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: I'm sorry and when was that?

WITNESS: About this – that was 20…I think January 2015.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

WITNESS: And when I checked it in February, I asked him about the document when I received that inquiry to provide the exact correct information about my current status in AFAZ, I asked about the document of dissolution about AFAZ; he failed to provide that, so officially I'm still on the board of AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So…you haven't seen any documentation about the dissolution?

WITNESS: I have not.

MR. SOLIS: But is it possible that there is dissolution of the board?

WITNESS: In our email chain, and the reason because we didn't provide that email chain is because it was irrelevant to the convention, he said that he actually said that...that the AFAZ board was not dissolved.

MR. SOLIS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Did he give a reason for wanting to dissolve the board?

WITNESS: To form a new board.

MR. SOLIS: And did he say who he wanted to put on the board?

WITNESS: He did not mention any names.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So…you had no conversation at all, any time with Kemal about your lack of signature on that expenditure?

WITNESS: I have not had any conversation with Kemal in that regard.

MR. SOLIS: Either in email, phone, in person?

WITNESS: I don't recall talking about this particular issue with Kemal.

MR. SOLIS: Did you talk to anybody else either at AFAZ or anybody about Kemal making this expenditure without your signature?

WITNESS: I recall talking to my…to SOCAR, to legal department of SOCAR, let them know that I'm still in the board of AFAZ.

MR. MISSNER: That was recent? This discussion?

WITNESS: Yes. And I had no idea about that transaction.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So that recent conservation you talked about not knowing about this transaction?

WITNESS: Yes, with my colleagues in legal department of SOCAR that you will be interviewing.

MR. SOLIS: And why did you – why did you talk to the legal department of SOCAR about this issue?

WITNESS: First of all, they're…they were also assuming that I was in the board of SOCAR, of AFAZ and to let them know that I am not … I'm still in the board of AFAZ and also going through the documents and…

MR. MISSNER: Did you mean to say that you were no longer on the board of AFAZ and then you were telling them that you thought you were off, but in fact you were not?

WITNESS: Yes. That's correct. And…and then I accessed the bank account and was informing them that there was a transaction of the amount that you have mentioned so it was informative call.

MR. SOLIS: When you went and checked the bank account after our review had began, did you talk to Kemal about going into the bank account?

WITNESS: I have not.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So you…just the two of you have access to the account?

WITNESS: To my knowledge, yes.

MR. SOLIS: So you went and checked it and you didn't speak with him about that?

WITNESS: No, I have not.

MS. EISNER: In your review of the bank account, did you uncover any other instances where expenditures were made without your signature?

WITNESS: This particular time frame was not in our line bank account so I had to access through the bank itself and I had requested specially, 2013, May. I think there was like April to June time frame to look at the…maybe there are other expenses; these were the only that I recall.

MR. SOLIS: And that's sort of along the lines of the next question is, when you went and took a look at it, were there any other expenditures you know, I'll say it this way. Was there any other activity in the bank account besides the money coming from SOCAR and then the money going out to NIL travel? Was there any other activity? On any AFAZ bank account?

WITNESS: What travel? Did you say NIL?

MR. SOLIS: Yeah, I'm sorry. The Tursan Travel Group.

WITNESS: Uhm…I don't recall anything else. There were like $150 something…I don't exactly know the exact name in front of it, but the big numbers were SOCAR transfer to AFAZ and AFAZ transfer to Tursan.

MR. SOLIS: That remaining amount of money then, there would've been there, roughly maybe $300,000.00? Right? $750,000.00 in, $400 and some thousand dollars out?

WITNESS: Again, there was another transaction that I'm confused whether it was Caspian Drilling or MI Drilling, so… that was the only…that was two transactions in and the one I remember out, was Tursan Travel.

MR. SOLIS: So to date, at least as far as you know, the last time you checked the account, which would've been this year after our review had started, there's still a few hundred thousand dollars left in the account?

WITNESS: I don't recall…again, that was the only time I checked it. First time, only time I checked it and I don't exactly recall what amount is left still there.

MR. SOLIS: Last series of questions. Did guests of the convention receive gifts?

WITNESS: I don't have any knowledge about that.

MR. SOLIS: Did you receive a gift for attending the convention?

WITNESS: I did not.

MR. SOLIS: Did you overhear anybody saying they got a gift in any capacity?

WITNESS: I don't have that knowledge.

MR. SOLIS: It's come to our attention that a lot of attendees received rugs, Azerbaijani rugs, so I don't know if that…does that help jog your memory as to whether or not you recall somebody saying they got a rug or you saw rugs at the convention?

WITNESS: There are Azerbaijani rugs for this convention…I see them everywhere. I don't recall anyone giving as a gift, a rug to any person.

MR. SOLIS: What about honorarium or giving people money to speak at the convention? Do you know if that happened?

WITNESS: I don't recall. I don't even recall about Valerie Biden, whether she has received or not. Because that was the only person who I was…somehow affiliated with coordinating, partially.

MR. SOLIS: You mentioned you got an email in January of 2015 from Kemal talking about dissolution of the AFAZ board, right?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: Did you respond to that email?

WITNESS: Uh…I don't recall. I might respond as noted or okay. I don't exactly recall whether I responded or not.

MR. SOLIS: And then you received…you did not receive any other communication informing you that the board had been dissolved.

WITNESS: Not -- I haven't received any communication; I don't recall any communication regarding the dissolution of AFAZ board and the only conversation…that I recall was initiated by me when I asked about the dissolution, official documentation for dissolution of the board after I received inquiry from OCE.

MR. SOLIS: And when did that happen?

WITNESS: Uhm…it was February…20…around 20's, maybe before that. Maybe sometime between February 10th and February 20th.

MR. SOLIS: Of this year?

WITNESS: 2015.

MR. SOLIS: And that was an email to Kemal?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. SOLIS: And then you said you saw him in March.

WITNESS: I saw him in February 25th in the event in the Congress organized by AFAZ and I also saw him in the event in March 20th again in the event organized by AFAZ.

MR. SOLIS: And that event in March was that in D.C.?

WITNESS: That was in Mayflower Hotel in D.C. The March event.

MR. SOLIS: And when you say organized by AFAZ, did you have any role in that?

WITNESS: I have not been involved in any of these two projects…events.

MR. SOLIS: But you attended the event?

WITNESS: I did attend the event.

MR. SOLIS: Both events?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SOLIS: So who would've been responsible for getting that together? Kemal?

WITNESS: Kemal Oksuz.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. So…January 15th email, February roughly between 10th and 20th of February email back asking about documentation, February 25th event and then in March event…are those the only four times this year that you've communicated with Kemal Oksuz?

WITNESS: These are the ones that I recall…exactly that I communicated in the content of communication.

MR. SOLIS: The February 25th event that you saw him at, did you talk to him?

WITNESS: It was…everybody was just standing there watching. I came late; I said…I remember saying hi. I don't remember discussing anything particular with him.

MR. SOLIS: What about the March event?

WITNESS: I just said hi and he…I didn't talk to him at all.

MR. SOLIS: Have you ever discussed with him the OCE's review?

WITNESS: I have not.

MR. SOLIS: Have you ever discussed with him…any issues related to AFAZ's role in regards to the convention since the convention happened?

WITNESS: I don't recall anything particular.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. Do you recall anything in general?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SOLIS: Okay. I think that's all the questions we have for you, WITNESS. Thank you very much.

WITNESS: I hope I was helpful.

MR. SOLIS: Yes, very much.

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
1	27	ENERGY INSTEAD OF ENGINEER	
3	24	APCO INSTEAD OF EPCOTT	
24	19	DEHYAR IS NOT CORRECT	I don't recall the exact name
41	21	Teymur Mahmudov instead of Tamer	Mammadov
42	2	Teymur Mahmudov instead of Tamer	Mammadov

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 04/20/2015

EXHIBIT 17

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF SOCAR LEGAL COUNSEL 1

4/13/15

Solis: This is Deputy Chief Counsel Paul Solis with the Office of Congressional Ethics. It is April 13, 2015. I'm joined by Omar Ashmawy, John Missner, Ed Myers and SOCAR Legal Counsel 1. Close enough. SOCAR Legal Counsel 1 has signed an acknowledgement that I've provided him with a copy of 18 U.S.C. § 1001. We can begin the interview. SOCAR Legal Counsel 1, where is your current employment?

Witness: I am Senior Legal Counsel at legal department of State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic. My major work is focused on international projects of SOCAR, providing legal support of various kind of international projects. I've been at SOCAR for the last four years.

Solis: Who do you report to?

Witness: Reporting system in our company has several layers. First person to report is head of legal department, [inaudible] is also with us. Part of our litigation. We also report on different areas to vice presidents of SOCAR based on areas they are responsible for. SOCAR has up to ten vice presidents. Based on the specification of projects and area and field, we report to them as well. We also have CEO of SOCAR, president, who is in charge of overall governance, but there is no direct reporting to him. We are reporting to head of legal and then to vice president.

Solis: You said international projects is where you work?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Could you describe a little bit more about what that means? The types of things that you do working in that-

Witness: SOCAR, five or six years ago, adopted a policy of expansion of its activities in Europe and other countries with an objective becoming international company. As a part of this objective, there have been different divisions set up within SOCAR responsible for supporting of this objective.

As part of this, SOCAR is currently involved in different kind of oil and gas related activities like refinery industry, retail, sale of petroleum in Europe. I can count up to ten or fifteen countries where SOCAR is dealing with refinery, retail, sale of petroleum products. As part of this, legal department, supporting let's say, representatives of SOCAR or subsidiaries of SOCAR in all its jurisdictions, with contracts, with any kind of documents needed from Baku ... We are like back office support of local offices all over the world. Major focus is Europe and some Asian countries.

Solis: The convention in 2013, this US-Azerbaijan vision for the future, it was called, that SOCAR was a sponsor of, would that fit into this category of international projects?

Witness: It's a part of missions that SOCAR has according to its charter. SOCAR has a duty not only to contribute to development of petroleum industry in Azerbaijan, but also has some social oriented duties and tasks.

Solis: Would you say that again? Social ...

Witness: Social oriented. Because SOCAR is state owned company, by the nature of its governance, SOCAR always interested and engaged in social projects, cultural projects, educational projects aimed at spreading the realities, truth about Azerbaijan. Promoting its culture, it's history. It includes supporting of events, both in Azerbaijan and all over the world. It's a part of social overall mission as a state-owned company.

SOCAR is the biggest company in Azerbaijan. It's the biggest player in Azerbaijan economy. It has this kind of duty to promote overall policy of Azerbaijan government to increase, to enhance social welfare in Azerbaijan, education, culture, to promote our history all over the world. Coming back to your question, this fits with the mission that's put in SOCAR's charter.

Solis: On that point, what is the relationship between SOCAR and the Azerbaijani government?

Witness: SOCAR is owned by state of Azerbaijan, so it's 100% state owned company. Unlike other commercial companies, SOCAR has not disclosing or distributing any dividends to the state. Instead, SOCAR is investing its revenues into this kind of social projects in Azerbaijan. SOCAR has been active in all major social projects, cultural projects in Azerbaijan, starting from sports events, concerts, cultural events. SOCAR is a major sponsor, supporter of all kinds of these projects in Azerbaijan. Again, I say SOCAR's status is a bit like sui generis status within in the corporate law of Azerbaijan because it's not commercial entity, not like state body. It's a commercial entity owned by state which engage in a lot of social projects and the like, trying to cooperate with the state. It contributes to state's mission.

Solis: When there's a decision made by the company, does the government have decision-making capabilities? Does the president weigh in on decisions by SOCAR?

Witness: No. SOCAR has a clear-cut governance structure, set out in its charter. Decision-making is always made within SOCAR. It's by president of SOCAR. It's vice

presidents. SOCAR has different parties within SOCAR like counsel of SOCAR, comprising of vice presidents plus president. It has different sub-committees within SOCAR responsible for different kind of issues. Decision-making is always internal issue of SOCAR.

Ashmawy: Who appoints the president of SOCAR?

Witness: President of Azerbaijan.

Ashmawy: Does the President of Azerbaijan appoint any of the other officials?

Witness: Yes, both president and all vice presidents.

Ashmawy: All the vice presidents?

Witness: Yes. They are appointed by decree of Azerbaijan, which are all public documents, available on website.

Solis: Do you know if there's anybody, any executives or any employees who currently work at SOCAR who also serve in government currently? Who have dual roles?

Witness: SOCAR's president also holds position of member of parliament in Azerbaijan. Because of the regulation, according to our constitution, member of parliament cannot hold another paid job. That's why the president of SOCAR, he's not getting any kind of remuneration. Again, his position is member of parliament and CEO of SOCAR.

Solis: Do you know if SOCAR has currently any US based entities conducting lobbying activities in the United States that engage them in any kind of contractual agreement?

Witness: Not to me. SOCAR has a representative office in USA, which is active from 2012. In relation to being ... Nothing.

Solis: What about a foreign agent? Do you know what a foreign agent is?

Witness: Better-

Solis: Okay. We have a law in the United States whereby certain activities, people would have to register as a foreign agent of a foreign principal. Meaning a foreign principal is engaging in activities, and they want to have somebody that represents their interests to members of Congress and the executive branch. I'm wondering if you know if SOCAR has engaged anybody in a contractual agreement to conduct those types of activities in the United States.

Witness: I'm not sure that ... SOCAR has a non-profit organization in the USA called AFAZ.

Solis: We'll get to that in a moment.

Witness: A founding member, but in terms of contractual arrangements for conducting government activities, I cannot recollect anything.

Solis: The next thing I wanted to do is actually discuss AFAZ and some other organizations that maybe you're aware of. First I want to ask you about an individual, Kemal Oksuz. Do you know who that person is?

Witness: Yes.

Solis: How long have you known Mr. Oksuz?

Witness: From 2013.

Solis: 2013?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: When is the last time you had a communication with Mr. Oksuz?

Witness: I'm trying to recollect. It was not recently. It was maybe a year ago, but I'm not sure of exact day. In recent months we have no-

Solis: Have you met him in person?

Witness: No, never.

Solis: Again, to the best of your understanding and experience, what does Mr. Oksuz do for a living? What is his job?

Witness: To the extent that ... Back in 2013, actually, when we first communicate with him, I had no knowledge about him. I think he's like ... that he's chairman or president at AFAZ, non-profit organization which SOCAR founded in USA. Also, he's chairman or I don't know, CEO or something, key person in company, in some Turkish organizations, I think, active in the USA with different kind of-

Solis: You said a Turkish organization?

Missner: Turkic or Turkish? Turkish would be the country of Turkey. Turkic would be the region.

Witness: Honestly, I'm not sure about the exact affiliation, but I think they have some kind of Turkey-related element. A lot of knowledge about his, let's say, most of knowledge about his activities came known to me in the course of collection of all these documents for submission to your office. It's been known to me that he was the key person responsible for organization of this convention.

Also, he holds a position in AFAZ. In this capacity, SOCAR is founding member of AFAZ. We found out a letter from him addressed to SOCAR requesting support for this convention. What he is doing for a living, I don't have whole information about it. I think he's engaged in a kind of event organizations, holding different kinds of events. Professionally doing it I assume.

Solis: Back in 2013 when you first became aware of him, did anybody at SOCAR talk to you about who he was and what he did?

Witness: No, because of SOCAR's internal structure, all the assignments, tasks and instructions came down to the legal department for execution, for implementation. It was a chance to review the background about why it's done and what's rational and who is this. We have been given instruction to draft the contract sponsorship agreement between SOCAR and AFAZ. That's the only context that I knew about him and his role in this convention.

Solis: Either back in 2013, all the way out to now, based on the submission of documents you provided our office and the information you've become aware of as you've helped produce information to us, what is Mr. Oksuz's relationship to SOCAR? Does he have a formal relationship? An informal relationship?

Witness: There is nothing known to me which would allow me to state that he's somehow formally or anyhow dealing directly with SOCAR. As I said, he's a CEO, a president of a non-profit organization, which SOCAR is the only founding member. In his capacity as per charter of AFAZ, he's responsible for reporting AFAZ activities and so on. Also again, in the context of this convention, I see he send a request to SOCAR for providing sponsorship to AFAZ, but nothing besides this that would allow me to assume any kind of formal relationship with SOCAR like official relationship.

Solis: Do you know how he became to be the CEO or president of AFAZ? Was he appointed?

Witness: I think when AFAZ was first set up in 2012, I think, the decision was ... How the decision was made, but as per AFAZ charter, it would be six or seven board members which all in parallel hold the position of different officers of the company. He was appointed to board and concurrently he was holding position

of officers, chief executive officer alongside with other board members also holding different offices.

Ashmawy: Just for my clarity, for the charter for AFAZ has, that its officers have to be officers of SOCAR?

Witness: No.

Ashmawy: No?

Witness: Not as far as I remember, there's no such kind of requirements that only SOCAR officers should hold position in AFAZ.

Solis: You mentioned that the board members at AFAZ are appointed. Who are they appointed by?

Witness: The founding member.

Solis: By SOCAR?

Witness: I think there was a kind of resolution on foundation or board resolution which was made back in 2012. That was kind of appointments were made or 2013. Because I remember that the duration of their responsibilities is two years. They should expire in 2015. It takes me back to 2013 I think when they were appointed. Honestly, I don't remember exactly the name of the resolution, whether it was board resolution or resolution of founding member. All the appointments were made at the time of formation of this organization.

Solis: Who appointed the board members?

Witness: I think it was founding member, SOCAR.

Solis: Did you take part in the establishment of AFAZ?

Witness: Not me, no.

Solis: No?

Witness: I was not engaged in how any kind of documentation from SOCAR's side for AFAZ resolution.

Solis: What is the mission of AFAZ? What does it do? What is it supposed to do?

Witness: AFAZ was established to promote the kind of friendship and cooperation between Azerbaijan and USA, contributing to the promotion of cultural, educational relationships and promoting Azerbaijan in USA and USA in Azerbaijan. It's kind of contributing to USA's interest in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan's interest in USA. It's kind of, as its name suggests, it's simply friends of Azerbaijan and USA. The mission is part of SOCAR's, as I say, general social mission to spread the reality, truth of Azerbaijan: history, culture, education abroad.

Solis: How are decisions made at AFAZ? When there is a decision to be made to help promote the cultural connection between the US and Azerbaijan, who takes part in those decisions? Does SOCAR have a –

Witness: As far as I remember, AFAZ board is independent by their... has very broad tasks to decide on. All their limited issues are left for founding members, decisions like discretion. Most decisions are made by board of AFAZ.

Solis: Okay. You said there's limited times that the founding member, which is SOCAR, gets to make a decision. That does happen?

Witness: I think there have been no decision between formation and now of SOCAR as a founding member of AFAZ. As far as I reviewed AFAZ documents available to us, and developed our records, there's been no such decisions. I reviewed AFAZ's charter. It puts very limited powers on founding members, such kind of change to amendments to charter, appointment of new board members after expiration of their duty, and general types of power, like two to three major power. All the ongoing daily activities and decision-making shall be made the board.

Solis: Who works at AFAZ besides the board? Does it have employees?

Witness: I don't have information about it.

Ashmawy: You said that you had some AFAZ documents related to AFAZ available to you. Which documents were you able to review?

Witness: I reviewed its charter, certificate of registration, and the documents about first appointments of board members.

Ashmawy: What else?

Witness: In terms of documents I think that's all which are available at SOCAR in Baku which had been provided at that time because we were founding this company. After 2013 and up to now there have been no documents coming out from AFAZ to us. That was a lack of information.

Ashmawy: You said that you don't think there had been a decision made so far by the founding member, by SOCAR. What documents did you review that gives you that opinion?

Witness: What gives me this opinion is actually the lack of documentation because I have not found anything suggesting that SOCAR made any kind of decision in the meantime.

Solis: How does AFAZ get its funding? How does it receive money to do its work?

Witness: I think as per charter it's entitled to member dues and so on. I know that back in 2013 there had been some sponsorship contributions, sponsorship requests from AFAZ. SOCAR, among other companies, provided sponsorship to AFAZ. How it's been financed in the meantime, 2014 or 2015, is not known to me.

Ashmawy: I understand that SOCAR was the founding member. SOCAR is currently the only member?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Do you know who Rauf Mammadov is?

Witness: Yeah, he's the director of SOCAR's representative office in Washington, D.C.

Solis: Does he have a role at AFAZ?

Witness: Actually, yes. I revealed this recently when I started reviewing AFAZ documents. I think he's the treasurer at AFAZ.

Solis: Do you ever talk to him about AFAZ?

Witness: I talked to him in 2013 when we were in the process of providing sponsorship, logistics of sponsorship and so on. There have been no formal, official communication about AFAZ and so on.

Solis: I want to show you a document here. [inaudible] This is SOCAR 16. Have you seen this document before?

Witness: Yeah. Actually, I found out this document during this document collection process for submission.

Solis: Had you seen this back in 2013?

Witness: Back in 2013, I don't actually remember whether it was a part of the assignment for drafting this sponsorship agreement. I think it was just an assignment as such, because when these kinds of requests are made to SOCAR, it goes directly to SOCAR so-called sponsorship committee, which is responsible for making decisions on sponsorship, material aid, financial aid or other kind of aid to requesting parties. I think it went directly to this committee.

Solis: I want to point you to the bottom there where it says, "Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan, together with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians will serve as the sole organizer at the convention." Do you know what the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians is?

Witness: I think back in 2013 my knowledge was limited to the fact that it's the co-organizer of the event. During the last two or three months, after your request for providing information and documents, I reviewed and apparently this was one of the key organizers, key parties engaged in organization of this convention. Also known to me, is it's a council, organization established in USA. It's engaged in different kinds of social, cultural event organizations.

Solis: Bearing in mind that you don't think you saw this letter at the time it was written, correct? You think it went to a sponsorship committee?

Witness: I'm trying to memorize it. As I told back in 2013 there was an instruction to us, the legal department, to draft a contract. When we need to start, when we can draft a contract, we need to see a kind of internal approval of SOCAR, which is approval of sponsorship committee because it comes to us. Probably it was a part of package of approval sponsorship committee, but I don't clearly memorize it, but most probably it was part of our supporting, package supporting instruction to draft a contract.

Solis: Do you know who works at Turquoise Council? Who is affiliated with that organization?

Witness: No. I know that Kemal Oksuz is involved in key positions there, but besides this, I don't know anyone or anything about them.

Solis: Again, given that you may have seen this document back in 2013 when it was presented as part of the instruction to draft an agreement between AFAZ and SOCAR, what was your understanding, to the best that you can recall, of the difference between AFAZ and TCAE, if there was one?

Witness: I'm trying to remember what would be the difference. Because again, when the instructions came to our department to draft some kind of sponsorship agreement, it's supported by all kinds of internal approvals. We are not in a

position and not always engaged in making any kind of background check or who are these guys receiving money and requesting money. Because it's something improved internally by committee, there is nothing to be suspicious about anything. We just go ahead and draft contract.

Solis: Do you know if AFAZ and TCAE, Turquoise Council, are related in any way?

Witness: To the extent known to me, not, because if AFAZ would be somehow related with them, it would be reflected in documents of AFAZ. To the extent known to me, they are not have formal affiliation.

Solis: Do you know if they share the same bank account or share finances?

Witness: Honestly, I have no information about financial issues of AFAZ.

Solis: Do you know what Tursan Travel Corporation is?

Witness: Tursan Travel?

Solis: Yes, it's T-U-R-S-A-N, Tursan Travel. Also, it goes by the NIL, N-I-L, NIL Travel.

Witness: No. Honestly ... It says nothing to me.

Solis: Never heard of the names?

Witness: In the context of ... Is it somehow related to AFAZ?

Solis: Well, it's not in that document. I'm just asking you generally if you've ever heard of those names?

Witness: I think Tursan Travel Agency is ... I heard it somewhere, but I don't remember. Is it somehow related to AFAZ in the context of convention or after this ... Is it a travel agency in USA, maybe Turkey?

Solis: Why do you say that?

Witness: Tursan, they are very like limited ... I cannot recollect clearly anything about Tursan Agency as being in the USA or in Turkey, but I think it's the travel agency who maybe somehow works with Turquoise or AFAZ. I don't know. Honestly, I don't have any documents or evidence which would suggest me or allow me to support it.

Solis: Okay. Then, I understand you don't have any documents or evidence. You said you think it might be-

Witness: Because Tursan is such a generic Turkish word, you know? It's translated like Turkish benefit, something like this. That's why I assume it may be somehow in this context it's affiliated. I don't have any clear information about their involvement in all this stuff.

Solis: Okay. You don't have a clear-

Witness: I'm sorry to interrupt-

Solis: Let me ask the question. You don't have a clear understanding of how they relate to AFAZ or to the convention. But do you have some idea, based on conversations you overheard or have been a part of, on what Tursan Travel does?

Witness: No, because it's a problem of providing this information is that AFAZ has not provided any kind of reports to its founding member from 2013 and up to now. When we started collecting this kind of information, in your request there was a mentioning of AFAZ also and its role in convention and interaction with other organization. When we started reviewing AFAZ folder in SOCAR, we found out it's very, very, very limited information, reports on its activities, on its function, what it's engaged in. Whether it was engaged in a kind of other events after 2013 or up to now. That's why we are short of clear information and knowledge about AFAZ.

After these issues all came out, we probably conduct internal review of AFAZ in the future, auditing of its activities for information up to now. What was revealed at the time of collection of information was very limited knowledge about AFAZ activities. AFAZ's role in other organizations, maybe it was organized another event, another problematic event or something.

Coming back to your question, honestly, I don't recollect any clear discussion or any indication to Tursan. Something, you know, that I heard somewhere, but I don't clearly recollect whether it was in this context or in other context.

Solis: Well, at least as it seems to us, we think, you know we've talked to lots of people and we've gotten lots of documents from different organizations. The Turquoise Council and AFAZ seem to have paid a certain amount of money to Tursan Travel to then purchase airfare for many travelers to the convention in Baku. Now that I tell you that, does that help possibly, does it help you recall whether or not they had a role? Or a conversation you might have overheard where they were involved in that conversation?

Witness: No. Paying for all tickets to-

Solis: Yeah, for a lot of travelers. State, local, federal, government.

Witness: I have no information about any, about this, which this organization paid for this travel or what the amount or for whom. Honestly, I don't have any information about it.

Solis: Well, let's move on to the convention in 2013. When did you first hear about the convention?

Witness: Actually, at the time when we started drafting this sponsorship agreement.

Solis: Who would have talked to you about it? Who would have given you the instructions to draft the sponsorship?

Witness: The instructions come from head of legal department. When instructions come we're all looking for internal approval, as I told. It's important, internal approval of this support was made by sponsorship committee of SOCAR based on the request.

Solis: Did you attend the conference, the convention?

Witness: No.

Solis: You didn't?

Witness: No.

Solis: What was SOCAR's role at the convention?

Witness: At the time, in 2013 actually, I had no information about it, but recently when we get this request from you, we started reviewing. Actually, we sent this document preservation office internally, and we started talking to our protocol department which is a major unit within SOCAR responsible for supporting event organizations and so on. It came out that support of SOCAR's big role in Azerbaijan and society, in industry and so on, SOCAR was always and is always ready to assist any party who is holding an event, organizing anything as Azerbaijan or outside of Azerbaijan, but which is serving to Azerbaijan's interest and which corresponds to the mission set out in SOCAR's charter.

It came to my knowledge that SOCAR's protocol department assisted event organizers in different manners in order to facilitate, assist the organization of events for example with visa support, support of SOCAR's policy to provide visa support to any party, both in industrial issues, partners or in social projects

coming to Azerbaijan. SOCAR sends a request to migration service in Azerbaijan for provision of fast track visa authorizations for parties at the airport in Baku.

SOCAR sent a lot of letters to this migration authority in Azerbaijan, requesting the support people coming to Azerbaijan. Also, I think SOCAR assisted event organization. That's what we revealed again in the course of document collection or production. SOCAR coordinated activities with other sponsors of events, also another big players in oil and gas industry in Azerbaijan, like BP and others, and encouraged them to support financially also, to join SOCAR in sponsoring the event.

The protocol department was active in assisting and was ready to assist in any manner that they could event organizers, knowing that these guys are based in the USA they may not be informed the whereabouts local immigration, visa, migration regulations or any other applicable regulations.

Solis: Do you know whose idea it was to start the convention and the person or group of people who first came up with the idea to have the convention?

Witness: To the extent that can I can judge based on all the production, all the documents available to me, it was the joint idea of the event organizers, Turquoise and AFAZ. I can't see any kind of, again, internal document of AFAZ or anything which would support that AFAZ board made this decision or founding member made this decision. What's seen for me, based on the available documents, it was AFAZ and Turquoise's initiative which again was supported by SOCAR because it perfectly fit SOCAR's social mission.

Solis: We've talked about AFAZ, and as far as you know, we've said there's only one employee. It seems to be Kemal Oksuz.

Witness: Also I can say now is Rauf is the treasurer.

Solis: Right. He's on the board, and he's treasurer. That's correct. Turquoise Council, you said, correct me if I'm wrong, you said you thought that Kemal Oksuz had a role with Turquoise Council. You didn't know if anybody else worked there, right?

Witness: No, I don't know anyone back in 2013. Even now, I don't know anyone from Turquoise. At this stage, to the extent known to me that he was key person and president or CEO of Turquoise Council. He has like dual position in AFAZ and Turquoise.

Solis: I asked you whose idea was it, about a person or a group of people. You said it's a joint decision of AFAZ and Turquoise Council.

Witness: It's not like my knowledge of the facts that it's a joint decision. What I can assume based on the fact that they are mentioned in all requests for sponsorship as event organizers. Also I reviewed the convention on internet and so on. Main organizers are AFAZ and Turquoise.

Solis: Is this Kemal Oksuz's idea to have this convention?

Witness: I don't know how in Turquoise decision-making is made, but within AFAZ there was no other decision or no other approval of the event. Perhaps within AFAZ he was the only person active or involved from AFAZ side. Not sure about Turquoise Council side.

Solis: Would he have just come to SOCAR and said, "I'm going to have this convention. I want to have this convention in Baku. Would you like to sponsor it?" How would SOCAR become first engaged?

Witness: SOCAR, as I told, is very, very interested in supporting this kind of event. He was supporting before this event and continued doing it all over the world, supporting this kind of events, conventions, seminars and so on. Would Kemal request any kind of support, I mean, assistance where corporation provides financial support and also organizational support in terms of visa and so on. SOCAR was ready and prepared to assist in any manner possible to make this convention happen.

Solis: Did you know at the time in 2013 that members of Congress from the United States House of Representatives, United States Senate would be present at the convention?

Witness: Not in 2013. Of course, of recent months, yes. Now I know that, but not in 2013.

Solis: What is the Turkic American Federation of the Midwest? You heard of that name before?

Witness: Midwest?

Solis: No, never heard the name?

Witness: I don't know.

Solis: Turkic American Federation of the Southeast?

Witness: Same.

Solis: Council of Turkic American Associations?

Witness: [inaudible].

Solis: Mid Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations?

Witness: [inaudible].

Solis: What about Furkan Kosar? You heard of that name?

Witness: Once again?

Solis: Furkan Kosar.

Witness: No. That's the first time I heard this name.

Solis: You mentioned that SOCAR reached out to some other sponsors, companies for potential sponsorship. Who would that have been? Would that have been BP?

Witness: It would have been, at the time, again, I'm just always noting this. At the time I didn't know exact list of companies. What I found out recently is that there was BP, I think KBR, ConocoPhillips, McDermott, I guess, and Chevron. If I'm not mistaken, because all these companies are active in Azerbaijan. They have joint ventures and partnership with SOCAR. SOCAR is in position to coordinate with them, joint support of this kind of events. SOCAR's partnership with these companies also include always provision saying that partners will be jointly supporting.

Solis: Be as specific as you can be. What payments did SOCAR make for this convention? We're going to get into the amount of money that documents seem to show that was transferred from SOCAR to AFAZ. Outside of that, what other payments did SOCAR make for of the convention?

Witness: What our internal investigation revealed is that the only actual financial, let's say, contribution of SOCAR, where it went, was this direct sponsorship. Besides this, again, we sent all these requests internally to our financial department, our protocol department. Nothing was revealed allowing us to assume that SOCAR made any other kind of direct payments to any party engaged in this event organization. SOCAR's dealing, in terms of financial support, was AFAZ only.

Solis: What about hotels for convention attendees?

Witness: Yes. That issue which came became known to us recently when requesting our protocol department, and head of protocol department also I think will have a chat with you. He told us that they found out some contracts with two hotels, I think. It was Hilton and either Four Seasons or Park Inn in Azerbaijan. I think he'll

know better, which are main, let's say, partners, main partners which SOCAR has worked with in the context of big events.

SOCAR has discounted rate agreements with these hotels. Apparently in 2013, May, SOCAR also had this kind of contract with either both of them or one. I think it was Hilton definitely, but I'm not sure about the second one, about discounted tariff.

This contract, when reviewed by us, revealed nothing saying about convention. It was not made for supporting event organization of convention. Apparently it was made in order to have an arrangement with SOCAR hotel, which might be needed. How it works in fact that SOCAR makes this arrangement with hotels. If these rooms are used, SOCAR pays for them and makes settlement at the end of event.

In May, because SOCAR had three major events, its oil and gas exhibition, this convention and a public statement in May 28th, which also events with big representation. We made a request to our financial department. Apparently no payment was made under this contract specifically for this convention. No payment made from SOCAR under this agreement was made for the rooms used for the convention.

Solis: You can say that for certain that you know for certain that there's been no payments for the hotels?

Witness: There has been payment to hotels, but on the report saying with hotel and SOCAR saying that why is this payment made, there was no payments made specifically for the convention. The rooms used for delegations of –

Solis: It doesn't say specifically that a payment was made for the convention, but that doesn't mean that the money may not have been spent to house people in hotels for the convention?

Witness: That's exactly the point that I'm trying to make is that money spent on the hotels for housing people, they're not for people attending the convention. That was for people attending other events.

Ashmawy: Were those events held at the same time as the convention?

Witness: Exactly. Republic's Day event was 28th of May, I think, which directly coincides with this convention. Another event was the start of June. It was oil and gas exhibition, attending up to 500 people in Baku. Settlement with hotels was in the middle of June after all the events had completely finished. When revealed is report or statement, settlement with hotels, we found out that the payments got

from SOCAR were not allocated to support, to house people attending the convention. It was for other two events.

Ashmawy: The other two events were before and after the convention?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: They both would have been after the convention.

Ashmawy: National Day.

Witness: National Day, Republic Day is 28th of May.

Solis: Right. This happened around the 23rd, 24th of May, this convention.

Ashmawy: There was a National Day celebration held.

Witness: I think the convention was 28th and 29th.

Solis: 28th and 29th? I'm mistaken.

Ashmawy: Here's ... More direct in my question, did the people attending the National Day and the exhibition also attend the conference?

Witness: I can't say it for sure because the number is very high.

Ashmawy: About many hotel rooms were paid for?

Witness: I don't remember the figures, the figures and amounts. I remember, let's say, the explanation of payments, seeing the delegation for exhibition, delegation for Republic Day, but nothing paid for delegation attending the convention.

Solis: In the production that you gave to our office, we have a lengthy list of Excel spreadsheets with many, many convention attendees, and specifics about hotel rooms. That came from SOCAR. We think at least that there was at least knowledge of the types of rooms people wanted, about preferences and specifics, the days that they were going to be staying. That came from SOCAR.

Witness: My understanding why SOCAR was in this distribution list and was informed about this kind of hotels because, as I told, SOCAR was active in assisting event organizers in logistics, for example, and maybe exactly numbers, where these people will stay would be needed maybe for visa purposes or the purpose of taking people from hotel to event, venue of event, or making all kind of other

formalities, but not for sure SOCAR paid exact, that this spreadsheet was made in order for SOCAR pay each of the room.

It's for sure what was confirmed by our internal review saying that SOCAR's contract with Hilton was type of another contract with hotels which we always do before big events. We always do before sports events or cultural events in Azerbaijan. We just give them the arrangement. Once needed, these rooms are used, and then paid for.

Ashmawy: I know you said that you don't know exactly how many rooms or the precise numbers. More than 200?

Witness: I can't say this.

Ashmawy: Again, to be direct, it seems to me the National Day celebration was part of the agenda for the conference. It seems to me that it's very possible that people who had attended the National Day celebration also attended the conference. Perhaps the internal designation saying that the hotel rooms were for National Day may not be entirely accurate. They may also have been for the conference.

Witness: I can't say anything for sure about it. Even after this convention, 2014 and not in 2015, we held this National Republic Day event in Baku. We always do this. We did this before the event. We kept doing it after this event. I cannot say that it was designated to be part of this convention. It's definitely separate event which always supported by SOCAR, by state office of Azerbaijan. I think back in 2013, even it was anniversary 85 years. Now, numbers like 85, 90 years always are paid more attention.

Solis: Would members of the protocol department who we're going to speak with today, would they know about that issue about spending money for hotels?

Witness: I think yes, yes.

Solis: They would?

Witness: Actually, they came to us with the information that this maybe raises an issue because it coincides in time with this convention. This definitely made us to review all these contracts to make sure that we provided correct information to you in terms of how SOCAR supported this. As I told, SOCAR is very much interesting in assisting in any manner possible, both you and other parties, to make sure that this kind of events are proper organized and nothing, no breach of regulation is made.

Solis: I want to show you this. This is numbered SOCAR 1 through 5. I think this is the agreement that you spoke about earlier, right? That you took a role in drafting?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: You do remember. You've not only seen this before, you actually took a part in the creation of this document.

Witness: Yes, I did.

Solis: Was it you alone or did other people assist you?

Witness: A colleague of mine from legal department was also present.

Solis: Elvin?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: The two of you drafted this.

Witness: Yes, we did.

Solis: I want to direct your attention to the bottom: Article 1, 1.2. "Based on the agreed budget, incorporated here as attachment I, for this project by the parties, the total cost of the convention is 750,000 US dollars." Do you know where that figure came from, that $750,000?

Witness: I think it's based on the request of SOCAR. The instruction which came to legal department was to draft contract with this amount. This is the amount approved by the mentioned internal sponsorship committee at SOCAR.

Solis: Then it says the funding shall cover accommodation, traveling expenses, venue rental and all other related expenses and fees. Given that you and your colleague, the ones who drafted this, you should definitely be able to tell me what does accommodation mean in this agreement?

Witness: It's obviously the accommodation for members of delegation coming from USA, so it's probably for housing, for hotel expenses of the guests of the event. I'm not sure whether it was only for guests coming from USA or other guests, but my understanding is guests attending the convention.

Solis: Going back to our questions a moment ago about hotels. Does that clear up any missing information that you might have or does this help give you a better picture of whether SOCAR appropriated money specifically for hotel expenses?

Witness: Actually, the idea of SOCAR, how the sponsorship agreement was in SOCAR works like there should be some kind of indication and knowledge of what this sponsorship money goes for. It's in accordance with SOCAR anti-corruption and transparency rules saying that if you provide sponsorship to anyone there should be some indications in the agreement. It's a contract saying, showing the spending, how this money will be allocated.

I think that that's in line with this requirement, but obviously there was no kind of reporting or any kind of knowledge after this agreement how actually the money was used, it was used and allocated. That's again, big problem coming from the lack of reporting from AFAZ to SOCAR. Which does not allow us to say how this money was actually used by AFAZ. In order to be in line with our internal regulation, we always made this and are making this provision in material and financial aid and sponsorship agreement saying that it's made for the purpose of this and that.

Solis: This language is similar to language you've used in other agreements?

Witness: It's similar to language that we used in all sponsorship agreements and financial aid agreements. Also, in the course of production and overall submission of documents, our knowledge was that hotels for the guests were paid by event organizers. That's our assumption, let's say.

Solis: Wait for the train to go. What about traveling expenses? What does that mean on the first page?

Witness: Sorry. Tickets and probably transportation to Azerbaijan, I assume.

Ashmawy: To be clear, tickets you mean airfare?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Did you view this as ... What type of agreement would you view this as? Is this a contract where AFAZ gets to provide some sort of service to SOCAR in order to get the money? Or is it more like a grant?

Witness: It's obviously how it's qualified within SOCAR and how it views sponsorship and financial aid agreement based on the request and made to support this event, which is in line, as I told, with SOCAR's overall mission and objectives in Azerbaijan. It's a financial support agreement.

Solis: Can I direct you to the next page: Article 3, 3.2, under responsibilities of the beneficiary. “The beneficiary shall regularly consult and engage in discussions

with selected representatives of the sponsor throughout the duration of the convention." Who are the selected representatives of the sponsor?

Witness: Majorly it is protocol department who was, again, engaged in supporting. Also I think division for supporting is migration services. Visa support within investment department at SOCAR also was assisting in this specific area of visa support. Majorly who is in charge from SOCAR side is the protocol department.

Solis: When that "responsibilities of the beneficiary" section is added, again, judging by your experience drafting these types of agreements, does that mean that AFAZ had to do this, to regularly consult and engage in discussions with representatives of SOCAR in order to get the money? Was there a condition that they satisfied before they got the money?

Witness: No. If you go online on SOCAR's website, you will see this contract as a template. This contract was made a small change change the template contracts used within SOCAR. When making sponsorship contributions we try to make sure in advance that, just in case, we keep for ourselves some degree of possibility or controls that if something wrong arise, to request the recipient to provide report or consult with us. Again, it was not specifically made for this contract. This is a general type of provision that we always use, both for logo and for consulting with the sponsor.

Solis: I'm going to show you the last page of attachments. Did you draft this attachment as well?

Witness: No. It's something which came to us as part of, let's say, information on how the convention will go on and the financing breakdown. I think just told us now that the overall cost of convention is higher than [inaudible] sponsor.

Solis: Do you know if this document was created at SOCAR, if this attachment was created at SOCAR?

Witness: No. I don't know whether it was created within SOCAR or came from event organizers. I assume maybe it can be attached to this request letter, but I'm not sure. It says nothing about it.

Solis: Okay. Move on to this. This is SOCAR 7 through 12. Do you recognize this document?

Witness: Yes, I do.

Solis: Did you help to create this document?

Witness: No. Actually, I was in the tender procedure within SOCAR. It's a procurement of services within SOCAR. It's a long procedure after this in specific companies selected and contract is made, for procurement of services. I was in charge of this procedure, but exact drafting of this contract was not my work.

Solis: What is Practical Solutions Group?

Witness: Practical Solution Groups, let's say, obviously the biggest and major partner of SOCAR in Azerbaijan, which cooperates with SOCAR in very broad areas, starting from legal consulting, event organization, auditing, financial services and so on. This company was selected as a result of tender procedures, as a result of procurement of services. So far we cooperated with them in so many occasions that I can't remember the number of them.

They are company with many office worldwide and have very solid background and knowledge of event organization and legal consulting and other services that SOCAR may need outsourcing services. How the arrangement between SOCAR and PSG works, we'll make this kind of agreement. Now we have organizational services. We have similar kinds of agreements in other areas, like a framework agreement, broad scope of services. If need arises, just extend this service order to make sure that they are ready to assist if and once we need it.

Solis: Do they have an office in the United States?

Witness: Yes, they do have an office in Houston.

Solis: Who works in that office?

Witness: Director's name, her name is Irada Akhoundova. She's director of PSG in USA.

Solis: Do you know if she has a role at AFAZ?

Witness: Yes, I think she's on the board. She's on the board.

Solis: What specific role did Practical Solutions Group play in organizing and planning of the convention?

Witness: Specifically at this convention, we made kind of request to this company to see, because their name also was on the sponsorship list of the event. It as very interesting which kinds of contributions they made and how they assisted. Apparently they also being sponsor of event, but figures were not disclosed to us how they supported this event, but they also been sponsor of event, like provided financial support to event organizers. That was what was confirmed by PSG, Practical Solutions Group.

Solis: They would have provided financial support to organizers?

Witness: Yes. They, being the same level of sponsor as SOCAR, similar to SOCAR and other companies in Baku.

Solis: Turquoise Council and AFAZ, they would have provided money to.

Witness: That's the point where I'm not sure whether it was made to any of this or to both of them. Again, because we will make internal review of AFAZ and will review financials to see whether the money given to AFAZ [inaudible]. They said that they supported the event organizers.

Ashmawy: You don't know how?

Witness: I don't know. They support financially, but I don't know whether the money went to Turquoise or AFAZ.

Solis: Did money go from AFAZ to Practical Solutions Group?

Witness: No, that's something that I can clearly confirm. In the context of event, there has been no payment from SOCAR to PSG. That was one of our spots where we suspicious, there had been some payment. We requested from both PSG and our financial department to see was there any dedicated payment on the convention went. There has been no information.

Solis: PSG ventured into this agreement for free?

Witness: This agreement, as I say, is a framework agreement. Used after this and being used now for other ones. As I tried to explain previously, it's kind of umbrella agreement like framework under which we provide service orders and use it. This agreement is not made specifically for the convention. It's made for event organization support.

Solis: Was there a fee associated with it?

Witness: Sorry?

Solis: Was there money associated with it?

Witness: With?

Solis: Was there a payment from SOCAR associated with this agreement, the umbrella agreement?

Witness: Not on the convention.

Solis: I understand.

Witness: But, after this, yes, there have been a lot of payments from SOCAR to PSG for other events, other contracts in Azerbaijan, in other countries where they assisted with event organization.

Ashmawy: How about a general payment to them? Was there something, maybe we call it a retainer? Was there a payment to Practical Solutions Group around the time this contract was signed?

Witness: Around the time the contract was signed? Actually, our review was based on whether the payment was made in relation to convention because there have been service order under this agreement to PSG to assist us in organization of convention. Our request was, “was there any payment was made under that service order?” And their response was "No". In terms of timing, I'm not sure whether I can provide clearly, say clearly that around this time because there are a lot payments going out from SOCAR to PSG under different service orders and different categories.

Ashmawy: Let me ask you something else. You said that you were told that Practical Solutions Group supported the conference financially. At the same amount as SOCAR?

Witness: Amounts are not known to me.

Ashmawy: I thought you said you were told it was a similar dollar amount in support?

Witness: Honestly, I have no knowledge whether it was similar or comparable or less or more amount. I don't know anything about it. PSG's internal issue which duty I see in commercial sensitivity or conditional [inaudible] disclosed to us.

Ashmawy: There were payments to Practical Solutions Group, but they were not designated for the conference.

Witness: Yeah.

Ashmawy: Do you know if those payments were made near in time to the conference?

Witness: I don't know whether around this May 2013 there were any payments from SOCAR going to PSG. I don’t have information on this. Again, as I told, there has been no payment under that specific. Payments are going to process our retainer and after the events. How we work with PSG can be advanced payments or

payments after the event. Time is not essential in our payments to PSG. What is essential is the category of service order under which it goes. When reviewing the, requesting the information requested under the specific service order from SOCAR to PSG whether we paid anything, any payment went from SOCAR to PSG under the service order, there was confirmation that there was no payment.

Ashmawy: Were you a part of the process to hire Practical Solutions Group?

Witness: Yeah, yeah, I was.

Solis: When did that process take place?

Witness: For event organizations, this process was held in January or February of 2013. Actually, it was in January, and after the result of this process, we made this contract in February.

Solis: This is an email, two copies there. It's numbered SOCAR 385. It's an email, Monday May 6, 2013. Is that your name at the top?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Do you recall this email?

Witness: Yeah. We'd been coordinating this payment issue with Kemal Oksuz because we need a lot of formalities for the payment to go through, and invoice to be stamped, signed and original hard copy. Also bank requisites on it. It was in the course of getting these formalities done.

Solis: You said, "Please urgently advise on your bank requisites." What bank requisites?

Witness: Bank account information because we were requested by our accounting department to provide bank account information of AFAZ to make this payment as a party to sponsorship agreement.

Solis: What bank did AFAZ use?

Witness: I recollect it was Chase or something. I think it was Chase Bank, but I don't recollect it clearly. His information was received and immediately forward to our accounting department, so it's information that we don't use.

Solis: You said, "We need it. The bank is awaiting." What bank are you referring to?

Witness: The local bank in Azerbaijan, SOCAR's international bank in Azerbaijan. Because the invoice that we are provided by Kemal Oksuz at AFAZ, we're missing this information. We made the sponsorship agreement, attached invoice, gave to our accounting department to make the payment. Then the response from the bank that the information was incomplete, so a bank requisite shall be provided.

Solis: Another one here for you. It is numbered SOCAR 377 to 378. I'll show you down at the bottom, is that your email? May 8th, 2013?

Witness: Yes. This one, right?

Solis: Let me make sure [inaudible]. "Kemal, could you please double check with your bank and confirm whether the payment has been received?" Did Kemal provide you with the information you needed after you emailed him that the information was incomplete?

Witness: Actually, I don't remember whether it was confirmed to me or ... Because I think he was in contact with protocol department of SOCAR as part of their general coordination. Most of communications were going through them. We had been also pressed because time limits and a rush. We had been pressed also by protocol department to make sure that payment went through and to keep this issue under control. That was the course of this communication, but I'm not sure whether it was email confirmation or confirmation from our protocol department that we are set and everything is done. Again, it was a formality issue.

Solis: The next email, "Please also ..." He responded, then the one above that, "Please also try to, at your earliest convenience, sign and return back the agreement of AFAZ sent earlier to you by my colleague, Elvin Hatamzade. What is the agreement you're referring to there?

Witness: It's the sponsorship agreement. Because of bank regulations, the hard copy shall be presented, the hard copy of the counter-signed agreement shall be presented for the payment to go through. That was in the context of this. Because I think first he sent us scanned copy of signed agreement when we first talked to bank whether they will be able to make this payment in anticipation of hard copy. Later, we were obliged to request hard copy of the agreement. I think it was sent by courier to me and then presented to our accounting department.

Solis: More for you. It is SOCAR 178-180. Just want to direct you to the bottom there. That's your email as well?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Tuesday, May 14th, 2013?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: You write about sponsorship issues. You say, "After initial discussions with these companies, it has been agreed that an official letter from AFAZ (or T-C-A-E, whichever you think fits more), shall be address to these companies with the below explanation of request/indication for sponsorship." What initial discussions are you referring to there?

Witness: This is the initial discussions were not held by me but our investment department within SOCAR is responsible for coordination and work with our partners. In Azerbaijan, there is all these companies that have all these contacts with them. When SOCAR was just coordinating with this company, they've been, explanation from this company, we need a kind of official request to substantiate our sponsorship, why we are making this.

That's why I been told to as a person at this time in contact with Kemal, the context of our agreement. To ask them to make this formal request to the company in order to make payment because of some kind of internal stuff or regulations of this company. They were not in position to extend this sponsorship without getting request, informal discussion. I think this was helped by our investment department in a formal-

Solis: Why would SOCAR have anything to say about letters from AFAZ or TCAE requesting sponsorship? Why would SOCAR be part of those discussions?

Witness: Why SOCAR is there is because, as I told, part of SOCAR's engagement and partnership with major companies in Azerbaijan. We are trying to somehow put some kind of duty and task on these companies to contribute to the mission that SOCAR is after. These companies always supported SOCAR, maybe in an amount less than SOCAR does, but they do it. In this context SOCAR was very much interested in making this convention happen. I'm not sure how the amount were defined and why the amounts were different from SOCAR's, but SOCAR was interested in bringing more sponsors to the event which was so significant for SOCAR and Azerbaijan.

Ashmawy: Why was the event significant for SOCAR and Azerbaijan?

Witness: Because it's [inaudible] and fits well together with SOCAR's mission, SOCAR's objective, SOCAR's duties as per its charters.

Ashmawy: Did it also have something to do with the fact that members of Congress were going to be in attendance?

Witness: Sorry?

Ashmawy: Did it also have something to do with the fact that members of Congress were coming?

Witness: You mean SOCAR or these companies? I'm not sure that I understood the question.

Ashmawy: Did the reason why this event was very important to SOCAR and Azerbaijan, was it partly because members of Congress were going to be there?

Witness: No, I think SOCAR would anyways sponsor and support this event regardless of the nature of representation or names of representation. SOCAR did and in much more amounts other events with maybe less important representatives from other governments, from other officials. It has nothing to do ... There was definitely no indication or understanding within SOCAR about need to support this event because members of Congress were there.

Solis: I want to ask you about this part where it says, "an official letter from AFAZ or TCAE, whichever you think fits more." Why did you say that?

Witness: Because what had been known to me and also revealed later is that AFAZ and TCAE are organizers of the event. Kemal holds position both at AFAZ and TCAE. SOCAR's sponsorship was to AFAZ based on the request. Knowing this, we just want to make sure that the request was made from proper organization, just how the event organizer seems to fit. It was just a matter of coordination to make sure that this proper event organizer is involved. Again, it was related to Kemal's roles in both of them, and both of them being event organizers.

Solis: This is the last stuff that I have to show you. The SOCAR 183 through 185. I don't see your name on the first page there. You are on the very last page from Kemal Oksuz. Tuesday, May 14th. I don't see your name in any of the emails that occur after that. But I just wanted to show you this first page. To the extent that you're aware, does this look like the full list of sponsors?

Witness: It also misses SOCAR, but besides SOCAR, yeah. I think it miss also PSG. I think this is the list of companies that SOCAR was assisting in coordination with making this payment go through.

Solis: Do you know about sponsorship categories. I see there's a silver sponsor. Caspian Drilling is the main sponsor. What are the sponsorship categories?

Witness: I think they are based on the amounts. I don't know how they are differentiated, but SOCAR was obviously the main sponsor. I don't know whether it's golden

sponsor. Most probably Caspian Drilling Company also made something comparable to SOCAR's amount to qualify as a main sponsor.

Solis: How much money did SOCAR end up paying to the organizers for this convention?

Witness: SOCAR's payment was limited to this sponsorship agreement. It was 750,000 US dollars.

Solis: Did anybody else on this list, that you're aware of, contribute that amount of money?

Witness: To the extent that I now, this money ranged between 50,000 and 10,000, not more. That's why it's interesting why CDC is a main sponsor. I think they were less than SOCAR, significantly less than SOCAR's amount.

Solis: Is Caspian Drilling Company owned by SOCAR?

Witness: I think it's joint venture. Joint venture between SOCAR and ... I don't know the second partner. I think it's joint venture where SOCAR holds some shares. The same as Azeri M-I Drilling . That's it.

Solis: Azeri M-I Drilling is also a venture of SOCAR or SOCAR has a stake in the company?

Witness: Yes, it does.

Solis: Do you know if it's 51%? If it's the majority?

Witness: In general, SOCAR's policy is to keep 51 plus shares in joint venture. It's SOCAR's general corporate policy. Honestly, there are some very limited number of companies where SOCAR is a minor share holder. I don't know which categories these two falls.

Solis: Did guests of the convention, did the convention attendees receive gifts?

Witness: I can't say anything about it.

Solis: You can't say?

Witness: Because I neither attended this or was anyhow in interaction with. I can't say anything about it.

Ashmawy: Did your internal investigation uncover anything about gifts of rugs to people who attended?

Witness: Gifts of what? Sorry?

Ashmawy: Gifts of rugs?

Witness: Rugs?

Ashmawy: Rugs.

Witness: From SOCAR's side, our request to protocol department was to list exactly what SOCAR contributed. It said nothing about any kind of gifts or other presents, anything about somehow assisting event organizers in this particular context. No, SOCAR didn't.

Solis: Any questions?

Ashmawy: There was a meeting during the conference between SOCAR officials and members of Congress. Do you know who arranged that meeting?

Witness: I don't know, but I think it's the protocol department. They are generally in charge of all of this kind of formal event organizations, meeting organizations and logistics of this type of meetings. I assume that it's protocol department, but I think they can confirm it. I don't know.

Ashmawy: Were you aware of that meeting?

Witness: No.

Solis: Do you know if the board of AFAZ, if there was an attempt to dissolve the board of AFAZ earlier this year?

Witness: Earlier this year? No. I think AFAZ board's duty expires in April 15 this year, in two or three days. SOCAR is expected to make decision on formation, as per it's charter it's two years. SOCAR is expected to make decision on who will be on board and how AFAZ will be structured. I'm not aware about early attempts to dissolve. There's nothing known to me on this particular issue.

Solis: Who at SOCAR would be the person or group of people who have the most contact with AFAZ and Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: You mean in the convention or general?

Solis: General.

Witness: General, it's legal department. Actually, ideally it should be reports coming from AFAZ to legal department, and legal department distributing internal to financial department and so on. Because it never happened, and there was no reports coming from AFAZ to SOCAR, the communication and interaction with AFAZ was very limited. I think it's only legal department, we, who have folder of documents related to AFAZ only. Other groups within SOCAR like protocol department, financials, they only have knowledge about existing AFAZ, existence of AFAZ. I don't know ... I think there have been no direct contact between them and AFAZ in the meantime. Rauf is holding positions there, but I don't know to which extent he is engaged in daily activities of AFAZ.

Solis: I think that's all the questions we have for you. Thank you very much.

Witness: Thank you.

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
4	22	Should be read „Not known to me"	Grammatical Error
6	15	Should be read „There was no change"	Grammatical Error
11	3	Should be read „Approved internally by..."	Grammatical Error
13	21	Should be read „Preservation notice"	Grammatical Error
19	1	Should be read „Spreadsheet was not..."	Grammatical Error
20	17	Should be read „on the requests to..."	Grammatical Error
24	12	Question was „from SCAP to PSC"	Grammatical Error
25	24	„Can den trial" instead „additional"	Grammatical Error

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature:

Date: 20.04.2015

EXHIBIT 18

Main Sponsors
SOCAR
Caspian Drilling Company Ltd
Sponsors
KBR
Organizers

AZERBAIJAN-USA
ConocoPhillips
KBR

AZERBAIJAN-USA
"Vision for the future"
May 29, 2013
Baku, Azerbaijan
AZERBAYCAN-ABŞ
"Gələcəyə baxış"
SUCAI
ConocoPhillips
KBR
MISWACO

AZERBAIJAN-USA
"Vision for the future"
AZƏRBAYCAN-ABŞ
"Gələcəyə baxış"
May 29, 2013
Baku, Azerbaijan
SOCAR
ConocoPhillips
KBR
MI SW

Main Sponsors
SOCAR
Caspian Drilling Company Ltd
Supporters
KBR
Organizers

EXHIBIT 19

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF CONOCOPHILLIPS MANAGER 2

3/25/2015

WRIGHT: This is Nate Wright here from the OCE. I'm joined by Bryson Morgan; we also have Rob Walker, here in person; Jason Rother on the phone; and this is an interview of ConocoPhillips Manager 2.

MORGAN: On March 25th 2015

WRIGHT: ConocoPhillips Manager 2, what is your current title?

WITNESS: Manager of Federal Affairs International.

WRIGHT: And what are your general duties in that position?

WITNESS: I've worked with our… I do international government relations and work on with our business units in various countries around the world to help them with government relations issues and help on engagement plans. Represent them here in Washington.

WRIGHT: How long have you been in this position?

WITNESS: 15 years.

WRIGHT: Does this… does your position normally include interacting with members of congress?

WITNESS: Not very much

WRIGHT: Who is Bill Ichord?

WITNESS: Bill Ichord is… was the Vice-President for International and Government Affairs and he left the company at the end of February.

WRIGHT: Who is Luda Orelup?

WITNESS: Luda also left the company a year ago maybe, and she was Manager of Government Rel… I'm hesitating because I'm not sure what her final title was.

MORGAN: So who did… did Luda report to you?

WITNESS: No she was in Houston and reported to Bill Burkett.

MORGAN: Who do you report to directly?

WITNESS: Andrew Lundquist, who is the head of the Washington Office, Senior Vice-President for Government Relations.

MORGAN: And do you have anyone who reports directly to you?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Okay

WRIGHT: Who is Farkhad Kasimov.

WITNESS: He was and maybe still is but I don't know that for sure. He was our consultant in Baku. We did not have a separate office he ran our ConocoPhillips Office in Baku. We had at one time had a staff but at that time he was our representative in Baku.

WRIGHT: Who is Audrey Stutchman?

WITNESS: She is the receptionist here.

MORGAN: So let me… Mr. Kasimov he was a, you said he was a consultant?

WITNESS: I think

MORGAN: You think so?

WITNESS: I don't know what the exact…

MORGAN: But he's not a ConocoPhillips employee?

WITNESS: No.

MORGAN: Does he have his own Company?

WITNESS: He may.

MORGAN: He may. Okay and you say he was running the ConocoPhillips Office in Baku?

WITNESS: He was our representative in Baku. Yeah I say running the office I….

MORGAN: What kind of things would he do on ConocoPhillips' behalf in Baku?

WITNESS: He would report what…. I don't know, I don't know all of the details of what his responsibilities were but he was the face of ConocoPhillips in Baku and working with the Houston business development. And not through here.

WRIGHT: So he reported to Houston?

WITNESS: Yes.

WRIGHT: Do you know the Turkish American Association?

WITNESS: Turkish American Association….

WRIGHT and MORGAN: or Turkic American Association.

WITNESS: I know of it.

WRIGHT: Do you know SOCAR?

WITNESS: Yes

WRIGHT: Do you communicate regularly with employees of SOCAR?

WITNESS: No not regularly. I know the person who represents SOCAR in Washington, D.C. and occasionally see him at meetings

WRIGHT: And is that Rauf Mammadov

WITNESS: Yes

WRIGHT: Do you know and I'm sure I'm going to mispronounce it its Zaur Gahramanov

WITNESS: No.

WRIGHT: It's spelled Z-A-U-R G-A-H-R-A-M-A-N-O-V

WITNESS: Is he a SOCAR person?

WRIGHT: Yes I think he is in country.

WITNESS: No then. I won't tell you that I've never met him but I don't know him

WRIGHT: Do you know the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

WITNESS: I know that it exists. I don't know what it is.

WRIGHT: Do you know generally what they do?

WITNESS: What I think they do is they promote larger issues of Eurasia but from an Azerbaijan stand-point perhaps Turkey. I think of them as more of a cultural people to people organization not so much about business relations but about larger.

MORGAN: How did you become familiar with the Turquoise council? Do you recall when you first heard about them or interacted with them?

WITNESS: No but it think I've seen, I must have seen their literature and maybe other people mentioned them.

MORGAN: Have you ever attended… Well who do you know on the Turquoise Council? Do you know any individuals there?

WITNESS: No I don't. as far as I know.

WRIGHT: Do you have any sense how they are funded?

WITNESS: Do you want me to speculate?

WALKER: If you're asking me, No.

WITNESS: But I mean I don't know.

MORGAN: You don't know?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Have you heard other people talk about it?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Have you ever been a part of conversations where people talked about their funding?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Okay

WRIGHT: Do you know the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: I know the name.

WRIGHT: Also known as AFAZ

WITNESS: I know the name.

WRIGHT: And do you remember how you came to know AFAZ or hear about AFAZ?

WITNESS: Through their literature, through conversations with other business people and….

MORGAN: What is your understanding of what AFAZ does? What their role is?

WITNESS: The same thing, the promotion of Azerbaijan and more cultural less business.

WRIGHT: Do you know anything about their relationship with SOCAR?

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Do you know Kemal Okuz?

WITNESS: I know the name related to the … to that group.

MORGAN: To AFAZ?

WITNESS: Yes

MORGAN: Okay

WITNESS: Right?

MORGAN: Well you tell me which groups are you familiar with Oksuz?

WITNESS: I don't know the people involved. I think that's the name associated with the second one.

WALKER: With the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan.

MORGAN: Okay.

WALKER: Is that what you meant?

WITNESS: Yeah.

WALKER: Okay.

WRIGHT. Do you know his relationship at all with SOCAR?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Are you aware of him having any relationship with SOCAR?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Have you met Mr. Oksuz?

WITNESS: I don't think… well maybe I don't know.

MORGAN: You don't recall ever?

WITNESS: No I don't… well yeah I don't recall.

MORGAN: Okay

WRIGHT: Do you know an I'm just going to spell this out cause I'm not going to be able to pronounce it correctly, first name IRADA last name AKHOUNDOVA, I think it's Irada Akhoundova.

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Okay I want to ask a few questions just specific to the convention are you familiar with the US – Azerbaijan Convention?

WITNESS: Yes

WRIGHT: It's an annual event in May

WITNESS: Yes

WRIGHT: Did you attend the first event in DC in 2012 I believe it was in the Willard that year?

WITNESS: I did.

WRIGHT: Do you remember anything generally about the convention? I believe ConocoPhillips was a sponsor for that convention?

WITNESS: I think so.

MORGAN: What do you recall about that 2012 convention? You said that you attended?

WITNESS: I did not all of it just some of it.

MORGAN: Just some of it… was it a multi-day… do you remember if it was a multi-day convention?

WITNESS: I think two days

MORGAN: Two days.

WITNESS: and a series of panels and different people who are involved in Caspian issues, speaking on you know different subjects.

MORGAN: How did you …. How did ConocoPhillips become involved with that convention? Do you recall how that was? I think we…. I think from what we've seen ConocoPhillips was a sponsor of that 2012 Convention is that correct?

WITNESS: Yes.

MORGAN: Do you recall how that sponsorship came about?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Is that something you would've been involved with? Determining whether or not ConocoPhillips would be a sponsor? Or conversations about sponsorship levels?

WITNESS: Sometimes a request for sponsorship, and this is the bigger picture, might come through to me.

MORGAN: Sometimes it might come through to you?

WITNESS: Yeah

MORGAN: But sometimes it might not?

WITNESS: Sometimes it doesn't

WALKER: It does not – sometimes you said?

WITNESS: Sometimes it does not. In this case for Azerbaijan, it did not or does not.

WALKER: And are you talking about the 2012 convention now or…? Cause that's what we are focusing on. Yeah.

WITNESS: Yeah

MORGAN: So do you… so the 2012 sponsorship that was not something that was handled by you or that you were involved with. But do you know who did handle that for ConocoPhillips, do you have any sense who that may have been?

WITNESS: It was probably Bill Burkett or I'm sorry…

WALKER: Do you know that for a fact?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: That's just your speculation that it was probably Bill?

WITNESS: Yeah.

WRIGHT: What did you understand the purpose of the convention to be? The 2012 convention.

WITNESS: To promote Azerbaijan and to promote the US-Azeri relationship government to government relationship and the business opportunities and other opportunities in Azerbaijan but…..

MORGAN: And what was your role in attending the convention? What did you do while you were there?

WITNESS: Just attended some of the panels, lunch.

WRIGHT: Do you remember who organized that convention?

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Did you have any sense of how the convention was being funded?

WITNESS: I…. well-funded by different interested parties, sponsorships.

WRIGHT: Did you have any sense that one sponsor may paying more for the convention than others?

WITNESS: My own sense was that was likely SOCAR that was the primary platinum sponsor or whatever that would be called.

MORGAN: Do you remember what gave you that sense?

WITNESS: It's not very unusual in a situation, not just Azerbaijan but in a meeting like that, that there would be one large sponsor. In this case it made sense it was going to be SOCAR or perhaps BP but I don't really remember.

WALKER: You say that it's your sense… excuse me….

WRIGHT: Go ahead

WALKER: You say that's your sense about SOCAR? Is that something you know for a fact?

WITNESS: No

WALKER: So that's speculation

WITNESS: Yes

MORGAN: Is that based on signage maybe you saw at the convention or conversations you had there do you recall?

WITNESS: I think SOCAR was prominently featured on the program in bigger letters than anybody else might have been.

WRIGHT: Now I want to turn our focus to the 2013 convention in Baku I understand that you didn't attend the convention.

WITNESS: I did not.

WRIGHT: But I want to ask about some of the discussions leading into the convention. So ConocoPhillips was not initially going to be a sponsor for that convention was it?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: We'll take you through some documents here to refresh your recollection we are hoping that you can help sort of the context of some of these emails and….

WRIGHT: So I've handed Ms. WITNESS a document bates labeled OCE-COP-05 and 06

MORGAN: Take as much time as you'd like to review these emails here.

WITNESS: Okay

WRIGHT: So this is beginning of April 2013 and Oksuz is asking Ms. Orelup for sponsorship. Whether or not they are interested in sponsorship. Oksuz says it will cost a minimum of $250,000 and COP decided not to sponsor is that a fair summary of the emails? Do you

remember any of the conversations about this specific sponsorship level, why… any conversations why COP wasn't going to sponsor it at this level?

WITNESS: I wasn't involved in any conversations. Only what I knew from reading the email.

MORGAN: So let me go through this a little bit. So it appears that Mr. Oksuz first reached out to Ms. Orelup on 06 that second page. She suggested or asked if $5,000 would be sufficient? He then responds saying that the minimum is $250,000 and that conversation gets… it looks like it is forwarded on to you by Ms. Orelup. And she says "for the obvious reasons we are not in the position to participate." How did you? What were those obvious reasons? Just the amount $250,000 or are there other reasons that you interpreted her to be referring to in that email?

WITNESS: The amount.

MORGAN: Just the amount? But you weren't…. were you aware that… I mean the email from Kemal the first one…. Or excuse me the email to you from Ms. Orelup the sponsorship this year is at $250,000 but you weren't aware of the sponsorship of ConocoPhillips was the year before?

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Orlep asks "Would $5,000 be sufficient?" is that more typical of the types of sponsorship levels for conventions like these or?

WITNESS: Yes.

MORGAN: So why…. Do you have any sense of why all of the sudden the asked jumped to $250,000 did that catch you off guard or raise any red flags with you?

WITNESS: No I just thought it was silly.

WRIGHT: Latter ConocoPhillips did decide to sponsor the event at a much lower amount, do you remember that?

WITNESS: I was not involved in that decision and I did not know about it.

WRIGHT: Okay so no one mentioned to you later on that we have in fact decided to sponsor this convention.

WALKER: When you say later on what time frame are you talking about?

WRIGHT: I'm going to show you a document bates label OCE-COP- 43 through 46. Take a look at these and I realize that you are not listed on this but on the last page you'll see there's a different invite for the… for this convention.

MORGAN: So take your time to review these especially since these were emails that you weren't on. Take as much time as you need to look at those.

WITNESS: [inaudible] still reading these backwards.

WRIGHT: Yeah

MORGAN: It does help if you start on the last page….

WALKER: and go forward.

WITNESS: Okay

WRIGHT: Let's start from the last page. With 46 at the bottom. So this is SOCAR asking ConocoPhillips to sponsor the convention and the amount at which they are asking people to sponsor has changed. Does this seem unusual to you at all that the request for sponsorship of the convention is coming from SOCAR.

WALKER: When you say "did it seem unusual?"

WRIGHT: Yes

WALKER: What do you mean? Do you mean now does it seem?

MORGAN: Let's get a little more context. So the previous salutation from Kemal Oksuz in April of 2013. You know we talked about these emails and it looks like the $250,000 request was denied. Were you… were you aware of any other conversations about potential sponsorship or ConocoPhillips being solicited for sponsorships after this you know April 3 email exchange

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: So as far as you are concerned that ended the issue?

WITNESS: Yes.

MORGAN: And you weren't aware… were you aware before today that SOCAR had subsequently solicited sponsorship from ConocoPhillips?

WITNESS: I didn't know that until…

MORGAN: until right now…

WITNESS: Well until I read the documents.

WALKER: and let's just say, other than today in preparation for the interview for today. Can we put it in that context?

MORGAN and WRIGHT: That's fine.

WALKER: Is that fair to say?

WITNESS: yes

MORGAN: So does that strike you as unusual, that after this initial request had been denied that there was a second request directly from SOCAR to ConocoPhillips?

WITNESS: It doesn't strike me as unusual that you know people start out at $250,000 and when they find out that no one wants to sponsor those events that amount they bring it down to more normal sponsorship levels.

MORGAN: Are.... Do you know why this solicitation from SOCAR wasn't forwarded on to you? Why you weren't part of this conversation? Any sense of why that might have been?

WITNESS: No I don't. It was an internal Houston decision about the business.

WRIGHT: Is this one of those things in that bucket where sometimes you might be involved in discussions or is this in the bucket where you might not? Or both?

WITNESS: Yes, it's one of those... It's one of those times when I was not involved or was not included in this decision making process through here.

MORGAN: Were you. And you weren't aware of the solicitation?

WITNESS: I was not aware.

MORGAN: Okay so nobody called you to ask you about it or gave you input on this solicitation from SOCAR?

WITNESS: Yes...No one.

MORGAN: No one touched based. Okay.

WALKER: And I know the documents show it but just for the record we are talking about an email chain back in May 13 and 14 2013 right?

WRIGHT: Yes

WALKER: Just to make sure we set the....

MORGAN: Yes it is bates labeled OCE-COP 046 that's the solicitation we're referring to.

WALKER: Right.

WRIGHT: And you can see in the subsequent emails that there are discussions about whether or not COP should sponsor the event, you don't remember being included in any sort of discussions about whether ConocoPhillips should sponsor or attend this convention?

WITNESS: I do not remember being included in any of those discussions.

MORGAN: I want to ask you about its page bates labeled OCE-COP 044. Let's see if you can help us understand an email here. It appears to be about the email. It starts on 43 from Ms. Orelup to Lynn Strickland William Burkett on Tuesday May 14, 2013 and she writes to Strickland and Bill I'll go ahead and respond locally about COP participation in the Convention with SOCAR. However we need to get an invoice for the sponsorship from AFAZ or Turquoise Council to avoid FCPA issues.

WRIGHT: It also goes on to say it would be nice to include a congragilatory paragraph in our response to SOCAR and Kemal.

WITNESS: Okay right

MORGAN: Do you have any sense as to why… why it was that Ms. Orelup preferred to receive a receipt from AFAZ or Turquoise Council as opposed to SOCAR? I know it says here to avoid FCPA issues, do you have a sense of what those potential issues might have been? Was there a concern on being invoiced directly from SOCAR?

WITNESS: I don't other that….

MORGAN: Do think you have any sense of what that might be? Is that a standard practice for ConocoPhillips?

WITNESS: Anything we sponsor like this it's always under the agues of the membership organization or a non-government organization. Not a business but a….

WRIGHT: Based on 2012 convention

WALKER 2012 or 2013

WRIGHT: 2012 convention does it surprise all in 2013 that there seemed to be a discussions about whether or not an invoice might come from either AFAZ, TCAE or SOCAR mentioned in the 2013 Convention?

WITNESS: I don't know how the May 2012 sponsorship was done. Is that what you are asking?

WRIGHT: Yeah. Okay I want to ask you….

WALKER: Hold one second. Do you have a question?

WITNESS: No I guess not.

WALKER: Okay, you can take a minute if you want to and step out

WITNESS: Yeah

WALKER: Do you mind if we just cut that for a moment?

MORGAN: Sure that's fine

WITNESS: Just one I…

MORGAN: Pause that recording

WRIGHT: Yep

WITNESS: Sorry I just want to ….

PART 2

MORGAN: Be sure to move that.

WRIGHT: Yep, Alright

WALKER: And can we be put on the record just thanks for letting us step out briefly. It was largely just I think that… I wanted to respond a little it to Mr. Wright's last question.

WITNESS: Do you want to repeat that question?

WALKER: Why don't you go ahead?

WRIGHT: Yeah

WITNESS: This goes to this why was SOCAR contacting us and so forth and what does that mean. It doesn't surprise me that SOCAR who was a big booster in doing this meeting having their partners in country to also sponsor that's all. It's not a surprise that they would do that.

MORGAN: Just so that you know sometimes things that are completely standard practice in the business world and completely the norm sometimes given the sort of strange and somewhat counterintuitive box of congressional ethics rules means that when we are asking about something it's relevant for our purposes doesn't mean to suggest in any way that there was some unusual practice on ConocoPhillips hand. I hope there's not a disconnect there. So sometimes the questions can come across suggesting that you or someone in ConocoPhillips did something wrong. That's not what we mean to suggest at all it's just relevant to the ethics rules. You know Mr. WALKER knows that the ethics rules can be a bit… you know they are a bit different than in the business world.

WITNESS: Thanks

WALKER: I think the work that is often used is counter- intuitive. But not all of it.

MORGAN: Not all of it

WITNESS: Sorry go ahead.

MORGAN: I think now we have some questions for you about your interaction with Representative Bridenstine's office.

WRIGHT: Do you know Representative Bridenstine?

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Do you know his Chief of Staff, Joe Kaufman?

WITNESS: Only by email.

WRIGHT: I'm going to show you a document it's OCE-COP 01.

WITNESS: Okay

WRIGHT: Now I want to direct your attention to the bottom of that page an email from Joe Kaufman to Ms. Stuchman. Do you remember having subsequent conversations with Mr. Kaufman about this question the nature of ConocoPhillips sponsorship of the convention in Baku?

WITNESS: Yes

WRIGHT: What did you talk to him about? Was there… you know, what was he concerned about? What did he ask about? What did you tell him?

WITNESS: That I didn't think we were sponsoring.

MORGAN: So this gets forwarded on to you, you know, this is March 28th 2013 I think that's if I recall from the other email this is, you know before I think Ms. Orelup had forwarded on to you the solicitation from Oksuz.

WITNESS: Right

MORGAN: So this may have been… do you recall if maybe this was the first time you learned of ConocoPhillips sponsorship of the convention, of the 2013 Convention? Or at least that someone was making that representation?

WITNESS: Yes

MORGAN: Okay did that catch you off-guard was that a surprise to you?

WITNESS: I guess it was a surprise.

MORGAN: Do you want to go through 8 now or….

WRIGHT: couple of files

MORGAN: Okay we have a couple of emails that will help refresh recollection.

WALKER: Guys when you say surprised, you mean that it was news to you or…?

WRIGHT: Yes

WITNESS: Okay it was news to me that we were listed as a sponsor on a meeting being held in Baku. And because I had not been involved in any decision about sponsorship in a meeting in Baku. And in this not knowing what meeting even was being talked about.

WRIGHT: And then I'm showing you a document marked OCE-COP-07. You'll see you're having… it looks like an exchange of emails and potentially some conversations with Mr. Kaufman and then real quick… I'm showing you a document marked THJE 12 and 13. Is this do you remember… it this the document that Mr. Kaufman sent to you as part of your discussions?

WITNESS: I don't remember it may have been.

MORGAN So looking at this 07 OCE COP 07 there's the email in the middle there from Joe Kaufman to you he says, document attached, citing COP is sponsoring, bottom of page. So do you recall that he did send you a document that you know listed ConocoPhillips as a sponsor of the Convention?

WITNESS: Yeah, I mean it says here that there was an attachment.

MORGAN: Yeah do you recall seeing that attachment? You don't know if this is specifically a copy of that attachment?

WITNESS: No

WALKER: And by this it is the THJB Document you are referring too?

WRIGHT: 12 Yeah

MORGAN: and then you responded to him on April 3 basically saying that ConocoPhillips…. Well saying that ConocoPhillips is not sponsoring the Baku event?

WITNESS: Right

MORGAN: And you said "I'm happy to discuss further." Do you recall if there was a subsequent conversation with Joe Kaufman about it?

WITNESS: I don't recall.

MORGAN: You don't recall.

WRIGHT: Do you remember any discussion that you may have had with the Houston office about whether or not ConocoPhillips was going to sponsor other than that email exchange that we looked at in the beginning?

WITNESS: Only that email exchange is my… is what I recall on… our sponsoring that meeting.

WRIGHT: One more document before we… it's OCE COP 08 and 09.

WITNESS: Okay

WRIGHT: And at the bottom of 08 you talk about being listed as sponsors at the bottom of the program and presuming this is in response to the document that Mr. Kaufman had sent.

WITNESS: Right

WRIGHT: and then you say "along with Chevron, BP, and of course SOCAR." It there a reason you said "of course SOCAR?"

WITNESS: It was being held in Azerbaijan and they are the national oil company for Azerbaijan.

WRIGHT: and then up at the top. So it looks like Kaufman was looking for assurances about ConocoPhillips role in the conference and maybe about the conference more generally. And up at the top you talked about his being invited as your guest to the meeting. He would go for free. They have to be able to say who was paying since we are listed as sponsors he wants to know what our role is and whether we would be paying for his trip. It's difficult to find out who these hosts are. AFAZ and TCAE and whether this is a cover for SOCAR or the Azeri Government he needs to know. Were these concerns that Kaufman raised with you?

WITNESS: As far as I recall.

WRIGHT: Okay so this wasn't a…. he was asking you about these organizations AFAZ and TCAE in addition to ConocoPhillips role in the convention.

WITNESS: Right

MORGAN: Do you remember how he asked you about those?

WITNESS: No

WRIGHT: Do you remember responding to him and talking to him, giving him any response other that ConocoPhillips is sponsoring the convention?

WITNESS: That's all I recall.

MORGAN: Do you recall any emails or conversations with him about AFAZ and TCAE? I mean you have this email here from you saying what his concerns are. You write " is difficult to find

out these organizations are. AFAZ and TCAE if this is a cover for either SOCAR or the Azeri Government he needs to know. So do you ever give him a response on those questions on whether or not you know who AFAZ and TCAE were and whether or not they were a cover for SOCAR and the Azeri Government?

WITNESS: I don't remember.

MORGAN: You don't remember. Do you remember ever, sort of, digging into that issue or research or calling around to find out about AFAZ and TCAE?

WITNESS: I don't remember

WRIGHT: Is raising a question like this whether or not AFAZ or TCAE are a Cover for SOCAR and the Azeri Government. Is that something you would've raised?

WITNESS: No he asked. As far as I recall he was asking you know what were they and it seemed reasonable to me that he would want to know.

MORGAN: And you don't recall giving him an answer on that?

WITNESS: I don't

WRIGHT: Do you recall putting him in touch with anyone else who might've been able to answer those questions?

WITNESS: I don't. I don't recall

WALKER: Let me just ask guys. The email you showed us on page 7 at the top where Ms. WITNESS says "Joe this is the same group who hosted a similar meeting in WDC last April." Isn't that by way of response to his question?

MORGAN: Well let me pose my question to Ms. WITNESS. So I mean…

WITNESS: I'm just trying to get the order of these in my head so yeah I think I do respond to him.

MORGAN: And your response is on 07

WITNESS: Right

MORGAN: You said "this is the same group who hosted a similar meeting in WDC Last April. And when you say "this is the same group" do you know which group you're referring to?

WITNESS: AFAZ

MORGAN: AFAZ okay.

WRIGHT: You also said "and I'm happy to discuss further" did he ever call to ask or inquire further about the 2012 convention or about AFAZ and TCAE?

WITNESS: 2012 or 2013?

WRIGHT: In 2013 did Kaufman… so at the end of this email OCE COP 07 after you say " this is the same group who hosted a similar meeting last April." You say "does this info help I'm happy to discuss further" did you have any further discussions with him did he ever ask what was the nature of the sponsorship in 2012 or anything, anything further on that?

WITNESS: I don't remember having another conversation.

WRIGHT: Do you remember an event that was hosted by AFAZ in July 2013 in the Hyatt on Capitol Hill?

WITNESS: No I haven't no.

WRIGHT: Have you been to Baku before? Or Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: Only at the airport.

MORGAN: So this exchange OCE-COP 07 is you know on April 3 that email. You know as we talked about you didn't know it but it turns out that later on SOCAR solicited ConocoPhillips for a sponsorship. Do you know if anybody from ConocoPhillips then reached out to Joe Kaufman or Bridenstine's office to let them know that ConocoPhillips status as a sponsor had changed?

WITNESS: I do not know. I doubt it but I do not know.

WRIGHT: Did anyone from Bridenstine's office follow up after the convention to say I noticed that ConocoPhillips was in fact listed as a sponsor to the Convention or any questions like that?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Did you have any communications with Representative Bridenstine about the 2013 Convention?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: Anybody else in Representative Bridenstine office that you may have communicated with about this?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: So it would've been Just Mr. Kaufman?

WRIGHT: Do you remember any conversations with any other members of Congress regarding this convention?

WITNESS: No

MORGAN: I think you have a general sense of what we're interested in is there any other information that we… that you feel like you might like us to know about the 2013 Convention?

WITNESS: I don't think so. You know there are like two separate tracks here you know the Congressman's staff reaching out cause they saw ConocoPhillips or Texas company that's sort of one track of that. And then everything that went on with our own decisions about sponsorship or not is a completely different track, a business track that was going on in Houston. So they really didn't come together.

MORGAN: Okay that makes sense. Let me just take a glance at my notes real quick to see if there's anything that I wanted to follow up with you on. I think that's… those are all the questions we have so I think we'll go ahead and end the recording.

WITNESS: Thank you

WALKER: Thank you

WRIGHT: Thank you

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
8	23	I... well, funded by different (comma, not dash)	dash/hyphen changes the meaning - not what I said
all	all	The spelling of ConocoPhillips is inconsistent throughout transcript	
		ConocoPhillips —	correct spelling no space b/w words 2 "L" in Phillips

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: April 20, 2015

EXHIBIT 20

From: Kenul Ismailova <[redacted]@socar.az>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 12:18 AM
To: Kemal Oksuz <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Cc: Zaur Gahramanov <[redacted]@socar.az>
Subject: RE: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Dear Kemal bey,
Please find the below list of companies which have taken part as a sponsorship on US-Azerbaijan convention, Baku , May 28-29, 2013.

N	Company	Name	Surname	Position	Contact (email)
1	Caspian Driling Company (Main Sponsor)	Farid	Akhundov	General Direktor	[redacted]@caspian drilling.com
2	MCDERMOTT CASPIAN CONTRACTORS, INC (Silver Sponsor)	Ian	Cochran	Senior Director, Caspian Operations	[redacted]@mcdermott.com
3	AZERI M-I DRILING FLUIDS LTD (Silver Sponsor)	Nickolas	Hore	Country Manager	[redacted]@slb.com
4	M.I. SWACO (Silver Sponsor)	Sultan	Sultanov	Representatiove in Azerbaijan	[redacted]@slb.com
5	CONOCO (Silver Sponsor)	Luda	Orelup	Manager, External and Government Affairs	[redacted]@ConocoPhillips.com
6	KBR (Silver Sponsor)	Uday	Sheorey	Director of KBR Downstream	[redacted]@kbr.com
7	BP (Silver Sponsor)	Gorden	Birrell	President of AGT Regional	[redacted]@bp.com

Please if any further question do not hesitate to contact with me.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

From: Zaur Gahramanov [mailto:[redacted]@socar.az]
Sent: 9 iyun 2013 13:21
To: Kemal Oksuz
Cc: Kenul Ismailova
Subject: Re: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Kenul plz advise to Kemal bey the latest list and contact address for invoice issuance.
Z

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 Jun 2013, at 01:39, Kemal Oksuz <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> Zaur Bey,
>
> I have received payments from Caspian Drilling and ConocoPhillips so far. KBR has processed their payment. I am sending invoice and W9 form to BP. Who else should we ask for payment?
>
> Pease advise!
>
> Kemal Oksuz
> President, Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians
> [redacted] 9200
> www.tcae.org
> [redacted]@tcae.org
>
> Sent from my iPad

On Jun 8, 2013, at 1:18 AM, Zaur Gahramanov <[redacted]@socar.az> wrote:

Dear Kemal bey,

Chevron at the end skiped.

Regards,
Zaur

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Jun 2013, at 21:37, Kemal Oksuz <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

Zaur Bey,

Did Chevron confirm their sponsorship? If so, I should have sent them W9 and invoice.

Please advise.

Kemal

From: Zaur.Gahramanov [mailto:[redacted]@socar.az]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 2:42 AM
To: [redacted]@gmail.com
Cc: [redacted].com
Subject: FW: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Kemal bey,
Can you please address the request of Chevron.
Thanks in advance,
Zaur

From: Azimova, Fidan [Contractor] [mailto:[redacted]@chevron.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 11:32 AM
To: Zaur Gahramanov
Subject: RE: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Dear Zaur,

Thank you for help!
I have a just quick question for you, could you please send me the information/ mission of statement about AFAZ? Because there is no information about it on AFAZ website.

Kind regards,

Fidan Azimova
Management Assistant
[redacted]@chevron.com

Eurasia Business Unit
Chevron Khazar,Ltd
96, Nizami street,AZ1010
City: Baku, Azerbaijan
[redacted]

From: Zaur.Gahramanov [mailto:[redacted]@socar.az]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 8:25 PM
To: Akhundov, Baktiyar; Azimova, Fidan [Contractor]
Cc: [redacted]@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Dear Bakhtiyar muallim,Fidan khanum,

Please see the letter attached.
Regards,
Zaur

From: Kemal Oksuz [mailto[redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 7:49 PM
To: Mammad Nazaraliyev
Cc: Zaur Gahramanov; Eldar Orucov
Subject: RE: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Attached is the CHEVRON Sponsorship Letter.

Best, KO

EXHIBIT 21

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 04/14/2014 1:07:08 PM

OMB NO. 1124-0006; Expires February 28, 2014

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Exhibit A to Registration Statement Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

INSTRUCTIONS. Furnish this exhibit for EACH foreign principal listed in an initial statement and for EACH additional foreign principal acquired subsequently. The filing of this document requires the payment of a filing fee as set forth in Rule (d)(1), 28 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1). Compliance is accomplished by filing an electronic Exhibit A form at http://www.fara.gov or an original form signed by or on the behalf of the registrant.

Privacy Act Statement. The filing of this document is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide this information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the Registration Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the Registration Unit's webpage: http://www.fara.gov. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public in print and online at: http://www.fara.gov.

Public Reporting Burden. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .49 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Counterespionage Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name and Address of Registrant	2. Registration No.
APCO Worldwide Inc. 700 12th St. NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20005	6184

3. Name of Foreign Principal	4. Principal Address of Foreign Principal
Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan	Galleria Tower 1, 2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1750 Houston, TX 77056

5. Indicate whether your foreign principal is one of the following:

- ☐ Foreign government
- ☐ Foreign political party
- ☒ Foreign or domestic organization: If either, check one of the following:
  - ☐ Partnership
  - ☐ Corporation
  - ☐ Association
  - ☐ Committee
  - ☐ Voluntary group
  - ☒ Other *(specify)* Non-profit organization
- ☐ Individual-State nationality _____

6. If the foreign principal is a foreign government, state:

a) Branch or agency represented by the registrant

N/A

b) Name and title of official with whom registrant deals

N/A

7. If the foreign principal is a foreign political party, state:

a) Principal address

N/A

b) Name and title of official with whom registrant deals N/A

c) Principal aim N/A

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8. If the foreign principal is not a foreign government or a foreign political party:

a) State the nature of the business or activity of this foreign principal.

The foreign principal is an educational, charitable, cultural and business organization with an objective of educating the American public about Azerbaijan.

b) Is this foreign principal:

Supervised by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☐ No ☒
Owned by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☐ No ☒
Directed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☐ No ☒
Controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☐ No ☒
Financed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☒ No ☐
Subsidized in part by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal	Yes ☒ No ☐

9. Explain fully all items answered "Yes" in Item 8(b). *(If additional space is needed, a full insert page must be used.)*

State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) finances at least in major part the activities relating to Registrant's services for the foreign principal in the U.S.

10. If the foreign principal is an organization and is not owned or controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party or other foreign principal, state who owns and controls it.

The foreign principal is controlled by its Board of Directors.

EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this Exhibit A to the registration statement and that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date of Exhibit A	Name and Title	Signature
April 14, 2014	Terry W. Judd, Senior Director	/s/ Terry W. Judd eSigned

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OMB NO. 1124-0004; Expires February 28, 2014

U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Exhibit B to Registration Statement Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

INSTRUCTIONS. A registrant must furnish as an Exhibit B copies of each written agreement and the terms and conditions of each oral agreement with his foreign principal, including all modifications of such agreements, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all the circumstances by reason of which the registrant is acting as an agent of a foreign principal. Compliance is accomplished by filing an electronic Exhibit B form at http://www.fara.gov or an original form for each foreign principal named in the registration statement and must be signed by or on behalf of the registrant.

Privacy Act Statement. The filing of this document is required for the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide the information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the Registration Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the Registration Unit's webpage: http://www.fara.gov. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public in print and online at: http://www.fara.gov.

Public Reporting Burden. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .33 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Counterespionage Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name of Registrant	2. Registration No.
APCO Worldwide Inc.	6184

3. Name of Foreign Principal

Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan

Check Appropriate Box:

4. ☒ The agreement between the registrant and the above-named foreign principal is a formal written contract. If this box is checked, attach a copy of the contract to this exhibit.

5. ☐ There is no formal written contract between the registrant and the foreign principal. The agreement with the above-named foreign principal has resulted from an exchange of correspondence. If this box is checked, attach a copy of all pertinent correspondence, including a copy of any initial proposal which has been adopted by reference in such correspondence.

6. ☐ The agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal is the result of neither a formal written contract nor an exchange of correspondence between the parties. If this box is checked, give a complete description below of the terms and conditions of the oral agreement or understanding, its duration, the fees and expenses, if any, to be received.

7. Describe fully the nature and method of performance of the above indicated agreement or understanding.

The Registrant will provide media relations services to the foreign principal within the U.S. for the purpose of promoting positive relations between the U.S. and Azerbaijan.

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8. Describe fully the activities the registrant engages in or proposes to engage in on behalf of the above foreign principal.

The Registrant will provide media relations services to the foreign principal within the U.S. for the purpose of promoting positive relations between the U.S. and Azerbaijan.

9. Will the activities on behalf of the above foreign principal include political activities as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act and in the footnote below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, describe all such political activities indicating, among other things, the relations, interests or policies to be influenced together with the means to be employed to achieve this purpose.

The Registrant will assist the foreign principal within the U.S. to promote positive relations between the U.S. and Azerbaijan.

EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this Exhibit B to the registration statement and that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date of Exhibit B	Name and Title	Signature
April 14, 2014	Terry W. Judd, Senior Director	/s/ Terry W. Judd eSigned

Footnote: Political activity as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act means any activity which the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

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ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
APCO WORLDWIDE INC.
AND
ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJAN

THIS ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ("Agreement"), made and entered into as of April 7, 2014 ("Effective Date"), by and between APCO Worldwide Inc., with offices located at 700 12th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005 ("APCO") and Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan, with offices located at Galleria Tower 1, 2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1750, Houston, TX 77056 ("Client"), sets forth the parties' understanding pursuant to which APCO shall be engaged by Client.

I. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work of APCO's present assignment is set out in Annex 1 (the "Services"). Annex 1 is by this reference incorporated in and made part of this Agreement. Should the Services as described in Annex 1 change in any material way, an adjustment to APCO's fees and promised delivery dates may be required. APCO undertakes to advise Client promptly should any such adjustment be necessary and to negotiate with Client in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable revision to the Agreement.

II. STAFFING

APCO shall assign staff members to assist in the performance of the Services.

Should any of the staff members be unable to perform the Services, APCO may substitute another similarly qualified staff member. APCO may, from time to time and in its discretion, augment the staff members performing the Services as needed to perform the Services.

In connection with the Services, APCO may employ the services of third-party consultants including, without limitation, attorneys, intellectual property search firms, accountants, vendors, subcontractors and suppliers (collectively, "Consultants").

III. FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS

APCO shall provide the Services on a time and materials basis, charging a fee based on its usual and customary hourly rates for matters of this type, as such rates may change from time to time, but subject to a cap of USD $46,375 unless APCO obtains Client's prior written approval to exceed such cap.

Prior to APCO's commencement of work, Client shall pay APCO an advance payment in the amount of USD $46,375 upon execution of this Agreement.

Document Integrity Verified EchoSign Transaction Number: X7L8P5P672F2L6X

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In addition, Client shall reimburse APCO for actual, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses ("OOPs") incurred in APCO's performance of this Agreement, including, without limitation, expenses for Consultants, delivery services, external duplications and printing, special periodicals or other materials, media, advertising placement, production of collateral, filing fees, pay-for-use databases, travel, parking and meals. All such OOPs paid by APCO to third parties shall be subject to a mark-up of 17.65%. APCO shall submit monthly invoices to Client for OOPs after such OOPs have been incurred.

If any taxes are required to be deducted or withheld from any payments made by Client to APCO hereunder, then Client shall (i) withhold or deduct the required amount and promptly pay such taxes to the applicable tax authority, and (ii) pay additional amounts to APCO so that the net amount actually received by APCO after such withholding or deduction or tax is equal to the amount that APCO would have received had no such withholding or deduction been required or tax been imposed.

All invoices submitted by APCO to Client shall be due and payable upon receipt. APCO reserves the right to impose an interest charge equal to one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month in respect of any invoice which is outstanding for more than thirty (30) days.

IV. TERM AND TERMINATION

This Agreement shall be effective on the Effective Date and shall terminate on May 30, 2014 ("Termination Date"); provided, however, that either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement in advance of the Termination Date, but only upon the giving of fifteen (15) days' prior written notice to the other party. In the event that this Agreement is so terminated in advance of its scheduled completion, Client shall pay to APCO, upon receipt of an invoice, any and all proper charges earned and/or incurred by APCO in connection with the Services pursuant to this Agreement up to the time of its termination and shall indemnify APCO as provided in Section V.A. below.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Modification, Cancellation or Suspension of Work

Upon consultation with APCO, Client shall have the right to modify, cancel or suspend any and all plans, schedules or work in progress under this Agreement, and, in such event, APCO shall immediately take proper steps to carry out such instructions. However, in such an event Client shall: (i) assume APCO's liability for commitments made to Consultants in respect of such work; (ii) pay APCO, in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Agreement, any and all proper charges earned and incurred by APCO in connection with such work up to the time of its discontinuance, cancellation or modification; and (iii) indemnify APCO for all claims and/or actions by third parties for damages in consequence of APCO's carrying out Client's instructions, except for claims or actions that result from APCO's negligence or wilful misconduct.

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B. General Indemnification

Client shall indemnify APCO and its present and former officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively, "Indemnitees") against any loss or expense (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees) which any Indemnitee may incur as the result of any claim, suit or proceeding made or brought against such Indemnitee or in which such Indemnitee is asked to participate, based upon any materials APCO prepares, publishes or disseminates for Client and based upon information provided or approved by Client prior to its preparation, publication or dissemination, as well as any claim or suit arising out of the nature or use of Client's products or services or any Indemnitee's relationship with Client, except for losses or expenses that result from any Indemnitee's negligence or wilful misconduct.

C. Confidentiality

APCO shall maintain in confidence all information and data relating to Client, its services, products, business affairs, marketing and promotion plans or other operations and its associated companies which are disclosed to APCO by or on behalf of Client (whether orally or in writing and whether before, on or after the date of this Agreement) or which are otherwise directly or indirectly acquired by APCO from Client, or any of its affiliated companies, or created in the course of this Agreement.

APCO shall ensure that it, its officers, employees and agents only use such confidential information in order to perform the Services, and shall not without Client's prior written consent, disclose such information to any third-party nor use it for any other purpose; provided, however, that APCO shall have the right to disclose Client's name and the general nature of APCO's work for Client in pitches and business proposals.

The above obligations of confidentiality shall not apply to the extent that APCO can show that the relevant information:

(i) was at the time of receipt already in APCO's possession;
(ii) is, or becomes in the future, public knowledge through no fault or omission of APCO;
(iii) was received from a third-party having the right to disclose it; or
(iv) is required to be disclosed by law.

Client acknowledges that APCO will file a copy of this Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice in accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq, ("FARA") and will make all filings and disclosures as are necessary under FARA.

D. Non-Solicitation

Until the first anniversary of the termination of this Agreement, Client shall not, without APCO's prior written consent, hire, engage or solicit the employment or services of any person who is or was during the term of this Agreement employed by or an independent director of APCO. Client acknowledges that the specialized nature of APCO's

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proprietary information, trade secrets and other intellectual property are such that a breach of the foregoing covenant would necessarily and inevitably result in disclosure, misappropriation and/or misuse of such proprietary information, trade secrets and other intellectual property and, accordingly, Client acknowledges and agrees that such breach would impose unique and irreparable harm upon APCO and that APCO shall be entitled, in addition to its other rights and remedies, to require, by injunction or decree of specific performance, satisfaction in full of Client's obligations hereunder.

E. Limitation of Liability

Neither party will be liable for consequential, indirect or punitive damages (including lost profits or savings) for any cause of action, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, even if the party was or should have been aware of the possibility of these damages. For the avoidance of doubt, the limitation of liability in this paragraph does not apply to the indemnity obligations in this Agreement.

F. Force Majeure

Neither party shall be liable to the other party for any loss or damage of any kind or for any default or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement (except for payment obligations) if and to the extent that the same is caused, directly or indirectly, by fire, flood, earthquake, elements of nature, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, acts of God, acts of war, terrorism, civil unrest or political, religious, civil or economic strife or any other cause beyond a party's reasonable control.

G. Performance of Third-Party Consultants, Subcontractors and Suppliers

APCO shall endeavour in good faith to guard against any loss to Client through the failure of Consultants to execute properly their commitments under this Agreement. However, APCO shall not be held liable or responsible for any such failure on the part of such Consultants.

H. Exclusion of Liability caused by Political or Regulatory Decisions

While Client may engage APCO to assist it in dealing with certain regulatory or political decisions or actions that may adversely affect Client's business, and while APCO may agree to provide such assistance, APCO cannot be held responsible for and cannot be held liable to Client for any loss, damage, or other adverse consequence that may result from any regulatory or political decision or action being rendered against Client or Client's interests.

I. Governing Law, Submission to Jurisdiction and Consent to Suit

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED AND INTERPRETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK (IRRESPECTIVE OF THE CHOICE OF LAWS PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK) AS TO ALL MATTERS, INCLUDING MATTERS OF VALIDITY, CONSTRUCTION, EFFECT, ENFORCEABILITY, PERFORMANCE AND REMEDIES. CLIENT SUBMITS ITSELF AND ITS PROPERTY IN ANY LEGAL

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ACTION OR PROCEEDING RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT TO THE NONEXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF ANY STATE OR FEDERAL COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND ANY OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE IT OR ANY OF ITS PROPERTY MAY BE FOUND, AND CLIENT HEREBY ACCEPTS VENUE IN EACH SUCH COURT.

J. Dispute Resolution Procedure

In the event of a dispute, controversy or claim by and between Client and APCO arising out of or relating to this Agreement or matters related to this Agreement, the parties will first attempt in good faith to resolve through negotiation any such dispute, controversy or claim. Either party may initiate negotiations by providing written notice in letter form to the other party setting forth the subject of the dispute and the relief requested. The recipient of such notice will respond in writing within five (5) business days with a statement of its position on, and recommended solution to, the dispute. If the dispute is not resolved by this exchange of correspondence, then senior management representatives of each party with full settlement authority will meet at a mutually agreeable time and place within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the initial notice in order to exchange relevant information and perspectives and to attempt to resolve the dispute. If the dispute is not resolved by these negotiations, the matter will be submitted to a mutually agreeable retired judge or JAMS for mediation. The mediation shall take place in Washington, D.C.

Except as provided herein, no civil action with respect to any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement may be commenced until the matter has been submitted for mediation. Either party may commence mediation by providing to the other party a written request for mediation, setting forth the subject of the dispute and the relief requested. The parties will cooperate in selecting a mediator and in scheduling the mediation proceedings. The parties will participate in the mediation in good faith and will share equally in its costs. All offers, promises, conduct and statements, whether oral or written, made in the course of the mediation by either of the parties, their agents, employees, experts or attorneys, or by the mediator, are confidential, privileged and inadmissible for any purpose, including impeachment, in any litigation or other proceeding involving the parties; provided, however, that evidence that is otherwise admissible or discoverable shall not be rendered inadmissible or non-discoverable as a result of its use in the mediation. Either party may seek equitable relief prior to the mediation to preserve the *status quo* pending the completion of that process. Except for such an action to obtain equitable relief, neither party may commence a civil action with respect to the matters submitted to mediation until after the completion of the initial mediation session. Mediation may continue after the commencement of a civil action, if the parties so desire. The provisions of this clause may be enforced by any court of competent jurisdiction, and the party seeking enforcement shall be entitled to an award of all reasonable costs, fees and expenses, including legal fees, to be paid by the party against whom enforcement is ordered. In addition, should the dispute under this Agreement involve the failure to pay fees and/or Disbursements under Section III hereof, and the matter is not resolved through negotiation or mediation, Client shall pay all costs

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of collection, including, but not limited to, APCO's legal fees and costs should APCO prevail.

K. Assignment

Neither party may assign any of its rights or delegate any of its duties or obligations under this Agreement without the express written consent of the other party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, APCO, or its permitted successive assignees or transferees, may assign or transfer this Agreement or delegate any rights or obligations hereunder without consent: (i) to any entity controlled by, or under common control with, APCO, or its permitted successive assignees or transferees; or (2) in connection with a merger, reorganization, transfer, sale of assets or change of control or ownership of APCO, or its permitted successive assignees or transferees.

L. Partial Invalidity

In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be declared illegal or invalid for any reason, said illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, but such illegal or invalid provision shall be fully severable and this Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included herein.

M. Notices

All notices required or permitted to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed given, if and when personally delivered, delivered by fax, with receipt confirmed, or courier or by overnight mail delivery, in writing to the party or its designated agent or representative at the address stated in the first paragraph of this Agreement or at another address designated by the party.

N. Counterparts and Execution

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. The counterparts of this Agreement may be executed by electronic signature and delivered by facsimile, scanned signature, or other electronic means by any of the parties to any other party and the receiving party may rely on the receipt of this Agreement so executed and delivered as if the original had been received.

O. Survival

Section III, Section IV and Section V shall continue notwithstanding the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

P. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and attached Annex(es) constitute the entire and only agreement between the parties respecting the subject matter hereof. Each party acknowledges that in entering into this Agreement it has not relied on any representation or undertaking, whether oral or in writing, save such as are expressly incorporated herein. Further, this

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Agreement may be changed or varied only by a written agreement signed by the parties. Any purchase order provided by the Client will be limited by, and subject to, the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Additional or contrary terms, whether in the form of a purchase order, invoice, acknowledgement, confirmation or otherwise, will be inapplicable, and the terms of this Agreement will control in the event of any conflict between such terms and this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Engagement Agreement as of the date first above written.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

APCO WORLDWIDE INC.

Signed: Mike Tuffin
Mike Tuffin (Apr 2, 2014)

By: Mike Tuffin

Title: Managing Director

ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJAN

Signed: Kemal Oksuz

By: _____

Title: President

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ANNEX I

APCO shall provide strategic media counsel and media relations support for the 2014 U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention in the interest of promoting positive relations between the United States and Azerbaijan.

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EXHIBIT 22

From: Rafig Gurbanzada <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 12:06 PM
To: [redacted]@socar.az
Cc: Rafig Gurbanzade <[redacted]@socarusa.com>; Rauf Mammadov <[redacted]@socarusa.com>; Kemal Oksuz <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Videos and Pictures

Salam Ilqar muallim,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. I am a project manager at AFAZ, working with Kemal Oksuz and Rauf muallim.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to request you to send us recorded videos and photos of the last US-Azerbaijan Convention at your earliest convenience. We also wonder if you could share them thru online sharing websites. If not, we are happy to get them by registered mail. The mailing address is SOCAR USA office in DC.

Also, I send you my official email: [redacted]@socarusa.com. I can also be reached at my gmail account. My cell number is +[redacted]8292.

Thanks,
Rafig

On Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 11:04 AM, Kemal Oksuz <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> Rafig Bey,
>
> Please try to get recorded videos and photos of US-Azerbaijan Convention soon. We need them.
>
> Rufat Zamanov and Ilqar Aliyev are the best contact for these.
>
> Kemal Oksuz
> President, Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians
> [redacted]@tcae.org
> www.tcae.org
>
> Sent from my iPhone

EXHIBIT 23

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF CTAA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

4/10/2015

Nate: This is Nate Wright here with Omar Ashmawy from the Office of Congressional Ethics. We are interviewing the CTAA Program Director ...

Witness: [Name of Witness].

Nate: [Name of Witness]. I apologize if I mispronounce that in the future. It's April 10th, 2015. What is your current employment?

Witness: Council of Turkic American Associations.

Nate: How long have you been with CTAA? Do you mind if I use the acronym CTAA?

Witness: Yeah, no problem. Since the end of 2011.

Omar: What's your title?

Witness: Program director.

Omar: Generally, what does that . . . What do you do?

Witness: We have a lot of cultural events outside that we also have member organizations in the nine states. They host a lot of events. I try to coordinate that with their office and our headquarters in New York. We also do a lot of state capital day events so we send out a lot of invitations. We invite our member organizations in the local area to attend. That's about it. We also organize trips of course like this one to Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan. I do a lot of the coordinating and planning.

Nate: Who do you report to?

Witness: Mr. Furkan Kosar, our president.

Omar: Do you have any . . . program director your only role for the organization?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Are you employed with any other organizations?

Witness: No, only the council.

Nate: A few questions generally about the council. How is the council funded? How do you raise money?

Witness: They do a lot of fundraising activities with our local member organizations, with businessmen. That's one of the details but Mr. Furkan takes care of all the donation-collecting activities, but mostly fundraising events with Turkish-American businessmen.

Nate: Okay. Do you know generally how he does? Is it putting together events, with people coming in?

Witness: Yeah. Also a lot of people attend our events that we host throughout the year. We give presentations about organizations and we tell them that we are a non-profit organization and we are able to do the things that we do from the donations that they contribute.

Nate: Okay. Mr. Kosar handles the . . .

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: He is the one responsible for fundraising. Okay. In terms of when you're deciding to do programs who has the authority in the council to pay for programs, to make disbursements?

Witness: The board makes that decision, Mr. Furkan . . . Of course we have meetings where we come up with events that we want to do and then he brings it to the board, and the board decides if the events can get funded or not.

Nate: Okay. The council just has one bank account, right?

Witness: Yes. One bank, yes.

Nate: How often does Mr. Kosar meet with the board members to go over programming questions?

Witness: I'm not sure but I think they meet every three months, I think.

Nate: Are there ever situations where the council might decide to be involved in a program without having that conversation with the board?

Witness: You mean like attending events or hosting an event?

Nate: Either in which it might involve spending money, so if you had to spend . . .

Witness: Money decisions yeah, the board makes the money decisions.

Nate: Are you familiar with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?

Witness: Yes. They are in the Turkic American Alliance. It's a confederation and we are a New York branch. We're one of the six federations under its umbrella, and the Turquoise Council is our affiliate organization in Texas.

Nate: They're another . . . It's like a sister federation based in Houston?

Witness: Yes. We're under the same umbrella.

Nate: How often do you have . . . How often do you interact with the Turquoise Council?

Witness: Every year we host an annual event in D.C., the Turkic Convention. TAA hosts it. During the event I see them. Sometimes there is a workshop that TAA also hosts. If I take part in those events that's when I run into . . .

Nate: Who do you usually talk to at the Turquoise Council? Is it Kemal Oksuz? Is it Resul?

Witness: Resul. I see Kemal too, but mostly Resul.

Nate: Okay. Are you familiar with the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

Witness: Yes, I'm familiar with them.

Nate: How did you learn about them? Do you remember?

Witness: I attended their event in D.C. They hosted a convention last year. That's when I got familiar with them.

Nate: You learned about them in 2014?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Okay, but you didn't know about them prior to 2014?

Witness: No. Their event was a convention. Yeah, a convention. They had their US-Azerbaijan convention at the Willard. That's when I became familiar with the organization.

Nate: Was that the event that was hosted in 2012?

Witness: No. Turquoise hosted that event, and then in 2014 AFAZ, Assembly hosted that event.

Nate: Do you know when they changed from Turquoise in 2012 to AFAZ in 2014?

Witness: I have no idea. I guess they formed a new organization and that organization took over a lot of details.

Nate: When you say took over, what do you mean by that?

Witness: They started hosting the event. I'm sure about the details but I'm just assuming.

Nate: Okay. Do you have any reason why one was . . . Any knowledge of why one would be switched out for the other?

Witness: I have no idea.

Nate: Any idea of who would be in a position to make that decision?

Witness: Probably their board. Maybe they thought that it was better to host it with . . . Azerbaijan name under it, but I don't know much details because we don't share information with them so I don't know the details.

Omar: Do you know Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: Yeah, I know Kemal.

Omar: He is president of both organizations, or at least he was.

Witness: I guess he left Turquoise. I guess Bilal is the new president, but I don't know when the switch happened.

Nate: Was it around the same time that AFAZ took over the convention?

Witness: AFAZ I learned about them during the convention but after . . . It was in the [inaudible] but I saw they were doing a lot of local small events too throughout D.C. so they have been active before the convention too, but I don't know that much details about how they decided to change it from Turquoise to AFAZ.

Nate: You had mentioned that you thought that a board would have made the decision to switch from Turquoise to AFAZ. Do you know which board would make that decision?

Witness: No. I'm assuming Mr. Kemal if he wasn't . . . He was the president of Turquoise and now he is the president of Assembly of Azerbaijan. I guess when he . . . I don't know how the organization was created but I guess when the organization was formed, they decided to start hosting the convention, maybe.

Nate: Do you know who is involved in forming AFAZ?

Witness: The only person I know is Mr. Kemal Oksuz and Rafig ... I don't know his last name. He does the coordinating.

Nate: How do you know Rafig?

Witness: I met him at the convention.

Nate: Is he involved with any other organizations?

Witness: I have no idea.

Nate: Okay. You mentioned that you learned at the convention in 2014 that AFAZ was hosting a lot of, I think you called it, local events in D.C.

Witness: Yeah, the Khojaly . . . Things related to Azerbaijan.

Nate: Was it your understanding that AFAZ was based in D.C.?

Witness: No. I'm not really sure where they are based but I guess they were hosting events in D.C. Not just D.C., but other areas too they were saying that they were doing commemoration events of the Khojaly in other states.

Nate: Do you know anyone with AFAZ that was involved in programming like putting these events together, other than Oksuz?

Witness: The planning?

Nate: Yeah.

Witness: I would assume that all the events were done by Mr. Oksuz and Rafig . . . I know Rafig too. I guess Rafig is helping Mr. Oksuz. I don't know his official title in the organization. He just said he works for AFAZ.

Nate: Does Resul ever help with AFAZ? Resul Aksoy.

Witness: Resul? I only saw him at the Turquoise event and then I see him at the Turkey event, but I didn't see him at the AFAZ event.

Nate: At least for the AFAZ events that you have been to, is SOCAR also at these events, the state-owned oil company of Azerbaijan?

Witness: The one at the convention that they host in D.C.? Yeah, they were there.

Nate: What was their role?

Witness: They had a banner. They were one of the sponsors of the event in D.C.

Nate: They had previously sponsored the US-Azerbaijan convention and it was done through the Turquoise Council. Do you remember that?

Witness: I am not sure about that one. I know because at the reception there was a huge banner at the one in D.C. that they had the sponsors on the right side, but the one in Azerbaijan I didn't see any flyers. I just saw a huge sign that said US-Azerbaijan convention and it just had the date on it, but I didn't see the sponsors. I don't remember.

Nate: Let's talk about the convention itself, the 2013 convention of Azerbaijan. How did the council, CTAA, become involved in the convention?

Witness: Kemal Oksuz under the TAA umbrella they meet once a month. I guess it was brought up there and then Mr. Furkan when we have our annual meetings he said we're going to be planning, taking electoral officials to Azerbaijan and Turkey like we always do. That's how we got involved.

Nate: Were you a part of that initial discussion at the TAA meeting?

Witness: No, I wasn't in that meeting.

Nate: You first found out about it from Mr. Kosar.

Witness: Yes.

Nate: Okay. What was your role in helping to put together . . . get these elected officials over to the convention?

Witness: I shared the information. We had the itinerary information about Turkey and Azerbaijan. We were planning the booklet that we were going to give out to the

members' office, so I sent a lot of emails. I met with staffers in D.C. I shared information regarding the trip.

Nate: What was the primary purpose of the convention?

Witness: The convention was that, if I'm not mistaken, three or four panels regarding each topic, but I don't remember the topics. Most are related to US-Azerbaijan relations. One was I think regarding energy. The other one was trade I think, but if you want I can look it up and send that to you later. They had different panels and they had one reception.

Nate: Aside from the council and Kemal Oksuz, who else was involved in organizing the convention and trying to help get elected officials traveling to the convention?

Witness: You mean outside our organization?

Omar: Yeah. We know Kemal obviously was involved. You guys were involved. Who else was helping put this thing together, both here and on the ground in Azerbaijan?

Witness: In the ground, it was Resul and Kemal Oksuz and our organization. We were contacting with their office for the details.

Omar: What about an organization called Practical Solutions Group?

Witness: I have no . . . It's the first time I am hearing that name of the organization.

Nate: Do you know Irada . . . I think it's pronounced Akhoundova in Houston?

Witness: No. Irada?

Omar: From the United States side, who else was involved other than you guys and the Turquoise Council and Kemal?

Witness: Our member organizations, they were all there too. The TAA members, they were there.

Nate: The other sister federations?

Witness: The other sister federations. They were at Baku.

Nate: How did you decide who was going to reach out to which travelers? What kinds of discussions led up to figuring out who you were going to invite to attend?

Witness: We also have different local events. Our largest Turkish-American community lives in Brooklyn, in Queens, in Sunnyside, so Congressman Gregory Meeks used to attend our local events. We had him over here for a couple of meetings before. We even invited him to come to Turkey in the years before. He couldn't travel to Turkey. I guess during that week he had another arrangement so he just came to the Baku part of the event.

Congressman Leonard Lance from New Jersey, he also came to our center numerous times, and then we invited him and he said he's willing to attend the event. I guess one of his close friends was also attending the event but from another state, I forgot which member, so we invited him.

Also Congresswoman Clarke, she is also from Brooklyn, she came to our member organization. There's a Brooklyn school. She gave a speech to the students. These are members that have been attending our events and visiting our center who are close to our community so we invited them.

Nate: You said initially that it was Kemal's idea that he brought up at the TAA event. Was there any discussion about why wasn't Kemal just sponsoring all of the members of Congress traveling?

Witness: Why was it Kemal sponsoring?

Nate: Yeah. Why wasn't Kemal reaching out to Meeks, Lance, and Clarke directly?

Witness: No, because we organize trips to Turkey and Azerbaijan so he said . . . We always do it at the end of March during the area in March, June, August because we do our . . . The weathers are nice and it's a better time to travel. If I'm going to host the event, the convention, during that time too so when we are doing our normal Turkey trip we also added Azerbaijan. We met with some of the organizations there and also attend the convention. We went to Turkey and then back to the U.S.

Nate: Kemal was trying to leverage that there were already discussions of hosting trips around that time frame?

Witness: Yeah. That's when we usually host our trips.

Omar: Were you guys going to host a trip in 2013 regardless?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: What trip did you guys have planned for this timeframe?

Witness: Turkey.

Omar: Turkey?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: Had you already sent out any invitations yet for it?

Witness: We sent out invitations before that trip. I'm not sure if it falls in that time frame but we sent out a couple of invitations before, but these didn't work.

Omar: Normally how many members would you take over, or how many staff and members would you take over?

Witness: If it's a member, if it's just one we still take the member, but if we're going to do a staff trip we try to get a minimum of five.

Nate: Normally your trips are to Turkey. Had you taken trips, members or staff, to Azerbaijan in the past?

Witness: No. That was the first time we hosted Azerbaijan for the staff, but we also organized our trips for local elected officials down to Turkey and Kyrgyzstan for example.

Nate: What convinced you to add Azerbaijan onto your normal trips?

Witness: We always had the plan to add Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan because we're not just Turkish but Turkic-Americans, so we try to improve the relations between the Turkic countries and not just Turkey.

Omar: Why 2013 as opposed to any other time? What about 2013 made you guys say, "Yes, let's send people over to Azerbaijan"?

Witness: I guess Kemal was the one who came up with the idea let's do the convention. It might be a nice start. We have made business before like with Mr. Furkan and other organizations, our local organizations. They have been doing trips to Turkey and Azerbaijan but not federal trips, smaller trips with local teachers or students. They have been doing those types of activities so we have been familiar with Azerbaijan, and we were hosting smaller Azerbaijani events

throughout the area with the community members. I guess it was time to put that convention and this was a start.

Nate: You were familiar with how to arrange for things in Baku, how to arrange for hotels and transportation and visas and all the rest of it, because you had done the smaller events beforehand?

Witness: Those smaller events they were usually staying at local campuses in the schools, but with the planning I was talking with Resul with the convention logistic-wise.

Nate: It was in terms of transportation on the ground, hotels and the rest. Did Resul also travel to Azerbaijan previously?

Witness: I am not sure if he traveled, but he was at the convention in Baku. He was there. I don't know about his past travel.

Nate: Okay.

Omar: How involved were you in the organizing of the conference and the travel?

Witness: I was only dealing with the invitation ones, sending invitations to electoral officials, meeting with the staff members to talk the details about the itinerary and how the events can be broken down. That's about it.

Omar: Mr. Wright asked you about the other organizations and you referenced these sister organizations or the organizations that make up TAA.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: What role did they have in planning this?

Witness: I don't know if they played a role. I guess they invited people who are familiar with their organization.

Omar: Did you see when . . . In the things you said you worked on the agenda, you worked on certain other aspects of this. Did any of these other organizations like the Turkic Federation of the Midwest or the South or the mid-Atlantic, did any of them have any . . . Did you see anything that they were doing as part of the organizing of the event?

Witness: No, because we were only together with the other federations for the convention. In Turkey, in our local visits I didn't see any of them so we had a

different agenda so I don't know how their trips or how their members reacted during the trip, but when we were on the trip we were with the ones that we invited. I didn't really interact with the other organizations in Baku.

Omar: There's something we didn't ask before, I'm sorry, which was . . . We talked about your role here. Do you get a regular salary?

Witness: Yeah, a regular salary.

Omar: It's set. It's standard.

Witness: Yes.

Omar: Roughly even, about how much do you get paid a week or so? Do you get paid weekly or monthly?

Witness: Monthly.

Omar: About how much a month?

Witness: Two thousand, before taxes.

Omar: Is that your sole income?

Witness: Yes, sole income.

Nate: Do you have other sources of . . . Like family money and other things like that?

Witness: No, but I stay with my parents if that counts as a . . .

Nate: It does. It certainly helps with New York rents.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: Do you know if . . . Does everybody who works for the council receive a set income, or does it depend?

Witness: I don't know the detail. I guess the only ones that will get paid is me and Mr. Kosar but I don't know if there is anyone else on the payroll. We are the only ones in the office. I don't know how the breakdown works.

Omar: Do you know what his salary his?

Witness: I have no idea.

Nate: Are there ever months where you are told to delay depositing your salary or things like that because there isn't enough money in the account?

Witness: No, I never ran into that.

Nate: Do you know if Mr. Kosar ever did?

Witness: I guess when he sends me the checks that you guys were asking for [inaudible] I guess he said that he deposited them late, but I'm not sure if he received them late or not. I don't know the details.

Nate: We want to ask you a few questions leading into the council's decision to sponsor travelers to the convention. We spoke with Mr. Kosar and he told us that the council didn't have enough money in its account when it first began to consider whether or not it would sponsor travelers. Does that sound accurate? Do you remember any discussions about we need to make sure we have enough money before we decide to take travelers over to Turkey and . . .

Witness: I'm not really involved in the decision making. Mr. Furkan and the board decides the funding or giving approval for the travel, so I don't know anything about that.

Nate: When you're reaching out to members and inviting them to come, is there any limitation that Mr. Kosar has placed on you like, "Only invite three people right now because we may not have enough money to pay for five"?

Witness: For this trip?

Nate: Yes.

Witness: For this trip our initial goal was to bring three people yes, but I think we invited more than three because we knew that not everyone was going to accept to travel.

Nate: That's three members but you also invited . . . I think you mentioned before that you invited a lot of other local officials, not members of Congress but it might be maybe state-elected officials and local people.

Witness: State-wise it's easier to fund because they pay for their own flight. They also give a certain amount of money. Our local organizations do those trips like our member organization in Queens, TCC Queens, Turkish Cultural Center of Queens,

they invite some local officials. Funding those trips are . . . It funds itself because they pay for their own flight. Also they give a certain amount of money to fund the activities that are done in Turkey and in Baku.

Nate: Do you remember Kosar doing any sort of fundraising leading up to this to make sure that there was enough money?

Witness: No. Like I said the planning of this trip I didn't speak with Mr. Kemar at all but I spoke with Resul getting close to the date to get more information, and I saw Mr. Kemal in Baku so I don't know if he did any fundraising.

Nate: Did Mr. Kosar do any fundraising?

Witness: No. For our trip or for the convention?

Nate: For your trips. You said your goal was to get-

Witness: Yes, for our trip we did do fundraising.

Nate: Okay. Do you know how you went about the fundraising, like what he was doing?

Witness: He met with local businessmen that come to our event. We gave them information about the trip.

Nate: He said like, "We're trying to get this convention together and we need enough money to take three people."

Witness: Yes.

Nate: Was there a budget about how much it would cost to take these three people over?

Witness: From . . . did I come up with a budget or . . .

Nate: Did he have an estimate in his mind?

Witness: I'm not sure.

Nate: When you're going through the process of finding flights and when you're talking with Resul about the itinerary and what's been happening in the country, is there any discussion about, "We only have X amount of money to pay on this trip so

we need to be conscious of making sure that we don't spend more money than we have"?

Witness: I never got into money details with Resul. Mr. Furkan was taking care of all the funding. The only things that I spoke with Resul was how the itinerary was and what was going to happen, how the convention was going to happen and who's going to be on the panels to share with our guests that were coming.

Nate: You didn't talk with him about arranging travel to and from the airport, the hotels and things like that?

Witness: No.

Nate: Did you arrange that?

Witness: No, I didn't arrange it.

Nate: Who arranged for the transportation and the hotels in Baku?

Witness: In Baku we didn't have any flights. There was only hotel.

Nate: No I know, but once you get out of the hotel how do you get . . . Or you get out of the airport, travel in . . .

Witness: You're talking about from New York to Istanbul to Baku?

Omar: No. I think what Mr. Wright is asking is who arranged for ground transportation in Azerbaijan?

Witness: The Turquoise.

Nate: Okay.

Omar: Who arranged for hotels in Azerbaijan?

Witness: Turquoise.

Omar: All right. Who handled . . . Basically it's other than . . . It sounds like you guys handled some of the travel from here to Turkey and Azerbaijan, but beyond that who handled the other aspects of the travel? It sounds to me like other than the flights everything else was handled by Kemal.

Witness: In Baku.

Omar: In Baku.

Witness: Yes. The Turquoise arranged the hotels and the transportation.

Omar: What role did you personally have in helping Kemal arrange those details?

Witness: I just sent them our guests, our flight information. That's it.

Omar: Anything else?

Witness: That's it. Not to Kemal personally, but to Resul. I just saw Kemal at the convention but I didn't really have an interaction with him.

Nate: Did you have any discussions with anyone in the Turquoise Council about making sure that those in-country expenses wouldn't be high that the council couldn't pay for them?

Witness: No. Like I said, I never had any money discussions. Mr. Furkan took care of all those.

Omar: You guys didn't pay for the hotels in Baku. Correct?

Witness: I don't know if they paid for it but I guess Mr. Kosar he told me that they made a wire transfer to Turquoise for the fees for the hotels and transportation in Baku.

Omar: Do you know when that wire transfer was made?

Witness: I guess he said recently, a couple of days.

Omar: Did you have any conversations with Resul or anyone at the Turquoise Council about the hotels? Were you concerned about arranging where your guests were going to sleep and spend the night in Azerbaijan?

Witness: No.

Omar: How did that work out? You just left it to them to-

Witness: No. They had two hotels, the Four Seasons and the Hilton, that was reserved for the convention so everyone was staying at those two hotels. That's why it didn't come up.

Omar: I guess maybe I'm being a little unclear in my question. You're flying members of state house representatives and you're flying members of Congress over to Azerbaijan. Did you have a conversation about where they were going to sleep?

Witness: No, I knew where they were going to sleep.

Omar: Did at some point someone from the Turquoise Council say, "Don't worry about that. We'll handle the hotels"?

Witness: No, because Mr. Furkan . . . we itinerary, we knew where they were going to stay, so I was just speaking with Resul on the dates and how many rooms. That's it.

Omar: Is there, then, just an understanding that the Turquoise Council is handling the hotels?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: Okay. That makes sense.

Nate: I want to just walk through to make sure I understand the process here, if you won't mind indulging me. This is a document, NIL 1333. It's an email from Resul to Tursan Travel or Nil Travel.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: The flights were organized through Nil Travel. Is that correct?

Witness: Yes.

Nate: This here . . . There is a spreadsheet that's attached to this email. This email says Council of Turkic-American Association's travel info, so these are the listed people that your . . . Is this what you pulled together? Is this something that Resul put together?

Witness: These are the only ones that I've put together. I know a couple of these names. These are local organizations in Vermont and New Hampshire. These were done to our local events. They sent this information to Resul. These are the only ones that I took care of.

Nate: Okay.

Omar: What does K.O. mean in column H?

Witness: I have no idea. I didn't prepare this list so I'm not sure.

Omar: Just to be clear, this spreadsheet was prepared by who?

Witness: I have no idea. This is the first time I am seeing this sheet.

Omar: Okay.

Nate: This is CTAA 0021.

Witness: Yeah, this . . . I've seen this before.

Nate: How was payment arranged for these flights?

Witness: For this one, recently I was told that we had a balance that we didn't pay with them. Mr. Kosar also said that this was paid recently too, so this is all I know about this one.

Nate: Who told you that you still had an unpaid balance?

Witness: Mr. Kosar.

Nate: Did you know beforehand that you had this balance?

Witness: No.

Nate: Did anyone from Tursan Travel reach out to you and say, "Hey, you have this balance that was standing"?

Witness: Not to me.

Omar: Can I see this? Yeah. One second. My Turkish isn't too good but we do have two documents to show you that we received today, from Tursan Travel.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: It looks like according to the owner of Tursan Travel that they were reminders to you for balances owed for the tickets.

Witness: Yeah. This was in 2013.

Omar: Yes.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: This is just for clarity. You just said that no one ever told you that you guys owed money for those tickets, but it looks like actually somebody did.

Witness: No. They did but we sent the check. I was told at this stage that we sent the check, that we made the payment.

Omar: Who told you that?

Witness: I'm talking about recently. I got this email and during this time I thought the payment was made, but recently . . . When I mean recently, after Mr. Kosar had interviewed with you guys, he said that we have a due balance with Nil Travel and we need to pay them. That's when I knew that we still owe them so this is new.

Nate: You believed after receiving that email that the balance was paid?

Witness: That it was paid, that they sent the payment. They said they sent the check to them.

Nate: How would that payment have been handled from the council? Does that go through the accountant or does that go through Mr. Kosar?

Witness: Mr. Kosar and the accountant.

Nate: Okay. What would you have done when you received this invoice?

Witness: I forward this to Mr. Kosar, but he was CC on this too.

Omar: If we can just retrieve those. If I can back up just a minute, back to the document marked NIL 1334 which is just this spreadsheet, I just wanted you to ... You had mentioned something and I just want to clarify. I know you said this is the first time you saw this. Correct?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: You said that the only three individuals that you were responsible for were Congresswoman Clarke, Congressman Meeks and Congressman Lance.

Witness: Lance, yeah.

Omar: How did the other ones get involved? Specifically, how did the other ones get invited?

Witness: Our member organizations.

Omar: Okay, but you didn't have anything to do with that?

Witness: No.

Omar: By your member organizations, can you be a little more specific? Are they the safe-

Witness: We have 45 member organizations in nine states, mostly cultural centers, business associations and three private schools who are our member organizations. They do a lot of events. We also help them with their events so they do a lot of trips themselves to Turkey with electoral officials. They were also invited to the convention and I guess they invited some of the elected officials who are close to the organization.

Omar: They provided those names directly to Resul?

Witness: I think so.

Omar: Okay. Just out of curiosity, why didn't they provide them to you? Why didn't all that information go through you?

Witness: Maybe they did provide to Mr. Furkan but like I said, I didn't provide any of these names to Resul.

Omar: Because they're your member organizations, it would seem to me that they would involve you in the process.

Witness: No, I knew that they were inviting people but I didn't know which names they invited or who did they send it to? That's what I'm saying. I'm assuming that they sent it to Resul.

Omar: Okay.

Nate: What would be the conversation that would happen before these three would end up on this spreadsheet?

Witness: You mean how they added the composition?

Nate: Yeah.

Witness: Whose list is this?

Nate: It's a list that appears to have been created by Resul that was sent to Tursan Travel, so I'm presuming that you had some sort of communications with Resul saying these are three people.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: What would that have entailed?

Witness: We invited these three people. They will be at the convention so I told them that they were going to be at the convention and I sent them three names.

Nate: Okay. Did you tell him anything about how those particular individuals' flights and travel were going to be paid?

Witness: They were going to be paid to our organization.

Nate: Would you have told that to Resul beforehand or would you have assumed that he understood that?

Witness: No, I told him beforehand.

Nate: Okay. Why did you tell it to him and not just assume that he would understand you were paying for them?

Witness: Because the state reps had tickets that were being paid by their organizations. They were also paying for our member organizations, the Turkish guys, to go on the trip. They were also paid by their organizations too. I told him that because of the ethics rule we were going to pay for three elected officials that we invited.

Nate: Okay. You understood that the Turquoise Council was paying for everyone else's flights-

Witness: Yes.

Nate: You realized that would be a problem with the ethics committee if they also paid for these three, so you would have said, "Treat these three differently too."

Witness: Yes.

Nate: Okay. Really quick and in terms of process, when we spoke with Mr. Kosar he indicated that the process for putting the travel together was a little different. He said that he would have reached out to his accountant and told his accountant to book the flights and pay for the flights. Is that something that he would have done? It appears like based on these documents that it was Resul and Tursan Travel that were organizing the flights?

Witness: No. We spoke with Tursan to arrange the flights and we were going to make the payments to Tursan.

Nate: You communicated that to Resul?

Witness: No. Not to Resul, to Bahri.

Nate: Okay. What was . . . That was before the flights were booked?

Witness: That was before the flights were booked, yes.

Nate: Who was it that had the conversation with Bahri?

Witness: I spoke to Bahri. Mr. Furkan, I think, spoke to Bahri also.

Nate: What did you tell him?

Witness: I told him the dates, the times and the locations where they want to flight out from.

Nate: What did you tell him about payment?

Witness: I told him that Mr. Furkan is going to make the payment.

Omar: Out of curiosity, why was part of Representative Lance's travel booked through World of Travel?

Witness: Because it wasn't Turkish Airlines. It was United. He wanted to fly off from New Jersey and Turkish Airlines doesn't fly out from-

Omar: From Newark.

Witness: From Newark.

Omar: Okay.

Nate: Tursan Travel wasn't going to book it through United?

Witness: I thought they were only working with Turkish Airlines because there we book Turkish Airline flights. I'm not even sure if they do book United.

Nate: Okay. Was that a . . . We have seen that they do book, they did book United flights for this, so I am just wondering if that was a conversation that you had with Bahri or is that just something you assumed?

Witness: No. I spoke to him about the Turkish Airline flights, and then we also presented Congressman Lance with the same itinerary with Turkish Airlines when he said he wanted to fly from United so we booked it through World of Travel.

Nate: Okay. A couple of quick questions about . . . I had a hard time trying to wrap my head about the timeline here. This is CTAA 0022.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: This is the . . . It looks like it's an invoice for Lance from World of Travel for the leg of the trip from Newark to-

Witness: Newark to Istanbul. From Istanbul to Newark.

Nate: This is dated May 15, 2013 and it shows that there is no balance due. Am I reading that correctly?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Okay, and then I don't . . . This is CTAA 0137. This is a copy of the bank statement from May. Here on the 29th, a check ending in two-one is the $6,100 payment for the flights. I am just wondering . . . Here is the actual check. It's CTAA 0174. The check here is dated May 23rd for $6,100 to World of Travel, and then it looks like they cashed it on the 28th.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: It looks like it hit the bank account on the 29th. Why does the invoice for the 15th show there isn't a balance due?

Witness: I have no idea.

Nate: While I have the bank records out, just a quick question. I switch to the page marked CTAA 0139. These are the balance available in the account. You saw from this email before at the beginning, May 3rd at least Resul had included on his list the three members that you were sponsoring.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: It looks like around that time that the bank account did not have enough money to have supported the travel. Do you remember any conversations about we need to fundraise, we don't have enough money to do this, we need to take this as balances?

Witness: No.

Nate: You see here it looks like you may have done the fundraising so on the 9th there is a deposit, $25,000. That might have been the fundraising amount possibly. Do you have any knowledge of whether or not that was?

Witness: Yeah. This was the amount from fundraising activities.

Nate: That was the fundraising activities, which would have been enough money to cover the-

Witness: This was the one that we were talking about to cover.

Nate: That would have been enough money to cover the flights. My question though is that what we don't see is payments for . . . We don't see any payments for the flights in this record other than the check here for Representative Lance's leg of the trip. Instead it looks like here you produce these checks to us. Instead it looks like Mr. Kosar was taking money in salary.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Help me understand why that is. He is raising money for this convention, knows that he is going to be spending. He probably thinks he is going to be spending somewhere maybe above $20,000 on travel and trips, knows he's going to have balances coming due. Why is he suddenly taking salary instead of paying for those expenses?

Witness: I don't know. Recently I was told that these were deposited after you actually asked for the copies of the checks. That's when I . . . For the first time I saw that

these were deposited, that he placed these checks. I was aware that from this we were going to use this to pay for the trips so that's all I know about that.

Nate: Okay. One more quick question just in case you know, 5/13 there is a deposit for $6,100.

Witness: Yes.

Nate: Do you know where that came from? It seems to me a little odd that it seems to match up exactly with the amount of money that was used to pay for a leg of Representative Lance's trip.

Witness: He might know better.

Nate: Okay.

Witness: The bookkeeper.

Nate: You don't know?

Witness: No, I don't know who deposited.

Nate: Okay.

Witness: I know it's a donation but I don't know the name of who donated it or why the amount is . . .

Nate: Yeah, so you don't remember any discussions . . .

Witness: No.

Nate: We need to get someone to give us this particular amount for that portion of Representative . . .

Witness: The trip, we knew how much money we needed for the trip. I don't know why they came up to the exact number.

Omar: You did say you know it's a donation. You just don't know . . . You just . . .

Witness: Yeah, I know it's a donation because you guys requested for the images] of the check, and then when I was speaking with him I asked him the one on 13 what is that? It matches the same amount as the ticket. I was saying, "Is that the charge

for the ticket?" and he said it was a donation. That's when I found out it was a donation. All I know is it's a donation.

Omar: Okay.

Nate: Okay.

Omar: Just speak for the record, when you say him, you're talking about the accountant?

Witness: The bookkeeper.

Nate: The bookkeeper.

Witness: Yeah, Mr. Arican

Nate: Mr. Kosar told us that for the Turkey portion of the trip that an organization called BAKIAD covered the expenses for the hotel. What is the council's arrangement with BAKIAD?

Witness: We have an agreement with them. I don't know the exact details. Once we plan the itinerary I send them our emails. I tell them, "This is the hotel that we want to stay. This is the place they're going to visit," so they make the arrangements accordingly to the trip.

Omar: Do you know who runs the organization in Turkey, BAKIAD?

Witness: The head? I know a guy named [Levent]. He takes care of logistics. I don't know who runs the organization.

Omar: Is Levent your point of contact over there?

Witness: Yes, Levent is my point of contact.

Omar: Do you know how BAKIAD raises their money?

Witness: I have no idea.

Omar: They're a Turkish organization, right? They're a local-

Witness: Yeah, Turkish organization.

Omar: They're a Turkish organization?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar: Okay.

Nate: This is document CTAA 071. This is what was sent to us as the agreement between CTAA and BAKIAD. Obviously I am not able to read in Turkish. I don't know if you are able to look through and if that helps provide any details on the arrangement. I guess what we're looking for is what was the agreement in terms of how BAKIAD would arrange for travel and how payments would be handled.

Omar: While you look that over just to clarify for the record, the document is CTAA 0171.

Witness: In the beginning it just said this is an agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to show the cultural, social, theater, business aspects to form a friendship bridge with dialogue. These are the goals of BAKIAD. We're an organization to show the hospitality. It's pickup and drop off to the airport from point A to point B where they want to go. Make the reservations beforehand, before the guests come to ... If there's going to be in-flight travel, make the reservation. If phone calls need to be made, if they need to have money transfer, U.S. money to Turkish money, we will be helping with that. Security, health insurance for tourists if they're going to have sightseeing or plan a guide. At the end of the trip, take them back to the airport.

Omar: Paragraph three, does that say . . .

Witness: We don't ask for payment for the things that we provide, but their transportation has to be paid from their end.

Omar: From . . .

Witness: The organization that is coming to visit.

Nate: Okay, so from-

Witness: From us.

Nate: The U.S. to Turkey that transportation has to be covered.

Omar: Paragraph four, seems to relate to hotels. Is that correct?

Witness: We will consider the hotels, the locations, the guide and the companies that you guys ask for.

Omar: Is there a priority or limits to them paying for the hotels?

Witness: Let me read over. It's just saying 15 days before, you have to send the information. Paragraph five ... Yeah, it's right here.

Omar: Which paragraph?

Witness: It's not a paragraph, you know, the one with dots?

Omar: Oh yes, on the first page.

Witness: On the first page, one, two, three ... The fourth one.

Nate: What does it say?

Witness: It says if there is going to be travel inside the country they will pay for the ticket.

Nate: Okay, and that's part of . . . I think you said paragraph three talks about they don't ask, they won't ask for repayment but you are required to cover the cost of travel to get to the country.

Witness: Yes, to get to the country. Outside that . . . Here it doesn't say payment but that they will take care of, they will arrange for the airport pickup. Organization-wise BAKIAD will take care of those aspects of the trips, last dot.

Nate: Okay, thank you. Do you know who signed this for . . . The individual who signed this for BAKIAD?

Witness: Irfan?

Nate: Yeah.

Witness: I don’t know Irfan.

Nate: Okay. You don't know what role he might play in BAKIAD?

Witness: He is the Bogazici means president so I'm assuming he's the president, his title under his name.

Nate: Okay, and then really quick if you flip over to the next page this is CTAA 0179. This is a letter that we received recently discussing outstanding balances. Who drafted the letter?

Witness: Mr. Ismail Arican. He told me what happened so I wrote this for him.

Nate: Okay.

Witness: He told me this is what happened. Mr. Kosar told me to ask him certain questions and he gave me his information, so I drafted it for him.

Nate: Okay. The second bullet point talks about travel-related costs to BAKIAD.

Witness: This one?

Nate: Yeah.

Witness: Yes.

Nate: How did you calculate the travel-related costs for BAKIAD?

Witness: The hotel expenses which also includes the transportation that the hotel provides, and also $45 per day meal for each member.

Nate: How did you know what the hotel cost was?

Witness: From Mr. Furkan Kosar. It was on the form that we actually sent to the committee to.

Nate: Okay. He told us that the way that he calculated the hotels in Turkey and in Baku was that he would look up what the going rate was for a hotel. Does that sound familiar to you?

Witness: Yeah. We usually do that before the trip.

Nate: Okay, but even on the post-travel disclosure forms he said that that's how we know because he didn't ... There wasn't an invoice from TCAE or from BAKIAD?

Witness: Yeah, there wasn't any invoice.

Nate: Down the third bullet point here, the $950 balance to TCAE, is that the same calculation?

Witness: The same calculation.

Nate: It's looking up what the going rate was for a hotel room.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: There was no invoice generated from BAKIAD or TCAE?

Witness: No, not that I'm aware of.

Nate: Did either BAKIAD or TCAE expect payment from CTAA?

Witness: Not that I'm aware of.

Nate: I want to ask some questions about the actual convention. You traveled to the convention.

Witness: Yes, I traveled to the convention.

Nate: We understand that SOCAR played a rather large role in the convention. They were a very large sponsor of the convention. What did you perceive their role to be in the convention?

Witness: At the convention I didn't really . . . There was a reception where the president of SOCAR attended. That's where I heard of SOCAR. I also previously visited Azerbaijan for the Eurovision contest and there, there was a lot of advertising with SOCAR, so convention-wise there was a lot of members of SOCAR who were at the event but I don't know exactly what role they played.

Omar: What about when you arrived? Was there a table for check-in with the SOCAR people at the table?

Witness: There was a check-in table but I don't know if there was a SOCAR logo on it. I don't remember.

Nate: Were there SOCAR officials in the lobby of the hotel as volunteers for the travelers?

Witness: No. Everyone had the US-Azerbaijan tags that was provided. There was a lot of ones that had volunteers on it but I don't know if they work for SOCAR or not.

Omar: Do you remember what hotel you stayed in?

Witness: Hilton.

Nate: Do you know who provided the travel from the airport to the hotel?

Witness: It was a bus that picked up all the guests.

Nate: They tried to arrange who was coming in on which flights to be able to take them over to the hotels?

Witness: I guess so.

Nate: Do you know who was involved in doing that? How did you know which bus to take?

Witness: There was a bus that said "Hilton". There was a bus that said "Four Seasons" so everyone got on accordingly in the buses.

Nate: Were those the normal airport pickup buses for the Hilton and the Four Seasons, or were they-

Witness: They were with us the whole time so the hotel and back maybe they were, but I'm not sure. That's how we distinguish which bus was going where.

Nate: It had "Hilton" in the window-

Witness: Yes, and "Four Seasons" in the other window.

Nate: And "Four Seasons" in the other window. Okay. How did you arrange for the visas for Lance, Meeks and Clarke?

Witness: The embassy took care of it. We sent it to Resul.

Nate: Did you have any knowledge of SOCAR's involvement in-

Witness: No.

Nate: The visas? When you were at the convention did you receive any gifts?

Witness: No.

Nate: No rugs in your hotel room?

Witness: Just one suitcase. It was like a small hand-held case. It just had flyers. It had a map. It had a US-Azerbaijan convention pencil and a USB.

Nate: Were you aware of other convention attendees receiving gifts, rugs, tea sets, DVDs and things like that?

Witness: There was little bags but I don't know what people there was like, Azerbaijan. I had the Azerbaijan flag and the U.S. flag and the convention bags, but I don't know what people got.

Nate: Do you remember what color they were?

Witness: It was white. Do you know those gift bags? It was white. It just had the convention, the U.S. and Azerbaijan flag. They already had that outside in the lobby so when people land they would pick it up.

Nate: Do you remember any red bags, maroon-colored bags?

Witness: No.

Nate: Did any of the members that you sponsored on the trip ever ask you, say, "I received this rug in my hotel room," or, "Someone handed me this tea set while I was departing" or anything like that?

Witness: Yes. Congressman Lance's office contacted our office. They said that they received a gift and they were going to send it back, and they gave it back.

Omar: Do you know what it was?

Witness: I'm not sure but I could check the email.

Omar: Who did they give it back to?

Witness: They sent it to our organization.

Omar: To CTAA?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: What did you do with it?

Witness: We sent it back to AFAZ.

Nate: To AFAZ?

Witness: Yeah, to Mr. Kemal.

Nate: Okay, I'm a bit confused now. Maybe you can help me understand. When we started this interview you said you didn't know about AFAZ until 2013.

Witness: Not to AFAZ but to Kemal Oksuz at the time so that's where it came out of my mouth as AFAZ.

Omar: Let me ask, where did Representative Lance's office contact you?

Witness: When we returned, I think a week after.

Omar: You don't know what object it was?

Witness: I could check. It was probably a rug.

Nate: Did you contact Kemal or Resul or anyone with the Turquoise Council and ask them where this is from, say "Lance received this gift. He wants to return it. Where do I send it"?

Witness: Yeah, I spoke to Resul.

Nate: What did Resul say? Did he say it was from the Turquoise Council?

Witness: No. I just said, "Congressman Lance wants to send this back. Where do you want me to send it"?

Nate: What did he say?

Witness: "To our office."

Nate: Okay. You didn't have any conversation about who had donated the gift?

Witness: No. I was just told that he received a gift while he was at the hotel and he wants to know how much it is. If it's over the limit he wants to send it back, and I told him . . . I forgot the amount that he said what it's worth. He said, "I want to send this back because it's over the limits that I accept it or not."

Nate: You initially had a conversation with Resul to see if it was over the limit.

Witness: Yes, because they requested to see how much it's worth.

Nate: Okay, and so then Resul said it's worth however much.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Do you remember what was the nature of the limit? Were they talking about it has to be under, say, $350?

Witness: For the office they said it has to be very small, I think $45 or something like $25.

Omar: Do you know how much the rug was worth?

Witness: I'm not sure but I think 10-something, $10,000.

Omar: Ten thousand dollars?

Witness: Yeah, or maybe more. I'm not sure.

Nate: Did it surprise you at all that there was a large dollar amount rug provided to at least some of the attendees at the convention? When Lance called you up and said, "I received this rug at the convention," did that surprise you in any way?

Witness: In Turkish culture, giving a gift is a culture but I was surprised when I found out the amount. It was expensive.

Nate: Was it surprising . . . Did you have any sense about who might provide a gift like that during the convention? What organization might provide gifts like that?

Witness: No. They were meeting with a lot of people in Azerbaijan. They were meeting with businessmen, electoral officials. Mr. Furkan was actually with Congressman Lance, Meeks, and Clarke. I'm not sure who gave him the gift. Maybe they gave it and he accepted it at that time because he didn't want to be disrespectful, but when he came back he asked for how much it is.

Omar: Who do you think gave him the gift?

Witness: It could be anyone, but I don't know.

Omar: Everything we have seen, nothing suggests that the Turquoise Council or AFAZ had enough money to be giving out $10,000 rugs, so where do you think the rug came from?

Witness: I don't think the Turquoise Council gave the gifts. It was probably one of the people that they met with because when I asked what it is, it was something that was made in Azerbaijan. I'm assuming it was probably one of the businessmen that they met when they were having their meetings.

Omar: Representative Lance did send the rug back to you?

Witness: Yes.

Omar: Okay, and you did return it to Resul?

Witness: Yes.

Nate: When you had your initial conversations with Resul about whether or not it was over the amount, did Lance's say depending on who it's from the amount might be this, or if it's from someone else it might be this, so we need to know who it's from?

Witness: No. His staff member said he received a gift. Can you find out how much it is. If it is over the limit, we can't accept it or we have to pay for it? When I told them how much it is he says, "We're going to return this back."

Nate: When you reached out to Resul, you were just focused on whatever the dollar amount was to figure out and let them decide?

Witness: Yeah, if they could accept it or not.

Omar: Let me a little more direct. Did anything . . . Your conversation with Lance suggests that they thought that it was from the government of Azerbaijan?

Witness: No. They didn't ask me who the rug was from because I guess he knew who gave it to him.

Omar: Okay.

Witness: The only thing he asked me was, "He received a gift. Do you know how much it's worth?" and I said, "Let me check," and I asked.

Omar: Was that the only gift he referenced?

Witness: We also gave his wife an earring, in Turkey but not in Azerbaijan.

Omar: Did he . . .

Witness: Yeah, he paid that back to our organization.

Omar: He did?

Witness: Yes. I think it was $50 or $60. He wrote us a check Congressman Lance's office.

Nate: No discussion of tea sets, silk scarves ...

Witness: No, just the earring and the rug.

Nate: With any of these other organizations, have you talked to anyone recently about the convention outside of ... Obviously within the council itself we understand you had conversations with Bahri about the outstanding balance. Have you had conversations with anyone else?

Witness: Recently?

Nate: Yeah in the last three, four months.

Witness: After you guys requested information just with Mr. Furkan Kosar.

Nate: Okay. No contact from Kemal or anyone else, or Resul?

Witness: No. I had seen Resul at our last event in D.C. but just hi, hi, not in the convention.

Nate: Just checking our notes to make sure that we're done with some of the questions we have ... This was in August and September. Did you reach out to the members who had traveled to this convention about drafting a letter and putting together a video message for the president of Azerbaijan?

Witness: Video or letter?

Nate: Either. I think they suggested either.

Witness: Yes.

Nate: How did that conversation begin, to decide to reach out?

Witness: Mr. Furkan Kosar.

Nate: Did he say why he wanted to put this together?

Witness: He said we had the convention. A lot of members we met took the trip and he said we were thinking about doing something like this, so he sent some email requesting if they could do something like this.

Nate: He asked you to send emails to see if-

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Did he talk about coordinating with the sister federations to get these messages over there or anything like that?

Witness: No.

Nate: What kind of conversations did you have with each of the offices about putting them together? Was there any emails?

Witness: I told them . . . One of the members, I forgot which member, he actually had a letter that he already sent that Mr. Kosar gave me, so I sent them as a reference that he could use.

Nate: Do you know where he got those letters?

Witness: No.

Nate: Did he ever say, "These letters are from . . ."?

Witness: No. He just said there is already a member who actually sent the letter.

Nate: Once you got letters or video messages back from the members, what did you do with them?

Witness: I guess he sent them to the president. That's what it was for.

Nate: It was your understanding that Mr. Kosar sent them directly to some official in the Azerbaijani government.

Witness: To most likely the ambassador, I'm assuming.

Nate: Okay. Would it surprise you at all if he told us that he sent them to Kemal?

Witness: They are close so it won't surprise me but-

Nate: Kosar and Kemal are close?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Okay. Close in they work together on projects, close in that they were friends before getting involved in these organizations?

Witness: No, work together because for a year they were in the same board meetings in D.C.

Nate: What was Kemal's relationship with the Azerbaijani government during the convention? Did you get any sense of how close he was with people in the Azerbaijani government?

Witness: No. The convention was packed. There was a lot of people. He was speaking with a lot of people. I don't know who was working where or who they are, so I cannot say anything.

Nate: Okay. I want to make sure I understand, you didn't think that AFAZ was at all involved in organizing the 2013 convention.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate: Okay, even though they were listed as organizers on the website.

Witness: From the convention there was the Turquoise logo everywhere but AFAZ ...

Nate: Was it next to the Turquoise Council?

Witness: Not that I remember. Like I said, AFAZ took over hosting the convention last year while in D.C. That's when I got familiar with it. Maybe it was there. Maybe it was just . . . I didn't know what it was. Maybe it didn't track my idea of it.

Nate: Okay. Similar to the letter to the president, I think beforehand you had asked members to bring a certificate of recognition to the event. Do you remember that?

Witness: Yes.

Nate: In that certificate of recognition you asked them to recognize CTAA, TCAE and AFAZ. Does that sound familiar?

Witness: For the video message?

Nate: No. Prior to going to the convention, you had asked members of Congress to bring a certificate of recognition thanking the people who-

Witness: Yes. I remember Resul gave us a sample but I don't remember the text.

Nate: You don't remember them describing AFAZ as one of the organizations to be thanked?

Witness: No I don't remember, because they brought it in a little envelope and they gave it to the ambassador at the welcome reception of the convention, but it wasn't read out loud.

Nate: In terms of beforehand so when you were saying it would be great if you could bring a certificate of recognition. We would like you to recognize obviously CTAA responsible for your travel, TCAE they are helping you organize the connection, but there was also AFAZ that was listed as an organizer. You don't remember seeing it?

Witness: I don't remember.

Nate: You don't remember following up with the Turquoise Council and getting more information about AFAZ and then sending that information on to members?

Witness: I remember reading it, skimming through it, and then I sent it to the office. They were asking for this information. "Would you guys be interested in doing this?" and they said, "Okay," but I don't remember AFAZ included in that letter.

Nate: Do you remember any of them asking you about each of the organizations and asking why they wanted the certificate of recognition to include AFAZ?

Witness: No, they didn't. They didn't ask.

Nate: I think you've answered all my questions. Do you have any questions?

Omar: No.

Nate: Okay, thank you. Let's stop there.

EXHIBIT 24

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF SOCAR LEGAL COUNSEL 2

4/13/2015

Solis: This is Deputy Chief Counsel, Paul Solis with the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by Omar Ashmawy, John Missner, Ed Myers, and SOCAR Legal Counsel 2. It is April 13th, 2015. Witness has signed an acknowledgement that I provided him a copy of 18 USC 1001. We can begin our interview. Is it okay if I call you SOCAR Legal Counsel 2?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Okay. Witness, where are you currently employed?

Witness: I'm currently employed at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I'll call it SOCAR from here on out.

Solis: I'll ask you to speak up as best you can.

Witness: Okay.

Solis: Because we're recording. Thank you.

Witness: I'm an in-house legal counsel. I've been employed at SOCAR since September 2012.

Solis: What are some of your duties there?

Witness: I provide legal support for international projects of SOCAR, mainly in Europe. We deal with oil and gas projects. My main expertise is in natural gas sector.

Solis: Okay. Who do you report to?

Witness: We have a legal department as an umbrella, a tree that we report through. Obviously then the president, the legal department reports to the president directly.

Solis: You said you deal with international projects?

Witness: Correct.

Solis: This convention of 2013, in May of 2013 that took place in Baku, do you recall that convention?

Witness: In 2013? I was not personally involved in that, but obviously since then I've familiarized myself with that.

Solis: Is that the type of thing that you would cover in, that would fall into the category of international projects?

Witness: Yeah. It's a broad spectrum of activities. It's probably peripheral to what we do in the legal department.

Solis: Have you taken part in, in anyway in your duties at SOCAR, other convention financing, planning, sponsorship, or anything?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Like that?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Have you taken part in ...

Witness: Yeah, we have actually. One was in Turkey, one was in the UK, a similar type of engagement. I think in 2014, a similar convention in D.C, we've had sponsorship as well of that event.

Solis: Why don't you tell me what your role was then, in May 2013 convention at Baku? What did you do?

Witness: Yeah. Back then, actually, it was not very extensive, it was very limited. We were charged with drafting the agreement based on the template that was approved internally that would allow us to give funding to AFAZ, one of the non-profit organizations that is established in the state of Texas.

Solis: Okay. What is AFAZ?

Witness: AFAZ is, like I said, a non-profit organization primarily established to strengthen the relationship between the two countries, the United States and Azerbaijan and to do anything that would serve that mission, from educational visits and trips, any humanitarian, social projects, and conventions is obviously one of them.

Solis: Did you take part in AFAZ's creation or formation?

Witness: Yeah, I was part actually was helping one of the legal counsel in the state of Texas with the drafting of their organizational documents.

Solis: Who is the legal counsel in the state of Texas?

Witness: If I remember correctly it was Erin. I'll have to double check on that.

Solis: Was it a law firm?

Witness: No, it was, I think, a sole practitioner.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: She was dealing with non-profits, drafting the organizational documents.

Solis: Okay. Do you know if AFAZ is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3)?

Witness: No, it's not. It's registered under 501(c)(6). It's a business linked type of entity.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: It fosters the business type of interest of the broader, I guess, interests.

Solis: Do you know if it files Form 990s with the IRS?

Witness: To my knowledge, yes, they do.

Solis: Okay. If you took part in the creation, the formation of AFAZ, you'd be a good person to ask what was the background on it. I'll wait for the train to go by. When was it formed? When was AFAZ created?

Witness: If I'm not mistaken it was the end of 2013, actually, that we drafted the documents and I think it was filed the end of 2013.

Solis: The end of 2013. You talked a little bit about its mission. What's the organizational structure of AFAZ?

Witness: The structure, at least originally, was planned to have members that would contribute their annual dues or membership dues to AFAZ or donations of a similar kind. The organizational structure, the primary governing structure is the board of directors, and it consists of six members, which the number can go up and then down.

Solis: SOCAR is the sole entity who created AFAZ? There wasn't anybody else who had a role in it?

Witness: Yes, correct. It is the only one. Initially they tried to expand the members, not as the founding members, maybe as regular members to have a board of the organization.

Solis: Okay. So there's a governing board.

Witness: Correct.

Solis: How are those board members selected?

Witness: The board of directors, it was pretty much given to SOCAR that it will have to select the number of directors. At that point I think it was decided will it have six. I think it was our committee, internal, approving the structure of it and the composition, who will fill what roles.

Male: What committee is that?

Witness: We call it Sponsorship Social Committee, it's an internal committee dealing with any type of our engagement in non-profits, even in broader context social projects.

Solis: Other than just the number of board members, I'm asking about the specific people, like who actually was selected, how were they selected.

Witness: Yeah, like I said, they were provided by the committee itself, that those people will be attributed to AFAZ.

Solis: Other than those board members, is there anybody that's an employee there?

Witness: That was not known to me back then, but since we were here we are doing some auditing and we've actually encountered that there have been some employee agreements signed with AFAZ.

Solis: Who took part in those employment agreements [crosstalk 00:07:20]?

Witness: To the best of my knowledge it was Kemal Oksuz and may have been one or two staff members, but their application may have been still pending to get their visa approvals.

Solis: Do you know if Kemal Oksuz is still employed with AFAZ?

Witness: Yes. To the best of my knowledge he is still employed.

Solis: Does he draw a salary?

Witness: To the best of my knowledge, yeah, he does.

Solis: How does AFAZ get its funding to continue and to operate?

Witness: The initial plan was to operate under ... They would get annual dues from the members, initially with SOCAR, but the plan was to expand them, to have more regular members and then they would operate under that, either get grants or aids or donation.

Solis: At this point, though, there are no other members besides SOCAR?

Witness: Correct.

Solis: So at this point the funding plan is for SOCAR to provide money to AFAZ.

Witness: Correct, they [inaudible] yeah.

Solis: Okay, and that's still ongoing to date?

Witness: To date, yes.

Solis: Okay. Does SOCAR give AFAZ yearly amounts of money or by project? How does that work?

Witness: The organizational structure, or the by-laws require annual dues to be given by the members, but so far, as far as I know, the only one donation that was given was back in 2013.

Solis: And that is for the convention?

Witness: Yeah, it was for the convention.

Solis: Okay, that total is?

Witness: It was in the amount of 750,000.

Solis: Okay. Do you know what The Turquoise Council is?

Witness: I did not know, obviously, back in 2013, but from our document recollection, as I mentioned to you, I think they were one of another non-profit that actually organized the convention.

Solis: Okay. Do you know who is the president of that organization?

Witness: Again back from the document recollection, it was Kemal Oksuz to my knowledge.

Solis: Do you know if there's any relation between AFAZ and the Turquoise Council besides Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Male: During your review ... You said you were doing some audits?

Witness: Correct and it's still ongoing.

Male: Were those audits also into the accounting practices of AFAZ?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Male: Have you seen evidence of a single, shared bank account between the Turquoise Council and AFAZ?

Witness: It's actually done by our financial guy and it's still pending, he's doing that simultaneously. Not that I have seen it. We were just checking the corporate structure and the resolutions.

Solis: If we could show you this.

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: I think this is what you were referring to earlier. This the agreement, SOCAR 1 through 5, it's the Bates number. Have you seen this agreement?

Witness: Yeah, I was the person actually drafting this.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: We have a template approved by the internal as a policy, but then you actually customize it for your ...

Solis: The language that's used throughout this agreement is not, you didn't create it just for AFAZ?

Witness: No, it's a template agreement we use in similar undertakings, we have for other social projects, like I said, in Turkey and the UK.

Solis: We spoke a little bit with Eldar and he talked about some of the differences between a sponsorship agreement or a grant agreement and how SOCAR treats different types of expenditures for their social projects. Is this a sponsorship agreement?

Witness: It is called a sponsorship agreement. As I think our law understands or at least according to applicable legislation of Azerbaijan this would be considered a sponsorship because it's earmarked to a certain event, in this case with the US-Azerbaijan Convention. Grant would be more of a non-earmarked, general donation to a non-profit.

Solis: Okay. I see. I see. So the thing to take away about that would be that this is event specific.

Witness: Correct.

Solis: ... about the convention as opposed to something where you're just giving to an organization and they're operating with those funds how they choose under their discretion.

Witness: Originally we have received the letter asking for a specific type of assistance for this convention so we acted based on that letter that they want a lump sum amount to do their business.

Solis: Okay. I just want to draw your attention to the very bottom, there.

Witness: Yeah, 212?

Solis: Yeah. 1.2, "The funding shall cover accommodation, traveling, expenses, venue rental, and all other related expenses and fees." Given that this is template language that you've used before in other sponsorship agreements, what does accommodation mean when you use it in this context?

Witness: We try to be as broad ... Again it's a template agreement to use for different types of events, but usually we limit it to the discretion of the event organizer to come up with whatever they need, what fees they will cover. They provide that usually as part of appendix or a different schedule and we give them a lump sum at their own discretion of how to be spent, rental of venues or hotel accommodation.

Solis: Okay. The same with traveling expenses?

Witness: Correct, yeah.

Solis: It's up to AFAZ to decide what that means?

Witness: We usually just give a lump sum of money to a specific entity and then it will be up to them how to disburse that and they will decide ...

Solis: Did you know personally at this time what types of things AFAZ would be doing to meet some of these terms as far as accommodation and traveling expenses? Did you know if they would be buying airfare for people or buying hotels for people?

Witness: No, I did not know. They just provided a broad category and we went with that.

Solis: Okay. Did SOCAR expend any other funds beyond this $750,000 that you've come across?

Witness: Not to my knowledge. We have an internal policy that we usually submit one lump sum payment to an entity, then they'll disburse that. The sum is large compared to others so we did not anticipate to actually use a different, additional sources of funds for other purposes.

Solis: Okay.

Ashmawy: I'm sorry, how did you characterize this amount of money?

Witness: A lump sum of money.

Ashmawy: Yeah, you say it's very large ...

Witness: Yeah.

Ashmawy: ... in comparison to other sponsorships.

Witness: It is. Yeah.

Solis: Specifically now that you've ... You've taken part in the review of these documents in giving them to our office and you've come to understand a little bit more about what transpired, right?

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Is that a fair ...

Witness: I think that's fair.

Solis: ... characterization? What about hotels for conference convention attendees? Do you know if SOCAR paid any amount of money for hotel expenses?

Witness: Even back then, even during our re-submission of documents to you guys, we have not seen any evidence indicating that, although we were being warned

internally there may have been contracts with different hotels for different arraignments we had at that time. One of them I think was the Republic Day that is usually celebrated on the 28th of May, then another was the Oil and Gas Exhibit that happened in June, it happens yearly.

Solis: Did you attend the convention?

Witness: No, I did not.

Solis: Okay. I'm going to show you a document here. It is numbered SOCAR 377 to 378. You are not on the first couple of emails at the bottom, but you'll see you're mentioned in this May 8th email from Mammad Nazaraliyev to Kemal Oksuz. Do you see that?

Witness: Yeah, I see that second one, 8-37.

Solis: It says, "Please also try at your earliest convenience to sign and return back the agreement AFAZ sent earlier to you by my colleague, Witness Witness. We won't be able to transfer these sums without such an agreement." Do you know what Mammad is referring to?

Witness: He's referring to the agreement you supplied to us earlier, the sponsorship agreement, May 6th, 2013.

Solis: By saying, "We won't be able to transfer these sums without such an agreement," is he referring to that 750,000?

Witness: Correct. It's internal banking regulation, you have to have a contractual arrangement or agreement to wire any money internally or abroad.

Solis: That's an Azerbaijani regulation?

Witness: In this bank, yeah.

Solis: Okay. Legislated by the government? Or is that an internal, SOCAR regulation?

Witness: No, that's not, that's actually internal banking ... There's a banking governing body that regulates that matter and that's their own, internal policies.

Solis: The next email you are CCed on that, right?

Witness: Which one?

Solis: Above.

Witness: Above, yes.

Solis: From Kemal Oksuz to Mammad you're CCed. It says, "Attached are the signed agreements are the signed agreements, sealed invoice. Please let me know if these are fine, anything else I'm supposed to do." Do you recall receiving that attachment of the agreement from Kemal?

Witness: The attachment? You're referring to?

Solis: Attached are the signed agreement and sealed invoice.

Witness: Yeah, yeah, we have received that.

Solis: Okay. Sealed invoice, do you know what that refers to?

Witness: I think what he's trying to refer to ... because in Azerbaijan you can't just blankly show an invoice that is not signed and sealed to make a payment so that's why we have requested him actually to sign and seal it, that's what he means by that.

Male: Is that invoice represented in the document production to our office?

Witness: Yeah, I think so.

Male: Is that the attachment, is that the last page of the agreement?

Witness: That's the attachment. I think we also had an invoice. I'm not sure how it was appended to the agreement, but we have provided that.

Male: We pulled it out, I think, in the first interview.

Solis: Yeah, I know there is an invoice, that might be that one, but I do think we have received that invoice.

Missner: Yeah, I know you definitely have.

Solis: Okay. The money was then, after this series of communications with Mr. Oksuz the money was then transferred to AFAZ?

Witness: It was, yeah.

Solis: Okay. Did you actually take part in that transfer of funds?

Witness: Actually that was what I was going to say. We have not even confirmed the receipt of that funds by Kemal, but during our submission to you of the

documents we actually got the bank payment order, and at that point we've actually confirmed that it was wired.

Solis: Okay. I want to be clear. At the time, and then during the convention and after 2013 you had not yet known whether or not AFAZ received that sum of money?

Witness: It's a standard practice at our company to have the agreement signed or have it facilitated to be signed by our department and then provide all of the documents to the accounting department, at that point we lose track of if it's actually been wired or paid until there's an email asking for the confirmation if that has been wired or not.

Solis: I think actually we've seen the, it's the International Bank ...

Witness: Correct.

Solis: ... at the top there. We had spoken about that earlier, Jon and I had, that confirmed the actual transfer of funds.

Witness: Correct.

Solis: Do you know what bank AFAZ uses?

Witness: To the best of my knowledge it's Wells Fargo.

Solis: Other than these series of emails here, had you heard anything from Kemal Oksuz either in person or over the phone or email about the money getting to AFAZ? Did he say anything about it? Whether it was enough or he wanted more?

Witness: No, we have not received anything other than that.

Solis: Are you familiar with the categories of sponsorship at the convention? It's silver, gold designation, things like that?

Witness: I have a vague understanding.

Solis: Did you take part in the creation ...

Witness: No, I did not.

Solis: ... of those categories?

Witness: No, I was not ...

Solis: What can you tell me about the categories?

Witness: To the best of my knowledge they were categorized, there is a gold member, maybe silver member, different for the amount given to the event organizer. If I'm not mistaken the maximum amount for the gold member is 50,000 and silver 25 or 10,000, something in that range.

Solis: Where is the money, in those categories, who is that going to?

Witness: That goes to the event organizers.

Solis: Okay. So that would go to Turquoise Council and AFAZ?

Witness: AFAZ.

Solis: Is there any distinction about who gets what? Whether or not a sponsor would decide to give money to Turquoise Council as opposed to AFAZ?

Witness: It depends on the letter we sent to different sponsors or different categories of sponsors asking to which type of entity to transfer the funds.

Solis: Okay. So SOCAR would send a letter to, for example, ConocoPhillips requesting that funds be expended to either AFAZ or Turquoise Council for sponsorship purposes?

Witness: Correct. To the best of my knowledge it was just to AFAZ, not to Turquoise Council. It's actually normal practice in us to ... We have about 50 joint ventures or more, affiliated companies. Once we have big type of events we try to pull them in and see who is profitable, who can actually afford sponsoring such events, and then send out the courtesy letter, if they can share some of the burden.

Ashmawy: Through your review can you confirm that SOCAR in fact asked ConocoPhillips for sponsorship on the convention?

Witness: Yeah, I've seen their email going to one of the representatives, I think, of ConocoPhillips asking for their financial assistance.

Solis: Also through your review would you be able to confirm whether or not SOCAR asked all of the corporate sponsors whether they would contribute or not?

Witness: I can't really attest to each of them, but I know that there's at least six or seven entities. I think a mass email on an individual basis was sent to them, having similar content.

Ashmawy: Can you more generally explain why the request for sponsorship is coming from SOCAR, but then they're getting invoiced by AFAZ or TCAE?

Witness: Again to make a payment, like I was saying earlier, the invoice has to come from a direct beneficiary of the amount. In this case it would be AFAZ or a different even organizer.

Solis: AFAZ and Turquoise Council are out there saying, "We're the organizer of the convention," and they're requesting funds of you, that makes sense to me, I suppose. Why then is SOCAR asking funds of BP, Conoco, and other conference sponsors?

Witness: Like I said earlier, we do partner with them on different many ventures. When we have big events of such type we usually send out courtesy emails or mails to see if they can contribute to that.

Solis: Are you then asking TCAE and AFAZ to send an additional letter to confirm that, asking for the funds?

Witness: No, not to my knowledge. It's just one letter and then if they are interested then they get in touch with the proper entity.

Solis: With the proper entity, what do you mean by that?

Witness: You said TCAE, but it's in this case with AFAZ because we were asking to donate to AFAZ.

Ashmawy: Would it surprise you if there were communications from the sponsors that conflated AFAZ and TCAE?

Witness: Yeah, that would surprise me because they're separate entities, although chaired by the same person. There is distinct legal personalities of those two.

Solis: Are you aware if Turquoise Council, TCAE has any other employees besides Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: No, I do not know that.

Solis: Did you ever interact with anybody or through your audit do you know if SOCAR interacted with any other employee of Turquoise Council?

Witness: I do not have sufficient information to answer that.

Solis: Okay. Do you know what Practical Solutions Group is?

Witness: It is our general service provider for different multitude activities that we are engaged in. Usually it's service type of engagements.

Solis: Did they engage in services related to this convention in 2013?

Witness: Yeah, we gave out a specific order for this convention by SOCAR.

Solis: Do you know if they collected a fee for that?

Witness: The fee as in for charge?

Solis: If you put out an order for them and they performed services related to the convention, do you know if they received money for that?

Witness: Even through our recollection or compilation of the documents we have not seen any documents coming from PSG asking for any reimbursement of the actual expenses.

Ashmawy: Okay.

Solis: Okay. What about any funds being transferred from SOCAR to PSG for their services?

Witness: No, we have not received anything up to this point. They usually come up as a deliverable report when they actually are incurred.

Ashmawy: Are you familiar with a SOCAR employee by the name of Rafiq Gurbanzade?

Witness: No. He's a SOCAR employee?

Ashmawy: Yeah. Based on your review or your previous knowledge, could you explain why there seems to be examples of SOCAR employees making requests for sponsorship from organizations like ConocoPhillips or BP or representing themselves as also employees of AFAZ?

Witness: I don't think I'm in a position to answer to that question, what they were thinking about when they were actually sending emails.

Ashmawy: If the solicitation for sponsorship is coming from SOCAR, why not just have the money go to SOCAR?

Witness: Because we, like I said earlier, we have a corporate policy to allocate all of the money from ourselves and from different sponsors to an event organizer and we leave it up to their discretion how to disburse them and not be involved. Our

main focus in oil and gas energy field. It's not to have social projects. As a peripheral we do that, but we do not want to allocate our resources fully to that.

Solis: Do you know if Chevron was a sponsor of the convention?

Witness: I can attest that they were at least one of the entities that we sent an email to, but I'm not sure if they have actually wired money to the event.

Ashmawy: Was the convention essentially a SOCAR event?

Witness: No, I wouldn't say it's a SOCAR event. It's a Republic of Azerbaijan's indeed U.S. bilateral event, trying to illustrate the friendship or the bilateral relation between the countries. SOCAR is one, small piece of that big puzzle.

Solis: Would you call it a government event?

Witness: I would call it the people's event, to commemorate the people of Azerbaijan's and Americans' knowledge of each other.

Ashmawy: What kind of logistical support did SOCAR provide for the convention?

Witness: Besides the actual drafting of the documents and the invoicing we have provided, through my review of the documents, invitation letters to some of the guests that were coming as part of the convention.

Ashmawy: How about logistical arrangements for hotel rooms?

Witness: No, we were not primarily responsible for that.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: That was up to the event organizers ...

Solis: Why then, in the production if you reviewed all the documents you would have seen a long list of spreadsheets generated from SOCAR as far as I can tell with lots of detailed specifics about hotel rooms in it.

Meyers: Paul, do you have that document? The one that you sent was generated by somebody outside of SOCAR. So if you're referring to a different document, I think we'd like to see that because we haven't seen that.

Solis: Yeah, it's part of the production that was given, it was a set of Excel spreadsheets.

Missner: By SOCAR? Is it the one you sent Saturday?

Solis: No, the Bates range I sent to you on Saturday would have been the ones I asked Mr. Zamanov about. I could pull those up. They came as native files. When I searched through the documents the image just says "Native file," then when I go to the TIFF image that we have logged in our concordance database it's a series of 20 to 30 Excel spreadsheets. If you look at them through concordance just based on images you're not going to see them. You actually have to go to the actual big base file to find them. I can tell you that they're there. Do you know if SOCAR developed lists of hotel preferences for attendees and things like that?

Witness: As you correctly pointed out during my review process we have seen some of those email trails but as you've seen yourself it's for informational purposes to give a heads up to SOCAR that if there may be a need for your logistical secondary support for this type of thing, "Please have that in mind. If needed, we'll call on your assistance."

Solis: Who would that information have come from then?

Witness: In this case it would be the event organizer, AFAZ I think.

Solis: So secondary support?

Witness: Yeah, that would be if needed, perhaps greeting certain people.

Ashmawy: More broadly, just to be clear, from your perspective the event organizer was AFAZ, correct?

Witness: Correct.

Ashmawy: Not the Turquoise Council?

Witness: It was co-chaired with other event organizers.

Male: But all the money went to AFAZ?

Witness: From SOCAR's perspective it was AFAZ, correct.

Male: When SOCAR requested sponsorship from other third parties, it's your understanding that that was directed to AFAZ?

Witness: Correct, yes, that is my understanding.

Solis: Do you know what Tursan Travel Corp. is?

Witness: I did not know, actually, back in 2013, but during auditing and the review of the documents we've noticed that it's a travel agency they used.

Solis: That ...

Witness: It was a travel agency. It's a Tursan travel agency.

Solis: Okay. What have you come to understand about it since you've looked at these documents?

Witness: I assume that the event organizers used their services to book some of the flights for the guests.

Solis: Okay. What documents specifically did you look at to have an understanding of what Tursan Travel Corp. is?

Witness: I did not see anything other than that going through my reviews, seeing an invoice coming from that to AFAZ.

Solis: And invoice from Tursan to AFAZ?

Witness: To AFAZ, correct.

Solis: Why would you have that document?

Witness: Because, like I said earlier, we were going through the auditing of AFAZ and that came about.

Ashmawy: This might be a simple question actually. How were you given access to AFAZ documents for the purpose of the audit?

Witness: We have actually contacted the AFAZ representatives and their lawyers to make their records available at their law offices in D.C.

Solis: Okay. Is that Caplin & Drysdale?

Witness: It is, to me I think it's Caplin & Drysdale.

Solis: Okay. Did you actually get to talk to Kemal Oksuz about this?

Witness: No, I have not.

Solis: Do you know if anybody at SOCAR has been able to talk to Kemal Oksuz about our review?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Solis: So you personally were at Caplin & Drysdale's offices.

Witness: I was.

Solis: ... reviewing documents related to AFAZ.

Witness: Correct.

Solis: In that review you saw an invoice from Tursan Travel?

Witness: To AFAZ, yes.

Solis: Do you recall how much that invoice was for?

Witness: That would have been roughly 350,000 or something in that range.

Male: In your review of those documents did you see any evidence of AFAZ paying for hotel rooms?

Witness: No, I did not see them, not that I recall.

Solis: Also in that review did you come across anything related to AFAZ's financials?

Witness: No, I did not ...

Solis: Their bank account or anything like that?

Witness: I was just focusing on the corporate structure and their work resolutions if they had any. I left to our financial analysis to go through the financial statements.

Solis: Did you overhear any discussion by the financial analysis or by anybody there when you were at AFAZ's lawyer's offices? Did you hear anybody talk about whether or not they shared a bank account with Turquoise Council?

Witness: No, I did not.

Solis: Do you know who Rauf Mammadov is?

Witness: Yeah, he's our representative of SOCAR is the U.S.

Solis: Does he have a position at AFAZ?

Witness: Yeah, he does. He's a treasurer, a current treasurer.

Solis: Okay. Has Rauf talked to you at all, either back in 2013 all the way up until today, about AFAZ's expenditures related to the convention?

Witness: No, he has not provided anything.

Solis: Okay. What about during your review of the documents? Do you know what part he might have played in the expenditure of money from AFAZ for the convention?

Witness: I've just seen one resolution that was circulated around, but that did not go into the substance of what you're asking, if there has been any approval of the disbursement.

Solis: It was a resolution by the board of AFAZ?

Witness: By the board of AFAZ.

Solis: For what?

Witness: It was to adopt the by-laws and appoint the first members of the board of directors. Another point was, I think, who's authorized to sign, in the name of AFAZ, all financial instruments.

Solis: When would that have occurred?

Witness: That was, to the best of my recollection, in April of '14.

Solis: April of ...

Witness: In 2014.

Solis: 2014.

Witness: Yeah, the resolution you're talking about.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: The minutes, the minutes of that meeting.

Solis: The minutes.

Witness: Yeah, the minutes of the meeting I think were adopted later on.

Solis: So what was AFAZ in 2013, leading up to the convention, if the documents related to its creation were in 2014?

Witness: You're saying that ... I may have misspoke.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: It was in 2012 that they have been incorporated.

Solis: Okay.

Witness: In April of 2013 it was actually the board resolution we were referring to.

Solis: Okay, 2013.

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Okay.

Male: A month before the conference?

Witness: A month, yes, April and the conference was in May, correct.

Solis: Was the resolution simply about the creation of the board or did you see anything about expenditures related to the convention?

Witness: No, I did not see any expenditures specific to this convention.

Solis: Okay. Do you know if there were any gifts provided at this convention to attendees?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Male: Did you see any evidence in your review of documents that AFAZ expended money to purchase gifts for attendees?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Male: Specifically rugs from Azerbaijan?

Witness: Hm-mmm (negative)

Ashmawy: I think that may have been a non-verbal. That was a no, correct?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Ashmawy: Not to your knowledge.

Witness: Yeah.

Solis: Do you know what the Turkish American Federation of the Midwest is?

Witness: No, I do not.

Solis: Have you ever heard of it?

Witness: I assume it's one of the even organizers.

Solis: Why do you assume that?

Witness: Because you're asking [inaudible].

Solis: Okay. The Council of Turkic American Associations?

Witness: The same; no, I do not have any information.

Solis: Okay. Through your review to prepare documents for our office and meet with us did you ever come across the Turkic American Federation of the Midwest or Council of Turkic American Associations?

Witness: Neither of those.

Solis: Are you generally aware, based on internet searching or anything like that, about whether or not these entities had a role in the convention?

Witness: I know that there have been four to five event organizers and then I assume one or two of them were these entities.

Solis: Okay. How do you know that there's been four to five event organizers?

Witness: I think that was in the press.

Solis: Okay. Alright. I think that's all we have for you.

Witness: Thank you for your time.

Solis: Thank you very much.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
3	27	Remove "was part"	Redundant
4	22-23	Replace "and then" with "or"	Not the proper sequence
4	27	should say "on board"	Confusing → meaning as part of the organization (large)
9	15-16	Mischaracterization of what has been said in line 9	
9	17-18	Reference is to other sponsorships for this event	
15	17	Misleading question	Rafig not a SOCAR employee
16	21-22	the spreadsheets weren't	generated by SOCAR
19	25	should say "in the US"	a grammatical error
7	20	"for your needs"	a complete statement

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 04/20/2015

EXHIBIT 25

efile GRAPHIC print - DO NOT PROCESS | As Filed Data - | DLN: 93493315015184

Form **990**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter Social Security numbers on this form as it may be made public By law, the IRS generally cannot redact the information on the form

▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at *www.IRS.gov/form990*

OMB No 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2013 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2013 , 2013, and ending 12-31-2013

B Check if applicable
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Name change
- ☐ Initial return
- ☐ Terminated
- ☐ Amended return
- ☐ Application pending

C Name of organization
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Doing Business As

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) | Room/suite
2700 POST OAK BLVD

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
HOUSTON, TX 77056

D Employer identification number
27-0232323

E Telephone number
(713)622-9200

G Gross receipts $ 2,444,912

F Name and address of principal officer
KEMAL OKSUZ
2700 POST AOK BLVD STE 1750
HOUSTON,TX 77056

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☑ No

H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

H(c) Group exemption number ▶

I Tax-exempt status ☑ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) ( ) ◀ (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527

J Website: ▶ TCAE ORG

K Form of organization ☑ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶

L Year of formation 2009

M State of legal domicile TX

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities
THE ORGANIZATION IS COMMITTTED TO ADVANCING THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, ACADEMIC, BUSINESS, AND FINE ARTS RELATIONS BETWEEN AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

2 Check this box ▶☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

Activities & Governance

3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	**3**	5
4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	**4**	0
5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2013 (Part V, line 2a)	**5**	4
6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	**6**	5
7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	**7a**	0
b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	**7b**	

		Prior Year	Current Year
8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	76,720	3,500
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	3,219,252	2,441,412
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)		0
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		0
12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	3,295,972	2,444,912
13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	15,000	20,000
14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		0
15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	8,879	59,310
16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		0
b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶0		
17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	3,163,984	2,186,905
18	Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	3,187,863	2,266,215
19	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	108,109	178,697

Revenue

Expenses

		Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	426,383	694,410
21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	316,628	405,958
22	Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	109,755	288,452

Net Assets or Fund Balances

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of prepar preparer has any knowledge

Sign Here

******
Signature of officer

KEMAL OKSUZ PRESIDENT
Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name
TU D DO CPA

Preparer's signature

Firm's name ▶ TD Advisor PC

Firm's address ▶ 10623 Bellaire Blvd Ste C-130
Houston, TX 77072

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructio

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

15-7713_00457

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III . . . . . ☑

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission

THE ORGANIZATION IS COMMITTTED TO

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? . . . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? . . . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a (Code) (Expenses $ 1,451,911 including grants of $) (Revenue $ 2,147,112)

US-AZERBAIJAN CONFERENCE WAS HELD TO ADVANCE THE US-AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS AND ALSO STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS BASED ON SHARED INTERESTS AND MUTUAL RESPECT

4b (Code) (Expenses $ 352,213 including grants of $) (Revenue $ 138,900)

THE SILK ROAD FESTIVAL INTRODUCED AMERICANS TO THE ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC BONDS SHARED BY TURKIC NATIONS FROM TURKEY, AZERBAIJAN, TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN AND PROVIDED A UNIQUE INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE THAT CELEBRATED AND COMMEMORATED THE SILK ROAD AS AN ANCIENT MODEL OF GLOBAL TRADE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

4c (Code) (Expenses $ 68,744 including grants of $) (Revenue $ 95,400)

THE TRIPS TO THE TURKIC WORLD SERVED AS A PLATFORM FOR TURKIC AMERICAN ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN TURKIC AMERICANS AND ENCHANCED UNDERSTANDING IN THE US ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF US-TURKIC WORLD RELATIONS

(Code) (Expenses $ 64,562 including grants of $ 20,000) (Revenue $ 60,000)

US-KZ CONVENTION

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses $ 64,562 including grants of $ 20,000) (Revenue $ 60,000)

4e **Total program service expenses** ▶ 1,937,430

15-7713_00458

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

			Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule A*	1	Yes	
2	Is the organization required to complete *Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors* (see instructions)?	2		No
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I*	3		No
4	**Section 501(c)(3) organizations.** Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II*	4		No
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III*	5		No
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I*	6		No
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II*	7		No
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III*	8		No
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV*	9		No
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V*	10		No
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable			
a	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.*	11a	Yes	
b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII*	11b		No
c	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII*	11c		No
d	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX*	11d		No
e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X*	11e		No
f	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X*	11f		No
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII*	12a		No
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? *If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional*	12b		No
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule E*	13		No
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a		No
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than $10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at $100,000 or more? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV*	14b		No
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than $5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV*	15		No
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than $5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV*	16		No
17	Did the organization report a total of more than $15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)*	17		No
18	Did the organization report more than $15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II*	18		No
19	Did the organization report more than $15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III*	19		No
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? *If "Yes," complete Schedule H*	20a		No
b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b		

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules *(continued)*

21	Did the organization report more than $5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II*	**21**	Yes	
22	Did the organization report more than $5,000 of grants or other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III*	**22**		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J*	**23**		No
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than $100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? *If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a*	**24a**		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	**24b**		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	**24c**		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	**24d**		
25a	**Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.** Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I*	**25a**		No
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I*	**25b**		No
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? *If so, complete Schedule L, Part II*	**26**		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III*	**27**		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	**28a**		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	**28b**		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	**28c**		No
29	Did the organization receive more than $25,000 in non-cash contributions? *If "Yes," complete Schedule M*	**29**		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? *If "Yes," complete Schedule M*	**30**		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? *If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I*	**31**		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? *If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II*	**32**		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301 7701-2 and 301 7701-3? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I*	**33**		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1*	**34**		No
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	**35a**		No
b	If 'Yes' to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2*	**35b**		No
36	**Section 501(c)(3) organizations.** Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2*	**36**		
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI*	**37**		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? **Note.** All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	**38**	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V . . . . . ☐

				Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096 Enter -0- if not applicable . .	1a	0		
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c			
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	4		
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? **Note.** If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	2b		Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more during the year? . . .	3a			No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? *If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O* . . .	3b			
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a			No
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶ _____ See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22 1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts				
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year? . .	5a			No
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b			No
c	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c			
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than $100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions? . . .	6a			No
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b			
7	**Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).**				
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of $75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a			No
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b			
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c			No
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d			
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e			No
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? . .	7f			No
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g			
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h			
8	**Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations.** Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8			
9	**Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.**				
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a			
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b			
10	**Section 501(c)(7) organizations.** Enter				
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12 . . .	10a			
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b			
11	**Section 501(c)(12) organizations.** Enter				
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a			
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them)	11b			
12a	**Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.** Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a			
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b			
13	**Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.**				
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? **Note.** See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O	13a			
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans	13b			
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand	13c			
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a			No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? *If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O* . .	14b			

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Part VI **Governance, Management, and Disclosure** *For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.*

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI . . . . . ☑

Section A. Governing Body and Management

				Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	1a	5		
	If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O				
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	1b	0		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2			No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? .	3			No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4			No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? .	5			No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6		Yes	
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a		Yes	
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b		Yes	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following				
a	The governing body?	8a		Yes	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b		Yes	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? *If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O*	9			No

Section B. Policies *(This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)*

			Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes	
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990			
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? *If "No," go to line 13*	12a		No
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b		
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? *If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done*	12c		
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13		No
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14		No
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?			
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a		No
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b		No
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)			
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ▶

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.

☑ Own website ☐ Another's website ☐ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization

▶KEMAL OKSUZ 2700 POST OAK BLVD STE 1750
HOUSTON,TX 77056 (713)622-9200

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors,Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII . . . . . ☐

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than $100,000 from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than $100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than $10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

☑ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) KEMAL OKSUZ PRESIDENT	15 00			X				0	0	0
(2) CEMIL TEBER OFFICER	15 00			X				0	0	0
(3) ALI RIZA CANDIR OFFICER	5 00			X				0	0	0
(4) ATILLA TUNA OFFICER	5 00			X				0	0	0
(5) FERCAN E KALKAN OFFICER	5 00			X				0	0	0

Part VII **Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees** *(continued)*

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
1b **Sub-Total** ▶										
c **Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A** ▶										
d **Total (add lines 1b and 1c)** ▶										

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than $100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization ▶

			Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any **former** officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*	**3**		No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than $150,000? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*	**4**		No
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person*	**5**		No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII . . . . . ☐

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . 1a				
	b	Membership dues 1b				
	c	Fundraising events 1c				
	d	Related organizations . . . 1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions) 1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above 1f 3,500				
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f $				
	h	**Total.** Add lines 1a-1f . . . . . ▶	3,500			
Program Service Revenue		Business Code				
	2a					
	b					
	c					
	d					
	e					
	f	All other program service revenue	2,441,412			
	g	**Total.** Add lines 2a–2f . . . . . ▶	2,441,412			
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . . ▶				
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . . ▶				
	5	Royalties . . . . . ▶				
		(i) Real / (ii) Personal				
	6a	Gross rents				
	b	Less rental expenses				
	c	Rental income or (loss)				
	d	Net rental income or (loss) . . . . . ▶				
		(i) Securities / (ii) Other				
	7a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory				
	b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
	c	Gain or (loss)				
	d	Net gain or (loss) . . . . . ▶				
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including $ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . a				
	b	Less direct expenses . . . b				
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . ▶				
	9a	Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . a				
	b	Less direct expenses . . . b				
	c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . ▶				
	10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . a				
	b	Less cost of goods sold . . b				
	c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . ▶				
		Miscellaneous Revenue / Business Code				
	11a					
	b					
	c					
	d	All other revenue				
	e	**Total.** Add lines 11a–11d . . . . . ▶				
	12	**Total revenue.** See Instructions . . . . . ▶	2,444,912	2,441,412		

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX . . . . . ☐

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States See Part IV, line 21	20,000	20,000		
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees				
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	54,829	0	54,829	0
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits				
10 Payroll taxes	4,481	0	4,481	0
11 Fees for services (non-employees)				
a Management				
b Legal				
c Accounting	9,500	3,000	6,500	0
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)				
12 Advertising and promotion	699	0	699	0
13 Office expenses	1,406	0	1,406	0
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties . .				
16 Occupancy	185,763	0	185,763	0
17 Travel	1,084,051	1,065,539	18,512	0
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	65,044	63,251	1,793	0
23 Insurance	637	0	637	0
24 Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O)				
a BANK CHARGES	2,346	0	2,346	0
b BOOKS AND REFERENCES	671	0	671	0
c TELEPHONE AND INTERNET	8,875	0	8,875	0
d PRINTINGS AND REPRODUCTIONS	6,396	0	6,396	0
e All other expenses	821,517	785,640	35,877	0
25 **Total functional expenses.** Add lines 1 through 24e	2,266,215	1,937,430	328,785	0
26 **Joint costs.** Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation Check here ▶ ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X . . . . . ☐

				(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1	Cash–non-interest-bearing		205,004	1	534,557
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments			2	
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net			3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net			4	
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L			5	
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L			6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net			7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use			8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			9	530
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 232,566			
	b	Less accumulated depreciation	10b 73,243	221,379	10c	159,323
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities			11	
	12	Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11			12	
	13	Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11			13	
	14	Intangible assets			14	
	15	Other assets See Part IV, line 11			15	
	16	**Total assets.** Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		426,383	16	694,410
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		1,628	17	1,458
	18	Grants payable			18	
	19	Deferred revenue			19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities			20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D			21	
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L			22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties			23	
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		315,000	24	404,500
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D			25	
	26	**Total liabilities.** Add lines 17 through 25		316,628	26	405,958
Net Assets or Fund Balances		**Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ▶ ☑ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.**				
	27	Unrestricted net assets		109,755	27	288,452
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets			28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets			29	
		Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ▶ ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.				
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds			30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund			31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds			32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		109,755	33	288,452
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		426,383	34	694,410

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Part XI Reconcilliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI . . . . . ☐

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	2,444,912
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	2,266,215
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	178,697
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	109,755
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	288,452

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII . . . . . ☐

			Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☑ Cash ☐ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O			
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?	2a		No
	If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis			
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	2b		No
	If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis			
c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?	2c		
	If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O			
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?	3a		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits	3b		

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SCHEDULE A (Form 990 or 990EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.** ▶ **See separate instructions.**
▶ **Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at *www.irs.gov/form990*.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Employer identification number
27-0232323

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box)

1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**

2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E)

3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**

4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____

5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II)

6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**

7 ☑ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II)

8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)

9 ☐ An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III)

10 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety See **section 509(a)(4).**

11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h

a ☐ Type I **b** ☐ Type II **c** ☐ Type III - Functionally integrated **d** ☐ Type III - Non-functionally integrated

e ☐ By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2)

f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box ☐

g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

	Yes	No
(i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization? **11g(i)**		
(ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above? **11g(ii)**		
(iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above? **11g(iii)**		

h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s)

(i) Name of supported organization	**(ii)** EIN	**(iii)** Type of organization (described on lines 1 - 9 above or IRC section **(see instructions))**	**(iv)** Is the organization in col **(i)** listed in your governing document?		**(v)** Did you notify the organization in col **(i)** of your support?		**(vi)** Is the organization in col **(i)** organized in the U S ?		**(vii)** Amount of monetary support
			Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	
Total									

Part II **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants ")	500	78,750	61,000	3,295,972	3,500	3,439,722
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 **Total.** Add lines 1 through 3	500	78,750	61,000	3,295,972	3,500	3,439,722
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 **Public support.** Subtract line 5 from line 4						3,439,722

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	500	78,750	61,000	3,295,972	3,500	3,439,722
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						0
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						
11 **Total support** (Add lines 7 through 10)						3,439,722

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions) **12**

13 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** . . . . . ▶☑

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14	Public support percentage for 2013 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	0 %
15	Public support percentage for 2012 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	

16a **33 1/3% support test—2013.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

b **33 1/3% support test—2012.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

17a **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2013.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

b **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

18 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶☐

15-7713_00470

Part III **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)**
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants ")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 **Total.** Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of $5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 **Public support** (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						0

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						
13 **Total support.** (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12)						

14 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ▶☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2013 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	0 %
16 Public support percentage from 2012 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for **2013** (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0 %
18 Investment income percentage from **2012** Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	

19a **33 1/3% support tests—2013.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

b **33 1/3% support tests—2012.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶☐

20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶☐

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test		
Return Reference	Explanation	

15-7713_00472

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SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions. ▶ Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Employer identification number
27-0232323

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

		(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year		
2	Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3	Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4	Aggregate value at end of year		

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)
☐ Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education) ☐ Preservation of an historically important land area
☐ Protection of natural habitat ☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure
☐ Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

		Held at the End of the Year
a	Total number of conservation easements	2a
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ $ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ $ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ $ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ $ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ $ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

- a ☐ Public exhibition
- b ☐ Scholarly research
- c ☐ Preservation for future generations
- d ☐ Loan or exchange programs
- e ☐ Other

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

		Amount
c Beginning balance	1c	
d Additions during the year	1d	
e Distributions during the year	1e	
f Ending balance	1f	

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII . . . . . ☐

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	b (c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

- a Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
- b Permanent endowment ▶
- c Temporarily restricted endowment ▶

The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

		Yes	No
(i) unrelated organizations	3a(i)		
(ii) related organizations	3a(ii)		
b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?	3b		

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		232,566	73,243	159,323
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e *(Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)* ▶				159,323

Part VII **Investments—Other Securities.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
Other		
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 12.)* ▶		

Part VIII **Investments—Program Related.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13.)* ▶		

Part IX **Other Assets.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11d See Form 990, Part X, line 15

(a) Description	(b) Book value
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 15.)* . . . . . ▶	

Part X **Other Liabilities.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1 (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
Federal income taxes	
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25.)* ▶	

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740) Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ☐

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements			1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12				
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a			
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b			
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c			
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d			
e	Add lines **2a** through **2d**			2e	
3	Subtract line **2e** from line **1**			3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line **1**				
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a			
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b			
c	Add lines **4a** and **4b**			4c	
5	Total revenue Add lines **3** and **4c.** (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)			5	

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements			1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25				
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a			
b	Prior year adjustments	2b			
c	Other losses	2c			
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d			
e	Add lines **2a** through **2d**			2e	
3	Subtract line **2e** from line **1**			3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line **1:**				
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a			
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b			
c	Add lines **4a** and **4b**			4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines **3** and **4c.** (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)			5	

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Return Reference	Explanation

15-7713_00476

Part XIII Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

15-7713_00477

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Schedule I (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

▶ **Attach to Form 990**

▶ **Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at *www.irs.gov/form990*.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Employer identification number
27-0232323

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? . . . . . ☑ Yes ☐ No

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than $5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC Code section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) THE JOHN F KENEDY CENTER 2700 F ST NW WASHINGTON, DC 20566	53-0245017		20,000				50TH ANNUAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . . ▶

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . . ▶

15-7713_00478

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 22. Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation

15-7713_00479

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SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.
▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Employer identification number
27-0232323

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Pt VI, Line 6	IT HAS MEMBERS
Pt VI, Line 7a	IT HAS MEMBERS WHO CAN ELECT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS
Pt VI, Line 7b	YES
Pt VI, Line 11b	FORM 990 IS PROVIDED AND REVIEWED BEFORE FILING
Form 990, Part III, Line 4d	US-KZ CONVENTION 64562 20000 60000
Form 990, Part IX, Line 24f	EQUIPMENT RENTAL 80321 80321 0 0 EVENT PRODUCTIONS AND MATERIALS 180886 180886 0 0 CLEANING SERVICE 14567 14567 0 0 MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS 2111 2111 0 0 POSTAGE 2 747 892 1855 0 SECURITY 2784 0 2784 0 SPEECH FEES 497500 497500 0 0 MISCELLANE OUS 40601 9363 31238 0

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Form **4562**
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service (99)

Depreciation and Amortization
(Including Information on Listed Property)

▶ See separate instructions. ▶ Attach to your tax return.

OMB No 1545-0172

2013

Attachment Sequence No **179**

Name(s) shown on return	Business or activity to which this form relates	**Identifying number**
TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS	Form 990 / Form 990EZ	27-0232323

Part I **Election To Expense Certain Property Under Section 179**

Note: *If you have any listed property, complete Part V before you complete Part I.*

1	Maximum amount (see instructions)	1	
2	Total cost of section 179 property placed in service (see instructions)	2	
3	Threshold cost of section 179 property before reduction in limitation (see instructions)	3	$ 2,600,000
4	Reduction in limitation Subtract line 3 from line 2 If zero or less, enter -0-	4	
5	Dollar limitation for tax year Subtract line 4 from line 1 If zero or less, enter -0- If married filing separately, see instructions	5	

6	**(a)** Description of property	**(b)** Cost (business use only)	**(c)** Elected cost

7	Listed property Enter the amount from line 29	7	
8	Total elected cost of section 179 property Add amounts in column (c), lines 6 and 7	8	
9	Tentative deduction Enter the smaller of line 5 or line 8	9	
10	Carryover of disallowed deduction from line 13 of your 2012 Form 4562	10	
11	Business income limitation Enter the smaller of business income (not less than zero) or line 5 (see instructions)	11	
12	Section 179 expense deduction Add lines 9 and 10, but do not enter more than line 11	12	
13	Carryover of disallowed deduction to 2014 Add lines 9 and 10, less line 12 ▶	13	

Note: *Do not use Part II or Part III below for listed property. Instead, use Part V.*

Part II **Special Depreciation Allowance and Other Depreciation (Do not** include listed property **)** (See instructions)

14	Special depreciation allowance for qualified property (other than listed property) placed in service during the tax year (see instructions)	14	1,494
15	Property subject to section 168(f)(1) election	15	
16	Other depreciation (including ACRS)	16	

Part III **MACRS Depreciation (Do not** include listed property.**)** (See instructions.)

Section A

17	MACRS deductions for assets placed in service in tax years beginning before 2013	17	63,251
18	If you are electing to group any assets placed in service during the tax year into one or more general asset accounts, check here ▶ ☐		

Section B—Assets Placed in Service During 2013 Tax Year Using the General Depreciation System

	(a) Classification of property	**(b)** Month and year placed in service	**(c)** Basis for depreciation (business/investment use only—see instructions)	**(d)** Recovery period	**(e)** Convention	**(f)** Method	**(g)** Depreciation deduction
19a	3-year property						
b	5-year property		1,494	5	HY	200 DB	299
c	7-year property						
d	10-year property						
e	15-year property						
f	20-year property						
g	25-year property			25 yrs		S/L	
h	Residential rental property			27 5 yrs	MM	S/L	
				27 5 yrs	MM	S/L	
i	Nonresidential real property			39 yrs	MM	S/L	
					MM	S/L	

Section C—Assets Placed in Service During 2013 Tax Year Using the Alternative Depreciation System

20a	Class life				S/L	
b	12-year		12 yrs		S/L	
c	40-year		40 yrs	MM	S/L	

Part IV **Summary** (see instructions.)

21	Listed property Enter amount from line 28	21	
22	**Total.** Add amounts from line 12, lines 14 through 17, lines 19 and 20 in column (g), and line 21 Enter here and on the appropriate lines of your return Partnerships and S corporations—see instructions	22	65,044
23	For assets shown above and placed in service during the current year, enter the portion of the basis attributable to section 263A costs	23	

Part V **Listed Property** (Include automobiles, certain other vehicles, certain computers, and property used for entertainment, recreation, or amusement.)

Note: *For any vehicle for which you are using the standard mileage rate or deducting lease expense, complete* ***only*** *24a, 24b, columns (a) through (c) of Section A, all of Section B, and Section C if applicable.*

Section A—Depreciation and Other Information (Caution: *See the instructions for limits for passenger automobiles.***)**

24a Do you have evidence to support the business/investment use claimed? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** | **24b** If "Yes," is the evidence written? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

(a) Type of property (list vehicles first)	(b) Date placed in service	(c) Business/ investment use percentage	(d) Cost or other basis	(e) Basis for depreciation (business/investment use only)	(f) Recovery period	(g) Method/ Convention	(h) Depreciation/ deduction	(i) Elected section 179 cost
25 Special depreciation allowance for qualified listed property placed in service during the tax year and used more than 50% in a qualified business use (see instructions)						**25**		
26 Property used more than 50% in a qualified business use								
		%						
		%						
		%						
27 Property used 50% or less in a qualified business use								
		%				S/L -		
		%				S/L -		
		%				S/L -		
28 Add amounts in column (h), lines 25 through 27 Enter here and on line 21, page 1						**28**		
29 Add amounts in column (i), line 26 Enter here and on line 7, page 1							**29**	

Section B—Information on Use of Vehicles

Complete this section for vehicles used by a sole proprietor, partner, or other "more than 5% owner," or related person
If you provided vehicles to your employees, first answer the questions in Section C to see if you meet an exception to completing this section for those vehicles

	(a) Vehicle 1		(b) Vehicle 2		(c) Vehicle 3		(d) Vehicle 4		(e) Vehicle 5		(f) Vehicle 6	
30 Total business/investment miles driven during the year (**do not** include commuting miles)												
31 Total commuting miles driven during the year												
32 Total other personal(noncommuting) miles driven												
33 Total miles driven during the year Add lines 30 through 32												
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
34 Was the vehicle available for personal use during off-duty hours?												
35 Was the vehicle used primarily by a more than 5% owner or related person?												
36 Is another vehicle available for personal use?												

Section C—Questions for Employers Who Provide Vehicles for Use by Their Employees

Answer these questions to determine if you meet an exception to completing Section B for vehicles used by employees who **are not** more than 5% owners or related persons (see instructions)

	Yes	**No**
37 Do you maintain a written policy statement that prohibits all personal use of vehicles, including commuting, by your employees?		
38 Do you maintain a written policy statement that prohibits personal use of vehicles, except commuting, by your employees? See the instructions for vehicles used by corporate officers, directors, or 1% or more owners		
39 Do you treat all use of vehicles by employees as personal use?		
40 Do you provide more than five vehicles to your employees, obtain information from your employees about the use of vehicles, and retain the information received?		
41 Do you meet the requirements concerning qualified automobile demonstration use? (See instructions)		
Note: If your answer to 37, 38, 39, 40, or 41 is "Yes," do not complete Section B for the covered vehicles		

Part VI **Amortization**

(a) Description of costs	(b) Date amortization begins	(c) Amortizable amount	(d) Code section	(e) Amortization period or percentage	(f) Amortization for this year
42 Amortization of costs that begins during your 2013 tax year (see instructions)					
43 Amortization of costs that began before your 2013 tax year				**43**	
44 Total. Add amounts in column (f) See the instructions for where to report				**44**	

15-7713_00482

EXHIBIT 26

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT OF TAA

3/20/2015

MR. MORGAN: This is Bryson Morgan, Investigative Counsel, with the Office of Congressional Ethics accompanied by Omar Ashmawy, Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Office of Congressional Ethics. And it is March 20, 2015 and we are here at the OCE with President of TAA. President of TAA, you know as we explained before the interview began, the federal false statements act applies to everything that we talk about here today and everything you say to us. We just want to make sure – make certain for the record that you understand that the false statements act applies. So first I want to get some background about you. What's your current employment?

WITNESS: I'm the president of the Turkic-American Alliance.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, how long have you been in that position?

WITNESS: Since 2010.

MR. MORGAN: Have you always been president?

WITNESS: Always, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. When did the Turkic-American Alliance – when was it formed?

WITNESS: 2010. I was the founder. I came here in 2009 from Denver then formed this organization. So it was formally found in 2010.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. What brought about its founding?

WITNESS: That was…we have – this is an umbrella organization, nationwide, with over 240 member organizations from Seattle to Miami. And it started like late 90's, mid 90's, late 90's, individual cultural and [indecipherable] organizations in various parts of the world. I was a PhD student then, so we were helping the community, Turkey – Turkish-Americans stand and helping them to get together and do like the celebration, the festivals, to interact with each other you know weekend schools, Turkish schools, cultural schools, things like that. Those are really beginning at that time; then as we go on, then community grew with other communities. We did outreach to mayors, to the media people, to academicians at the universities we worked with the presidents and deans and the provosts and everything.

MR. MORGAN: Which groups fall within the Alliance? Is it an umbrella organization for other associations?

WITNESS: This is umbrella organization for other associations, yes.

MR. MORGAN: What associations fall within that umbrella?

WITNESS: Then after that like then formed the cultural organization, then after that the [indecipherable] organization because of the needs of the society, so we thought we had to reach to other people, other communities, so then the [indecipherable] organization formed. Then after the main organizations, like when the most in the west coast in California, Nevada and Colorado…I know how they form like from in Seattle, the Portland, the Phoenix so they all established organization. Then, there was a need mostly in Los Angeles and Orange County; we were going to organize a festival, the full cultural, the Anatolia festival. So there was a kind of conversation how, "why don't we get together and make a big…form like a federation from Salt Lake and…to Los Angeles and San Diego and then that's how we formed the WATC, West-American Turkic Council and MAFTAA in D.C. and CTAA in New York and TAFS in the Atlanta and TFAC in Chicago and Houston. So we have six federations. Then, there was a need for the another level, broader umbrella organization in the capitol D.C. to oversee all the organizations. That's how the structure – individual organizations and federation and TAA at the top.

MR. MORGAN: Okay so the TAA was formed sort of after the regional organizations were formed?
WITNESS: Yes. Then after that original – answering your questions, not just the dialogue and cultural [indecipherable] business organization, [indecipherable] organization is part of the states. And also like the Turkic because the name is Turkic not just the Turkish meaning Central Asia, Azeri-American, Turkic-American and Kazakh-American, Kirgiz-American organizations; so joined us so…we have about as I said about [inaudible] plus.
MR. MORGAN: What did you do prior to forming the Alliance?
WITNESS: I'm an academician so after I get my PhD I taught the college and university; I was researcher and instructor. Before coming here, I was at the faculty at University of Denver in Engineering Department.
MR. MORGAN: And when did you move to D.C.? Was that in --
WITNESS: 2009.
MR. MORGAN: 2009. Okay. Now I want to talk a little bit about you know the Alliance and how they receive funding. What are its…the Alliance's sources of funding?
WITNESS: We have three sources: donations, membership dues and the convention sponsorship.
MR. MORGAN: And which convention are you referring to?
WITNESS: Turkic-American conventions, annual convention, just finished the 5th annual yesterday.
MR. MORGAN: Is that held here in Washington, D.C.?
WITNESS: It's always in Washington, D.C.
MR. MORGAN: Okay so first, donations. Who are your donors? Which types of --

WITNESS: Individual donors from the individual cities like from Los Angeles to Houston to Chicago to New York, Atlanta… so they… we… ask for donations, you know. We communicate with them during the meetings, mostly Turkish business people so… because they know what we do and they work with their kids and their communities, those kind of things so they're willing to help our organizations so… especially like past couple of days they've seen the huge turnout in Congress, so they were pleased. The community really engaged.
MR. MORGAN: And then you said dues? Are those -- Who pays dues to the Alliance?
WITNESS: The member organization mostly federations.
MR. MORGAN: How much are their dues? Is it monthly? Or is it annually?
WITNESS: It's usually monthly, but some of them are behind. They cannot pay; some are not steady because those are our sister organization so I try to push as much as I can to get them to pay on time but sometimes they are fall behind… sometimes they pay more.
MR. MORGAN: You called them sister organizations. Is there any – what is the legal relationship between the Alliance and those organizations? Are they legally separate or are they for example, under your umbrella for tax purposes?
WITNESS: No, those are completely different. I don't oversee for the filing, the budget personnel, all their individual boards, their chairmans, so what we do… the board, the federation president in my board, so all the federation presidents --
MR. MORGAN: The presidents are on the board of the Alliance?
WITNESS: Yeah in my board. So technically they are basically helping us to you know in that… in the end other board members too.
MR. MORGAN: And you have a… looks like a fairly limited staff, of yourself and then a deputy program director, Kristen Sicarski? Program assistant – about three program assistants?
WITNESS: Yes. We have volunteers like as we did many organizations so we are really depending on many volunteers not full-time employees, but they are helping as... Like myself, I started this with a PhD student, I was helping them after hours things like that…. So yeah depending on that.
MR. MORGAN: So who has the authority to disburse funds from the Alliance?
WITNESS: From TAA?
MR. MOGRAN: Yes.
WITNESS: I'm… authorize to disburse and we have accountant also. Jamshid.
MR. MORGAN: Jamshid?
WITNESS: Yeah… he's in charge of all the finance QuickBooks so…
MR. MORGAN: So he also has the ability to disburse funds?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: Does anybody else have access or control of the bank accounts?
WITNESS: No, no, no.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. And how many bank accounts does TAA have?
WITNESS: Only one.
MR. MORGAN: Just one? Is that the Bank of America account?
WITNESS: Bank of America. Yeah, only. We have savings also, but most mostly checking.
MR. MORGAN: Is that savings account also through Bank of America?
WITNESS: Yes, Bank of America. Yes. TAA Bank of America, yes.
MR. MORGAN: And has that always been the case that you just had the Bank of America account –
WITNESS: Always been the case. No other bank account. The savings account because the owner required for us to like…the security fund for first three months and we open a CBA account or LC credit account, so that's how [inaudible].
MR. MORGAN: Okay. That's helpful. So now I want to ask you some questions about the U.S.-Azerbaijan convention in 2013. Are you familiar with that convention?
WITNESS: Sure. I was there.
MR. MORGAN: You attended?
WITNESS: Mhmm.
MR. MORGAN: What role did TAA play in that convention?
WITNESS: Our role was just to help because our main mission first build relationships, making bridges on the communities, you know Azeri communities, one of the big one there in the United Stations. They have the states here, that's why we like to create a kind of like venue…. To enhance the relationship with the U.S. and Azeri, that's why we have the first U.S.-Azeri convention in D.C. and then was 2013, that was the second U.S.-Azeri convention in Baku. So usually we stagger, one year and one in respective countries take the whoever we have from the United States to bring to those countries to make sure they are…their counterparts go there and make connections for business and cultural and social and educational initiatives.
MR. MORGAN: So that –
WITNESS: So we have time…you know we take some staffers.
MR. MORGAN: Who was the main organizer of the convention in Baku in 2013?
WITNESS: Convention is the…our Houston based federation.
MR. MORGAN: Okay what is the name?
WITNESS: TCAE, Turquoise Council.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. Who runs the Turquoise Council?
WITNESS: Turquoise Council? At that time – right now it's my uh the board member, Bilal actually. But then that was Kemal Oksuz.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
WITNESS: He was the president of TCAE. Turquoise Council.
MR. MORGAN: It appears that Mr. Oksuz was also on your board at one point. Is that correct?

WITNESS: He was on our board, yeah. As I said all the president – so since the beginning I think out of six we had only one or maybe three board presidents still the same. And other people change.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. Whose idea was it to do the convention? I guess, so you said there was the one in Azerbaijan in 2013, in 2012 there was one here in the United States, is that correct? Was the 2012 convention the first?
WITNESS: First one. Yes. Because 2012…we formed in 2010 and we had one convention 2010 and then the second one 2011. So after the 2011, we were discussing how should we help the Turkic countries: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan. So that's idea. The board meeting came up you know, maybe we should come up with kind of meeting to help them in D.C. In D.C. to invite the…the uh…the American…the friendship caucus or American caucus from Azerbaijan to come over here so we are going to introduce them or the delegation to members of Congress here to make sure they are continuing relation because they…usually that's the problem for the embassies, since they are here for a certain amount of year the time, limited period and they come and it takes time to make relationship with the members of Congress and other stakeholders, but since we are kind of permanent here and we are NGO, we always tell them we have a great network so why don't we collaborate and we'll introduce you to your, you know Congress, think-tanks, agencies…
MR. MORGAN: Who's – you know which embassies are you specifically referring to?
WITNESS: Since we are Turkic organization, are immediate emphasis is Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan. Turkic, I mean.
MR. MORGAN: So when you were coming up with the idea for the U.S.-Azerbaijan convention in 2012, were representatives of those embassies or representatives of those governments involved in that conversation?
WITNESS: No.
MR. MORGAN: No?
WITNESS: So usually we try to be very sensitive about the relationships with the embassies and ambassadors because being an NGO that's why…not always endorse policies and you know their agenda so that's why we try to make sure we are independent and just whatever the board decides follow…our own agenda so definitely not involved in our process. That was not their suggestion; we came up with the idea.
MR. MORGAN: So if you all – you came up with the idea, at some point did you loop them into the conversation, the embassies in? Did you let them know about the convention?
WITNESS: Yeah. Because usually at the first we start with the Turkish embassy. So when you take members of Congress or staffer or anybody from here because we are aggressively inviting nationwide people to Turkey not just the federal level, the local level, so time to time they go to the embassy, they ask for the names, they contact us you know we are taking such and such people, you requested that from the president, the

prime minister, so go through us. They said no we don't want to go through you, but time to time depending on the situation, they indirectly involve you know the embassy or maybe ask for Turkish president meeting, they ask embassy what your suggestion is. So indirectly they are involved, eventually involved.

MR. MORGAN: Who was – so obviously this U.S.-Azerbaijan convention cost some money, like a lot of money, who was involved in funding? Let's start in 2012 or when the idea came up, were there any conversations about who might be willing to pay for that type of convention?

WITNESS: For funding, there was – the reason Houston – our Houston federation taking the lead, there were some reasons. First, Houston-Baku, sister city relationship and Baku you know all-rich city and Houston same. So lot of… especially we are involved in sister-city international organization also, so we initiate those kind of sister-city engagement so we always look for best competitor for cities, so Houston was the best so that's why we set it in a meeting, how about you know you guys initiation this country specifically, country specifically mentioned so I start with Azerbaijan. So and then we did the Kyrgyzstan and we picked the Chicago, our TFAC one because there's one Kyrgyz community in Chicago. And you know Kyrgyzstan is probably not really their GDP is lower than Azerbaijan so that was a different… you know….because in the Kyrgyz community we picked Chicago because of the community relationship. For Houston because of the oil relations so that was a different starting point.

MR. MORGAN: So you selected TCAE –

WITNESS: We discussed we just opened who would like to volunteer… for kind of match-making. So that was the starting point. And Kemal Oksuz was really eager showed interests you know we are relationship with the oil… in terms of oil in Baku so why don't we start with that and then everybody agreed so we said you know since you are taking the… you are going to take the lead for that initiative so we are going to help. Help meaning taking other delegations, state legislatures and federal level and --

MR. MORGAN: So you – Mr. Oksuz mentioned his relationship with oil interests?

WITNESS: No, not oil interests because Baku is rich city and Houston same thing and processing. So that was the old business people and the other stakeholders are interest in this, how you start the connection --

MR. MORGAN: What are some of the major – you said business interests – what are some of the major Baku or Azerbaijan business interest that Kemal was referring to?

WITNESS: Since we are not a business organization you know being an NGO, we consider ourselves just the… creating that kind of venue you know, invite people here and people there, they just get together like Congress people from Houston to like the [indecipherable] and vice versa. So they are going to come up with their own agenda or whatever they are talking about in their committee assignments, their specific interests so we don't really go much beyond that. You know what's the business level interest, are we going to connect you guys and get business or something like that you know we… our

emphasis is culture and dialogue – when you look at 240, 60% of our member organizations composed of culture and dialogue We start business this very first year. We put the business… submit business we invite the business people so…
MR. MORGAN: So what was discussed about how you all you know, TCAE, TAA, all these groups would fund the convention? How was it to be paid for?
WITNESS: Okay so when we discussed that and decided okay, Kemal Oksuz leading that initiative, we discussed to make that event a success so we need more people from the other part of the nation. So we discussed and maybe since we have such a great relationship with state legislature because we did State House reception in 48 states out of 50. In some of the capitals like many times, 7-8 times in certain states, so that's why they come and they enjoy these --
MR. ASHMAWY: I apologize for interrupting I just want to… I understand what you're saying. The question that Mr. Morgan asked is, how did – what was the discussion about who's going to pay for it?
WITNESS: Okay discussion. The starting point as I said the state legislature invite them you know, for example in Midwest, when they invite the members of the state legislatures so basically they are going to be responsible, how they are going to pay the airfare and all the costs. You know we just… you know we are not going to be… I personally don't have all the expenses or [indecipherable] so we invite the individuals. In my case, we took… we didn't take as a TAA… we didn't take any uh… Congress person but we took staffers.
MR. MORGAN: Right.
WITNESS: That expenses, you know we said we covered all the expenses, airfare, and all the expenses in Baku, you know transportation --
MR. ASHMAWY: You guys covered it all?
WITNESS: We claimed we covered it all. But as you see the bank statements we didn't pay.
MR. ASHMAWY: I recognize the… you know what was submitted to the committee, but just so we're clear, in reality you guys didn't pay for the airfare, correct?
WITNESS: Correct. We haven't paid.
MR. ASHMAWY: You didn't pay for the hotels?
WITNESS: We didn't pay for the hotels. So… we didn't pay through our Council, basically when Kemal Oksuz was organizing this, he was helping us to get the specifics. Basically his initiative, we decided that we just assign him to help us to take the groups; so he-- we supposed to pay him back for the airfare and all the expenses. And because we are very close relationship with all the members, member federations, so that was kind of the understanding you know being and joining the nation capital you know having the huge space so we barely --
MR. ASHMAWY: It can be difficult. No, of course.

WITNESS: This is difficult. So we don't have huge… when you look at bank accounts we barely survive the expenses so –
MR. ASHMAWY: Let me just be – let me just take you through one or two of these things real quick. Just so it's clear. TAA didn't pay for the airfare, correct?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: TAA didn't pay for the hotels, correct?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: TAA didn't pay for the food?
WITNESS: Food? From the hotel that was a charge we didn't pay, but the "food, food" you know compared to other expenses kind of a minor because the cultural issues and if you pay… if you say we are going to pay then kind of rude concept for the Turkey also so food kind of complimented which –
MR. ASHMAWY: I understand and to be clear, it was Kemal and Kemal's organization that paid for all of these things?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: That's true for TAA?
WITNESS: That's for TAA.
MR. ASHMAWY: Is that true for the other federations also?
WITNESS: I'm not sure I didn't look at their accounts. I wasn't you know– because we took about 200 something state legislatures so…
MR. ASHMAWY: What is your understanding?
WITNESS: My understanding is some pay, some haven't paid; it's kind of mixed. But before the hotel and food, I think all was paid… was the host you know we met Gupta Palace at one point so whoever organized like the Chamber of Commerce or the Chairman of U.S.-Friendship Caucus, if they hosted that they covered all the expenses so that's… so that's my understanding. For the food nobody paid that's my understanding, but for the airfare, I think the major expenses, airfare and hotel, the food as I said, and transportation.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know which federation paid for the airfare?
WITNESS: I don't know.
MR. MORGAN: Do you know if any did?
WITNESS: Uhm… There was a discussion you know, we would like to pay because for them to pay… their finances….I knew some trying to pay the airfare from their own bank account.
MR. MORGAN: So you said that you were supposed to pay Kemal back?
WITNESS: We're supposed to pay Kemal back.
MR. MORGAN: When did you that conversation with him about you needing to pay him back?
WITNESS: At the very beginning.
MR. MORGAN: And what's the beginning? Is that 2012? 2013?

WITNESS: I don't remember. But when you look at the emails so…by the way, I didn't submit all the Turkish email conversation.
MR. MORGAN: You did not?
WITNESS: No I did not.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
WITNESS: I don't know why because I just picked the English ones so.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
WITNESS: It's still there.
MR. MORGAN: Well we need to get those from you.
WITNESS: Turkish also?
MR. MORGAN: Yes.
WITNESS: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: So the conversation with Kemal in which you talked about paying him back…
WITNESS: Conversation… I don't remember that email if we decide…you know the conversation --
MR. MORGAN: Was it before the 2013 convention?
WITNESS: Before the convention yeah we discussed it. Basically he was asking us. Basically all the email conversation so far…because we were constantly meeting at that time so most of the stuff we kind of resolved through not through official correspondence or the letters, by either email or by talking. So mostly the conversation based on excel sheet you know exchanging who are we bringing, oh they accepted, they passed ethics and I remember some…uh…I said you know can we invite them or they say it's too late you know passed the deadline. So that kind of conversation, but regard to your question, so when we confirm the list like the staffers in our TAA specifically, then we confirmed the TAA so I remember discussing who's going to pay so we don't have any funding, so can you help us?
MR. MORGAN: You discussed this with Kemal?
WITNESS: With Kemal. Yeah. Is there any way to help us out in that so he said, "I can help" so that's how he paid for our staffers' airfare.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. And when you say he paid for it, you mean TCAE?
WITNESS: TCAE. Yes.
MR. MORGAN: And are you – do you have knowledge of exactly how it was paid for?
WITNESS: I didn't see the paperwork or the bank statement, but that's my understanding so I assumed he paid for it with TCAE.
MR. ASHMAWY: And you had an agreement with Kemal that he would pay?
WITNESS: Yes, orally.
MR. ASHMAWY: And when was the first time you discussed who would pay for the airfare?
WITNESS: Right after I think we confirmed the list of staffers who agreed to come –

MR. ASHMAWY: Was that before submitting the forms to the committee?
WITNESS: I'm not sure. Usually you know, we would like to – usually for the international airfare we have to reserve ahead of time to get a better deal, but before the ethics you only reserve and stay like couple of days and you give the airline info…extend like 24 hours I can't remember, but on that line so I think they were comfortable to get pass through ethics. And we've taken staff before. I think … once they said that they're most comfortable to past the ethics then I think at that time we said you know we need to purchase the tickets.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know if Kemal had the same agreement with any of the other Turkic organizations?
WITNESS: I assume so because that was at our board we discussed that, the federation.
MR. ASHMAWY: So you discussed that Kemal would–
WITNESS: No, no we…Okay. What specifically we discussed that he is organizing it so that everybody kind of participating in term of arranging groups --
MR. MORGAN: When did that discussion happen?
WITNESS: That I think just maybe a month….maybe one month…month or two months end of the actual trip.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
WITNESS: We said that you know…that I think…in our case as I said before actual discussion about who's going to pay for it, you know either TAA or TCAE. I think along the same time frame all the other federations because I wasn't handling that, Kemal was communicating with federation president, individually.
MR. ASHMAWY: But it is your understanding, because this was discussed at a TAA board meeting that Kemal had a similar arrangement with other federations?
WITNESS: I don't remember he say that, "okay, I'll purchase the tickets you don't need to pay", I don't remember any kind discussion so one on one base, we discussed the general outline you know, we…he's organizing it so we need to get…because at that time we are really excited that everything that when we get the turnout that that many members, we are so happy so we were just getting more people other than–
MR. MORGAN: I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around that. You were extending invitations, you were planning it, but yet you had no clear idea of who was going to pay for it? You didn't know if you were? It seems like more specific and detailed conversations about how it would be paid for would have occurred and you seem to be saying that that's not the case. So can you please think about that, think that through, how –
WITNESS: So in the…in our…I'm Turkish background, so in my Turkish culture you know, things happening just like that, really last minute. I think that's where our cultural difference is. We don't usually…it's a big event, I understand it's a lot of expenses, lot of things involved, lot of arrangement so…we needed to be arranged like a month ahead of the event, but uh…usually like the convention, so I can't give you more detail, everything

kind of last minute detail. I just get my accountant, "are we going to pay this, do we have enough balance", you know then I'm calling people getting more funds, things like that –
MR. MORGAN: And you didn't have enough money to pay for the staffer, the congressional staffers. At what point did you realize that you didn't have enough money?
WITNESS: Okay. I think that just…we were discussing that…I mean those time frame you know, we were checking if we have enough money you know any funding coming in…or any sponsorship or any membership dues who are you know, fighting with the donors to get paid on time. So it didn't happen.
MR. MORGAN: Were you trying to raise money to pay for this congressional staffers' travel?
WITNESS: Usually for…no. usually for…we don't do that kind of fundraising. Basically it's hard to get that kind of funding. Based on individual people really believe in us and so we try to reach out to those like the usual suspects for the donors.
MR. MORGAN: Did you ever have any intention to pay for the congressional travel?
WITNESS: I mean legally we have to. In previous –
MR. MORGAN: When you say legally we have to –
WITNESS: No we have to. I mean we have to pay them. We have to pay TCAE.
MR. MORGAN: You owe TCAE for that payment?
WITNESS: Yes.
WITNESS: Have they ever sent you an invoice?
WITNESS: Invoice? No.
MR. MORGAN: Do you know how much you owe?
WITNESS: For airfare? Yeah we had an oral discussion.
MR. MORGAN: When did that discussion take place?
WITNESS: Right after they purchased the tickets. They said…you know we asked them how much they pay was it too expensive or something so we have 11 or 12 staffers you know from Istanbul to Baku, so they…they let us know that we pay that much money.
MR. MORGAN: Who let you know?
WITNESS: Kemal.
MR. MORGAN: Let you know that he had paid –
WITNESS: Yeah, that he had paid. Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. So why did Kemal – where did TCAE come up with all the money to pay for it?
WITNESS: For you know…as I said those are all the independent organizations. Their finances, the members you know, they take membership dues from their member organizations also. As I said the [indecipherable] level, relationship.
MR. MORGAN: But practically speaking where does TCAE's money come from?
WITNESS: Sponsors, sponsors.
MR. MORGAN: Sponsorship of the convention?
WITNESS: No, no, TCAE. Overall sponsor –

MR. MORGAN: Overall sponsorship
WITNESS: We don't raise any individual event fundraising. You know we are going to raise funds –
MR. ASHMAWY: Let me ask you a question. So we've been doing this for a while now and talked to a lot of the federations. None of you guys have a lot of money.
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: Kemal all of a sudden shows up with hundreds of hundreds of hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for a convention and fly 200+ people over and nobody asks him where the money comes from?
WITNESS: We didn't ask.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yeah.
WITNESS: I mean for the members of Congress, it might be expensive but for the staffers, the airfare it wasn't hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's kind of –
MR. ASHMAWY: Did he get the money from the government of Azerbaijan?
WITNESS: I don't think so. I'm not sure, I don't think so.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did he get the money from SOCAR?
WITNESS: SOCAR? Yeah. SOCAR is…the main you know, like the government, the oil company so they uh…their relationship, we know that being non-government, non-profit so our relationship is really sensitive with the government. So…as far as I know, they didn't…get you know funding directly from SOCAR. Because TCAE is different, mostly from the local.
MR. MORGAN: Were you aware that SOCAR was identified as a main sponsor of the convention in Baku on the signage for the convention?
WITNESS: There were…the others…I saw the SOCAR on the banner as well as other companies.
MR. MORGAN: Right. There were two listed as main sponsors, SOCAR and I believe Caspian Drilling.
WITNESS: Caspian…
MR. MORGAN: But you're saying you're not aware of any money going from SOCAR?
WITNESS: No.
MR. MORGAN: So … why were they listed as a main sponsor?
WITNESS: Uhm you know we…you know this week our convention, we listed the companies also. They are not necessarily some like the media sponsors. Some just name recognition for the companies so I'm not sure why they put… because we not really involve with the relationship is totally…Kemal is... you know this is beyond my jurisdiction to ask you know what's the relationship, I never looked at their business. We never had conversation. And he truly…he didn't tell us anything about that. This is really kind of written…each federation is unique and they do their finances. So we don't have those kind of conversations.

MR. ASHMAWY: What I find a little difficult though is that there were people who attended the convention who publicly acknowledged that it was their understanding that SOCAR paid for them and they don't know Kemal at all. And Kemal though, is part of TAA and everyone that we've talked to knows Kemal pretty well, how is it that strangers know that SOCAR paid for this, but the people closest to him don't?
WITNESS: Yeah, I understand that. You know SOCAR…you know we…they came over here several times, SOCAR president and vice president and meeting at the embassy and visited members of Congress and visited Houston and other state. They've been in the…uh…before that…they uh….you know before, as I mentioned the relationship started as I said, the oil…the Houston and Baku, sister-city, and also Kemal invited the Azerbaijan, like the member of parliament to some state reception that's how we build it you know. Suleyman Turhan, you know invited the Kyrgyz…the members of parliament to Midwest State House reception to build a kind of…the length the bridge between those states and the countries so that's really how. You know SOCAR staff, and the president and vice president came to those functions and they also help to...for them to come here, the importance of United States because Azerbaijan is really unique --
MR. ASHMAWY: Have they helped financially?
WITNESS: I'm not sure. I don't know.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know an organization known as AFAZ? A-F-A-Z?
WITNESS: Yeah, AFAZ I know AFAZ.
MR. ASHMAWY: What is that organization?
WITNESS: That's…So Kemal left us and is working at AFAZ as far as I know.
MR. MORGAN: When you say he left us, you mean he left TCAE?
WITNESS: TCAE, yeah. He's not in our board anymore.
MR. MORGAN: Why did he leave?
WITNESS: I'm not sure. I think he's going to spend more time with the Azeri relation because with the TCAE he had many other activities and other states so he wanted to work on like this specific Azeri organization...friendship organization so…
MR. ASHMAWY: So AFAZ…they helped plan the conference?
WITNESS: First you know…AFAZ established as recently a new organization so we…as far as I know we organi – we helped organized TAA, the member organization and specifically for TCAE the first two conventions in 2012 and 2013. After that, AFAZ established so they took the lead basically. So…they were organized because … U.S. – Azeri convention held in D.C. also. So…AFAZ was solely organized that event.
MR. ASHMAWY: And then…so as I understand, AFAZ wasn't -- didn't really exist until about 2013?
WITNESS: Yes, yes. Something like that.
MR. ASHMAWY: Do you know in that same year, they received a contract from SOCAR to plan the Azerbaijani-Baku conference?
WITNESS: 2013? U.S.-Azeri?

MR. ASHMAWY: Mhmm.
WITNESS: I don't know.
MR. ASHMAWY: You don't know? You never heard about that?
WITNESS: Can you repeat the question?
MR. ASHMAWY: That there was a contract between SOCAR and AFAZ to plan the Baku conference.
WITNESS: No, I didn't know that relationship with AFAZ and SOCAR.
MR. ASHMAWY: Kemal never mentioned it to you?
WITNESS: I know they are working together, I know that. But as I said, Kemal didn't tell us anything about established -- SOCAR and AFAZ established a contract you know…and office or something so I didn't...he didn't mention.
MR. ASHMAWY: And you just said you knew that SOCAR and AFAZ were working together. In what way were they working together?
WITNESS: They you know, I know that the AFAZ organized the events. They organized like ton of Trans-Anatolian projects and they organized like the Azerbaijan activities, constitution…they organized many others events. I know that SOCAR always come and be present and always involved with those events so—
MR. MORGAN: Kemal was on your board in 2013? Is that right?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: So at the time AFAZ was formed, he was a board member of your organization?
WITNESS: So…as far as I know, just after AFAZ established and when Kemal want to help that organization form, he left—
MR. MORGAN: He left TAA.
WITNESS: TAA. Because of the conference –
MR. MORGAN: But I just find it -- you know as Omar said, there's a very large value contract between SOCAR and AFAZ to run the convention. You are the president of the umbrella association for a lot of the regional groups who took people to that convention. Kemal was on your board, at the time AFAZ was formed and yet you have no knowledge of that contract between SOCAR and AFAZ?
WITNESS: Because you know…Technically for the…our individual members – board members, they could be sitting and hanging out at the board –
MR. MORGAN: I know that technically AFAZ is a separate organization, but I'm just finding it, frankly, hard to believe that even in chit-chat or in passing conversation, or during board meetings that large you know, hundreds of thousands of dollars sources of financial support are not discussed, even as in sharing great news with sister organizations that a big chunk of money came in. I find it very hard to believe that wasn't discussed.
WITNESS: I mean Kemal…he's not hiding, but he doesn't like those kind of conversations, sharing with other people because that's really confidential so you know,

even for small amounts we can discuss okay, we got this, but when you talk about I don't know. I truly don't know the exact amount or contract, but they didn't tell us about it. So that's his personal or his kind of confidentiality rules.
MR. MORGAN: Well I want to run through some documents here real quickly. This is BM_0017; this is an invitation to Brandon Mooney it appears, from you?
WITNESS: Who is Brandon Mooney?
MR. MORGAN: He's a congressional staffer who traveled to the 2013 convention.
WITNESS: Oh, he's a staffer. Yeah, yeah. We…this is one of those 11 or 12 that we --
MR. MORGAN: That you invited?
WITNESS: Yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Who drafted this invitation?
WITNESS: This one?
MR. MORGAN: Yeah
WITNESS: Me. I drafted – our staff. Because in the…we took many delegations to Turkey and…so we…this is kind of really general.
MR. MORGAN: So moving on, now you have there, the primary trip sponsor form; this is MB_0051 through 53, submitted by TAA to the Committee on Ethics. Did you fill out this form?
WITNESS: Yeah. My staff filled it and I reviewed and I signed.
MR. MORGAN: Who is on your staff that would've been involved in preparing this form?
WITNESS: I'm not sure one of the…
MR. MORGAN: Is it Marrut Okuz? Is that –
WITNESS: Marrut, he's not here. He was…he helped at that time. He was a PhD student at that time, he was helping us as many others --
MR. MORGAN: And Nadir Shaffiah? Does that –
WITNESS: No. Marrut helped me on this one.
MR. MORGAN: And you see there on the first page, at the top, it says, "willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution"–
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: And then down on line 3 – 3a, it says, "the primary trip sponsors not accepted any other source of funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip" and you checked that box, but that was not correct was it?
WITNESS: Yes…it wasn't correct. We said we are going to pay, but you know we haven't.
MR. MORGAN: So moving on to the third page, MB_0053, where we have the travel expenses estimated? How did you –
WITNESS: 18, right?

MR. MORGAN: Yes, line 18. How did you come up with that number? $2,475 for airfare, $300 for ground, $2,775 for lodging, $360 for meals, how did you come up with those amounts?
WITNESS: This is the best estimate based on our knowledge you know we checked the airfare and the transportation –
MR. MORGAN: Who did you check the airfare with? How did you check that?
WITNESS: We just checked the you know online, how much they cost?
MR. MORGAN: Online? Like just a Travelocity, Kayak or website something like that?
WITNESS: Expedia.
MR. MORGAN: Expedia? And you came up with the estimate?
WITNESS: Yeah we came up with the estimate figure.
MR. ASHMAWY: Can I just clarify something you've already said? So you submitted these after you had a list of staffers that were going to attend.
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: And at the time you had a list of staffers, you had a conversation with Kemal that you didn't have enough money to pay for them?
WITNESS: Mhmm. Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: So when you filled out this form, you already knew that Kemal was going to pay for the travel?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: Yes?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. ASHMAWY: Okay.
MR. MORGAN: Was there any conversation with Kemal about this form? Did you feel at all uncomfortable about listing TAA as the sole sponsor?
WITNESS: We tried to show good faith; we kind of expecting to pay on time, but because of the shortage and we didn't want to cancel the trip, we are very well aware of this and it's not right. You know? You check this box. This is –
MR. ASHMAWY: To Mr. Morgan's question though, I guess I too, have a little bit of confusion. I mean you knew that this wasn't true, why did you fill it out? Kemal could've filled these forms out.
MR. MORGAN: Were you pressured?
WITNESS: No, not at all.
MR. MORGAN: To fill it out?
WITNESS: No, not at all. So we…I mean basic discussion…you know…we get the real motivational business, so we are really…not the personal gain, this is rewarding experience because when you are taking people you are really connecting those communities so that's…I mean…when you look at the other interview, so you will see that we had a really committed and dedicated staff. They really want to make it happen

you know, we knew this not right, we cannot cancel – and in a short amount of time we are going to pay back or --
MR. MORGAN: Was there any conversation about having Kemal and TCAE send in all the forms with TCAE's name on it since they were paying for the travel?
WITNESS: No. I think this is our staff. We put together these staffers; drew our… you knew, we are dealing with all members all the staffers but we cannot have close relationship with everyone so we just took our responsible, we are responsible to take.. I mean we discuss, we cannot take Congressperson too expensive, maybe just take staffer.
MR. MORGAN: Okay so was there a discussion in which it was sort of divided up who – which organization would at least on paper, invite and sponsor different people?
WITNESS: No you know, bottom line we want to get more people.
MR. MORGAN: But how did you come up with your list of travelers?
WITNESS: Travelers? You know we discuss in our staff. You know with the TAA staff. How can we get – how many we can get, we discussed…we said…because our budget issue we cannot take any Congress people, but staffers, we can you know throughout the event so we have a relationship. For example, Brandon Mooney from which state? Let's say Illinois, they have a relationship with them, but looks like we know Brandon from our organization. Let's say we invite Brandon through TAA not through the Midwest organization. –
MR. MORGAN: Was there any collaboration between TCAE, TAA, you know Midwest, Southeast about whom was taking whom so that there wasn't overlapping invitations or --
?
WITNESS: Good question. I don't think it was kind of overlapping so…everybody reach out their database. We are taking…normally that's how. Naturally happens. Nobody told me just put TAA.
MR. MORGAN: So when you had come up with your list of invitees and you had that list set, how was their travel booked? How was their airfare booked, for example did you handle their airfare or did you just pass their names on to Kemal? How did it work?
WITNESS: My staff helped because Kemal didn't deal with those individual so we dealt with them and we said okay this is your travel…uh…I think that was a travel agency in New York.
MR. MORGAN: Ok. NIL travel?
WITNESS: NIL travel, yeah.
MR. MORGAN: You're familiar with that?
WITNESS: Yeah, NIL travel. NIL travel organized that and then so we put our reservation because we did orientation meeting
MR. MORGAN: Yeah I saw. There was an orientation meeting?
WITNESS: There was an orientation meeting.
MR. MORGAN: But that orientation meeting was for more than just your travelers, correct? It was also for other travelers?

WITNESS: No orientation was in restaurant. Some in our office.
MR. MORGAN: Did you do the orientation for the Midwest association travelers?
WITNESS: You know we held a lot of orientation for their travelers. I'm not specific about that one.
MR. MORGAN: So, their travel was booked through NIL. And then who paid NIL for that travel?
WITNESS: And then after the last minute after we confirmed this, the list, we told Kemal these are the people come, NIL travel, when it comes to paying, we look at our the balance –
MR. MORGAN: So NIL didn't actually send you an invoice?
WITNESS: NIL…uh…NIL maybe didn't send us invoice. We haven't reached our discussion with Kemal…so after that point, we basically let NIL travel work with Kemal directly so that they paid.
MR. MORGAN: So that TCAE paid?
WITNESS: TCAE paid.
MR. MORGAN: To your knowledge, was it in fact TCAE that paid? It wasn't AFAZ potentially or –
WITNESS: No.
MR. MORGAN: Okay. But you don't know specifically who paid NIL for your travel?
WITNESS: I didn't see the bank statements, but you know…not 100% sure.
MR. MORGAN: That was your understanding.
WITNESS: My understanding, yeah.
MR. MORGAN: Okay.
MR. ASHMAWY: So other than giving Kemal a list of staffers who said, "yes I would love to go" you guys didn't really have anything else to do with planning the trip or the conference?
WITNESS: For the planning trip, we, I think AFAZ and we did the itinerary for the trip. We did those kind of planning. Because of…the you know if you are taking 200 people, not every group has a completely different idea. So we had to have couple place to come together so a lot of overlapping. Myself organizing all the staffers and get together in the hotel
MR. ASHMAWY: So IN Baku, you accompanied the staffers?
WITNESS: Yes, I accompanied the staffers.
MR. ASHMAWY: Did you draft the agenda?
WITNESS: Yeah we drafted the agenda.
MR. MORGAN: So what we're looking at right now is BM_0010 through 0013. We just want to make sure all correctly –
WITNESS: We did that.
MR. MORGAN: You planned these –

WITNESS: I'm pretty sensitive about the issues. Who are we taking, who are we going to meet?
MR. MORGAN: So you planned these specific events?
WITNESS: Yes.
MR. MORGAN: So it looks like the first two days there, May 25 and 26 are in Istanbul –
WITNESS: Istanbul, yeah.
MR. MORGAN: And you were there—
WITNESS: Since we are going all the way to Baku so we thought it was worthwhile to stay like two days or something in Istanbul.
MR. MORGAN: Who covered the expenses for Istanbul?
WITNESS: For Istanbul? That's another story. For Istanbul, that was –
MR. MORGAN: Baki –
MR. ASHMAWY: Bakiad?
MR. MORGAN: Bakiad?
WITNESS: Yeah or most likely Nisan travel. Nisan travel.
MR. MORGAN: How do you spell that?
WITNESS: N-I-S-A-N.
MR. MORGAN: N-I-S-A-N?
WITNESS: I think they work with Bakiad.
MR. MORGAN: Okay are they a travel agency?
WITNESS: Travel agency. You know for the –
MR. MORGAN: What is Bakiad?

WITNESS: Bakiad is a non-profit organization basically is our…kind of our sister organization. We work with them so they know yes they hosted several delegations before 2013. Since we started early on the Dialag organization we took so many delegations to turkey.

MR. MORGAN: Is Bakiad are they a U.S. organization or a Turkic organization?

WITNESS: Turkish organization.

MR. MORGAN: Do you know what their status is in Turkey? Are they government entity or are they a company or non-profit?

WITNESS: No, not at all. They are non-profit. They are non-profit just they helping the delegations to make a smooth transition from one place to another. They are doing the hotel arrangement, transportation and…

MR. MORGAN: So they paid for the hotels?

WITNESS: Same thing with the Kemal they supposedly… we supposed to pay them.

MR. MORGAN: You were supposed to pay them?

WITNESS: We were supposed to pay them. We haven't paid.

MR. MORGAN: How was that established that you were supposed to pay them? Did you have a conversation with them?

WITNESS: Yeah we had a conversation with them so we said you know we are bringing this specific delegation to Baku you know, so they organize it. In this case there is no domestic --

MR. MORGAN: Have you ever… has TAA ever paid Bakiad?

WITNESS: The hotel?

MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

WITNESS: Since the beginning no, we haven't I think.

MR. MORGAN: How many times have you worked with Bakiad for trips to Turkey?

WITNESS: TAA with re --

MR. MORGAN: Please don't interrupt me.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Please wait until I finish the question.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: This wasn't the first time you took people to Turkey?

WITNESS: Took people to Turkey….

MR. MORGAN: Was Bakiad also involved in those other instances?

WITNESS: Other yeah …they're involved. They're our main contacts to….

MR. MORGAN: Do they always pay for the Turkey portions of the travel?

WITNESS: They paid, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Have you ever reimbursed them or paid them back?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: You never have? How many times would you say you've gone --

WITNESS: I think before this we had maybe 2 or 4 times.

MR. MORGAN: And then after this?

WITNESS: After this…

MR. MORGAN: After the 2013 trip.

WITNESS: Maybe 1 or 2.

MR. MORGAN: So you're looking at 5, 6 times or so…

WITNESS: 5, 6, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Times that you've taken groups through Turkey; Bakiad has paid for those expenses in Turkey? And you have never once paid them back for those expenses?

WITNESS: No we never… we haven't paid.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MR. ASHMAWY: You actually have a contract with Bakiad though, don't you?

WITNESS: We have some agreement. Yeah we have some agreement. But an agreement not for them to pay everything you know. Helping us like a travel agent, helping us to organize … so we send a list for example that many people you know the whole capacity of the hotel arrangement, they do all the domestic air fare, they do all the organize, you know. They pay.

MR. ASHMAWY: Can we… we are going to…. When you get a chance to get back to your office and everything …Can we get a copy of that agreement?

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. ASHMAWY: Between TAA and Bakiad?

WITNESS: Okay. They… okay.

MR. ASHMAWY: I would appreciate that.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: So why was Bakiad paying for those expenses for your group, what's their motivation?

WITNESS: The motivation I think is the same I mean look at the real… the purpose of this foundation. So they get cultural, social, and economic ties and cultural ties between

Turkey and US. So they establish that organization to help us out. And we establish the organization here to help our… you know… audience here so they were helping since the beginning.

MR. MORGAN: Where do they get their money from?

WITNESS: They have donors, donations. But specifically no government involved at all.

MR. MORGAN: Do you know that for a fact?

WITNESS: Yeah I know that for a fact.

MR. MORGAN: How do you know that?

WITNESS: I have good friends; I communicate with them, you know, throughout the years. So, because of our festivity…

MR. MORGAN: So if you know that they don't get money from the government, you must know where they do get their money from. If you are that close to them that you know for a fact that they don't have government funds then where… who are some of these big sources?

WITNESS: Not 100% but I have personal confidence with them so they don't get the money from the government because of the problem right now in the moment with the government. So

MR. MORGAN: And you say movement… You mean --

WITNESS: Gülen Movement

MR. MORGAN: Gülen Movement, do they get money from the Gülen Movement?

WITNESS: No I mean the current because we are mostly Gülen and sympathizers. So

MR. MORGAN: Is Bakiad a Gülen sympathetic organization?

WITNESS: They are sympathetic organization yeah. That's usually… that's how we work with them we knew [unintelligible] at the beginning. So we basically because of inspired by him to start that Dialag organization reaching out to other communities and everything so that's they were doing similar activities in Turkey in that regard.

MR. MORGAN: Okay so moving on. On the agenda here, on the 28th we go over to Baku. Did you arrange the Baku events, aside from the convention? Like this meeting with the ambassador of the United States on Tuesday, May 28th?

WITNESS: Okay. So we… I think we for that specific meeting, so I know the Chairman of the foreign relations committee, Somet Saido. I don't know that specific requesting …. So I don't know how many people attended that meeting because it came out to like 200 so it looks like this is just for the staffers. So this is all staffers went to that meeting…. We had requested all together from Somet Saido to have that meeting.

MR. MORGAN: Okay

WITNESS: From under federation we took all the staffers there.

MR. MORGAN: So I want to you know move on from the itinerary now well first at looking at that itinerary is that correct? Is that what did happen?

WITNESS: Yeah in the times could be different, but as far as I can remember we met with the president. Lunch in there you know foreign affairs committee. And we had a dinner.

MR. ASHMAWY: So I understand that you accompanied people to all these events, but did you… but you guys didn't plan these events, correct? This was all planned by Kemal?

WITNESS: We collaborated with those events. We discussed you know, because as I said I wrote that itinerary based on the itineraries we had before. Usually you know when we take the Turkey trip, we have kind of traditional 7-8 days itinerary. So we shorten that on Istanbul, so we put 3 days in Baku and we asked you know what are the options that we have you know, can we take people here and there? So we collect information the possible meaningful and feasible, doable program so we came up with what we thought was the best itinerary from, you know going places….

MR. MORGAN: When you say you came up with it you mean?

WITNESS: Our staff

MR. MORGAN: Oh TAA?

WITNESS: Our staff, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Okay so now following the trip this is BM_0009. This is the sponsor post travel disclosure form.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: That was submitted to the Clerk of the House following the travel.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: Your signature is on this?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: The expenses here listed $27.85 for total transportation expenses, $925 for lodging, $345 for meals. How did you come up with those numbers?

WITNESS: Based on the…as I said Kemal… we couldn't pay those and Kemal paid those…TCAE.

MR. MORGAN: Did you…. I mean is this…

WITNESS: Some of this so I think we did the best estimate how much we were supposed to pay to Kemal. We haven't paid this figure because this was supposed to be solid figure right? Whatever you paid.

MR. MORGAN: What you actually paid right?

WITNESS: At that time we haven't paid so we were kind of expecting that much of invoice from Kemal to pay to cover the expenses.

MR. MORGAN: You were expecting an invoice of this amount from Kemal?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Did you have a conversation with Kemal about these figures?

WITNESS: At that time I'm not sure. I don't remember.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. Did you ever receive an invoice from Kemal?

WITNESS: No we did not.

MR. MORGAN: Did you ever have any conversation with him about the money being due?

WITNESS: Yeah money being due and you know on the one hand they were there's membership fee that also cost so that was kind of they had to pay us, we had to pay them so that's… we were kind of delayed.

MR. MORGAN: Did you honestly expect that you would pay this back?

WITNESS: Good question. Eventually we had to pay…we have to pay, but I don't know when and since it's…

MR. MORGAN: But you haven't yet?

WITNESS: We haven't yet.

MR. MORGAN: When was the last time you had any conversation with Kemal about this amount being due?

WITNESS: Last time we discussed I think after the event. I don't think we have discussed after that.

MR. MORGAN: After the event?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: So did you honestly expect to have to pay this back?

WITNESS: As I said we have to pay back.

MR. MORGAN: Why do you… What do you have to pay it back?

WITNESS: Because I picked this column I mean this is a serious issue; I think we have to pay back.

MR. MORGAN: Did you ever on your 990s with the IRS disclose that as a debt or as an obligation owed?

WITNESS: We are… I mean… I don't think so. No.

MR. MORGAN: Does the – Does TAA incur debts? I mean you have credit cards…or you don't have a credit card, I suppose?

WITNESS: We have a… you mean personal or TAA?

MR. MORGAN: Do you have a regular accounting process for your debt?

WITNESS: Yes, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: And but this amount was not included in that?

WITNESS: Not included.

MR. MORGAN: Why is that?

WITNESS: So that's our fault, we are supposed to include that.

MR. MORGAN: So I'm going to ask you again knowing that what you say to us here in this interview is subject to the false statements act. Did you have an honest belief at the time you submitted this post travel form that you would in fact repay that amount?

WITNESS: I.. I knew we were not going to be able to pay that amount at the time but we were planning to pay later date but it's three years since the event we haven't paid back

but.... I think we are... after the whole thing started we are I'm thinking of, you know plan this, and pay back to TCAE.

MR. MORGAN: I want to ask you some, if I can sort of gather these up. I want to ask you about... the bank records you submitted to us... this is a copy here.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: I was wondering if you could first turn over to the TAA_24. There's a deposit there on August 8th of 2012 for $39,778. From it appears it's from a Camsari Yunus or Yunus Camsari?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: Who is -- what does this amount look like?

WITNESS: That's 2012...

MR. MORGAN: Is Yunus Camsari ... is that a person or what is that?

WITNESS: Yeah it's a person.

MR. MORGAN: It's a person

WITNESS: One of the, I think we have the large amounts you know $50,000, $100,000 you know those are commission sponsors for TAA.

MR. MORGAN: What is this specifically?

WITNESS: Turkic American Convention .

MR. MORGAN: This $39,000 was for the convention?

WITNESS: Yeah

MR. MORGAN: From Yunus Camsari?

WITNESS: Yes

MR. MORGAN: And who is he or she?

WITNESS: He is a business person such this is true you know we solicit from Turkey people we know individual business owners to get some funding for our convention so that was, we like to pay....

MR. MORGAN: Okay so moving on to Page TAA_34

WITNESS: Okay

MR. MORGAN: I'm wondering there's this one on the top for $34,000.00?

WITNESS: Okay that's from CD that's a lot of money.

MR. MORGAN: What is it?

WITNESS: This is the CD account like a letter of credit account so we transfer from the savings to our account.

MR. MORGAN: This is from your savings account?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: I don't think you provided records from your savings account. Were those….

WITNESS: Savings account? This is not this is… when like I said at the beginning when we lease our current space they said they required 5 months deposit. So that our rent was like $25 something sometimes 5 we located that money to… not to the owner, but to a mutually agreed account so we asked Bank of America, how this worked they said they going to open an LOC account a credit account. So the money is in the Bank of America so nobody can touch this, so if there's a dispute then we going to go to a mediator you know to get that and this is the determine on the lease so on the first…

MR. MORGAN: Is that what this payment is, this $34,000 is your lease?

WITNESS: Yeah. They released like every year a certain amount.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: That was it. Not really savings so LOC account.

MR. MORGAN: Okay let's go to 46 next TAA_46.

WITNESS: 6 okay.

MR. MORGAN: There's a $19,819…deposit there. I was wondering if you could tell me what that is?

WITNESS: That's… I think that's also donation from Fatih Zengin

MR. MORGAN: Who is Fatih Zengin?

WITNESS: Fatih Zengin is a business person. Business person. The amount is after converted from Turkish lira to dollar amount and they deducted some amount for the fees that's why it's not $20,000

MR. MORGAN: And moving on to TAA_54. This is in February of 2013.

WITNESS: Yes. Those are the….

MR. MORGAN: And there are a few very large, there's $125,000 deposit on the 21st of February, I'm wondering if you could tell me where those came from.

WITNESS: Yeah Sure those are… Halkbank we got the -- we applied a sponsorship at for our convention 2013.

MR. MORGAN: For the 2013 Convention?

WITNESS: 2013 Turkic-American Convention, not country specific Turkic-American Convention.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: So that's $125.112…

MR. MORGAN: From who? From which... you said it was a bank?

WITNESS: Halkbank.

MR. MORGAN: Halkbank.

WITNESS: Halkbank yeah. So we…

MR. MORGAN: Where is that bank located?

WITNESS: The bank located in Turkey it's a Turkish bank. And they have a branch in New York. So do you know why there representative to do the keynote they were and also this $112,000….

MR. MORGAN: $112,000

WITNESS: Ziraat Bank same thing… bank of Ziraat.

MR. MORGAN: And that's a Turkish bank as well?

WITNESS: Turkish bank yes.

MR. MORGAN: And that's a sponsorship for the Turkic American Convention?

WITNESS: Yes for the Turkic-American Convention.

MR. MORGAN: Not the Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: Not the Azerbaijan.

MR. MORGAN: Okay and the $50,000….

WITNESS: We put their logos in our banners. And $50,000 is a business…an independent business; Summa that's their name.

MR. MORGAN: Okay

WITNESS: The company name Summa $50,000 I remember.

MR. MORGAN: What was that for?

WITNESS: So those were the life savers for the…. What was that?

MR. MORGAN: What were those for? What was the $50,000 for?

WITNESS: Turkic American Convention.

MR. MORGAN: Same thing?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. Let's go to page 60 now. TAA_60.

WITNESS: Okay 60.

MR. MORGAN: There are also some large... this is March 2013 there's a $50,000 wire transfer, or if you could tell what that was for?

WITNESS: Yes, sure. Yeah we mentioned 3, this is number 4. Konya Seker Sanayi this is another Sanayi means sugar Konya is a city. Konya Sugar Company, it's a private business number 4. And number 5, $100,000 Yildiz holding. That's the… another holding.

MR. MORGAN: Were those convention sponsorships?

WITNESS: All convention sponsorships.

MR. MORGAN: The Turkish American sponsorships.

WITNESS: Yeah. 5 and the…

MR. MORGAN: What about the 99,000?

WITNESS: The 99 also [indecipherable] means newspaper, newspaper that's one of the newspaper, Feza. So we put their logos also so those they are all logos in our banner.

MR. MORGAN: Page 77. At the very top there on June 6th of 2013 there's a counter-credit for $40,000, do you recall what that is?

WITNESS: Yes, that's.... I'm sure this is a donation, but I can't point it out specifically the names. I think this should be in our quick-books.

MR. MORGAN: I mean at this time at you know May of 2013 on the records you gave us it appears you had you started that month with $203,000 in your account you started June with $171,000 it appears that you had enough money in the account to pay back Kemal, if that was your desire to do so. Is that correct, or was this money already obligated?

WITNESS: Just for the Baku... yeah this was specifically for the Turkic-American Convention.

MR. MORGAN: Even this $40,000 as well?

WITNESS: Yes, those are all dedicated I mean those. Supposed to pay that much in that time because this year we kind of made it smaller even. We didn't have a sit down dinner and everything so no... at that time because of the donations that we had, we had you know, panels and everything. We had like a two and half day convention. So those are all paid just for these events.

MR. MORGAN: So I just want to come back a little bit to, TCAE and AFAZ and the source of funds that they used to pay for the convention. It looks to us from the people we talked to the documents we've reviewed that it was a massive undertaking. You know hundreds of people traveling to Baku. Very large convention, a lot of hotel nights, do you have any knowledge of the source of that money used to pay for all of those expenses?

WITNESS: No, I don't as I said I didn't ask. I know it's a big event and...but I... I was under the impression that so...that Kemal Oksuz handled through TCAE to cover and get the funding for this.

MR. MORGAN: So if... you know we went through your bank accounts here and you received sponsorship funding from some of these groups from your Turkic-American Convention. And I can tell you the signage at the U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention listed Caspian Drilling and SOCAR as main sponsors. It listed TCAE and AFAZ as the organizers and then it listed a number of other companies as sponsors as well. Would it be TCAE and AFAZ's standard practice to receive money from those entities and list them as sponsors for the event?

WITNESS: As I said... I really don't have the information the direct relation. Because as I said the Kemal Oksuz...

MR. MORGAN: But you saw the sign they had at the convention, behind the speakers and stands?

WITNESS: Yeah I saw the sign.

MR. MORGAN: And did you recall seeing SOCAR's logo there?

WITNESS: Yeah I saw SOCAR and some other I remember there are other… the logos there.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Do you recall interacting or seeing any representatives from SOCAR at the convention?

WITNESS: SOCAR representative at the convention…? So I see the Vice President; I remember he was on the picture and everything.

MR. MORGAN: Did they… were they on any panels? Do you recall SOCAR sponsoring any events related to the convention, VIP rooms?

WITNESS: No, I don't recall any specific reception just for SOCAR. Everything like…the [indecipherable] center.

MR. MORGAN: Were you involved in providing the staff or members with rugs while they were there?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Or are you aware that they received rugs in their hotel rooms during their convention?

WITNESS: I don't… you know individual members I don't know who received it. This was just, as I said, for hospitality they just received. No, we gave the gifts to [indecipherable] cheaper, but usually they afford all the parts, but they want to show the culture and value so they throw in something small like the gifts.

MR. MORGAN: What gifts? What specific gifts do you recall being provided to the congressional travelers?

WITNESS: Like I think the bad. I got one.

MR. MORGAN: Do you recall a tea set? Do you recall there being a tea set?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: No?

WITNESS: Tea? No, I don't recall I heard of the rugs, but I don't know the details.

MR. MORGAN: You heard of the rugs?

WITNESS: Yeah I heard of the rugs.

MR. MORGAN: Did you receive one?

WITNESS: No I represent…

MR. MORGAN: Did the congressional travelers you were taking, did they receive them?

WITNESS: No, I don't recall. The one when I entered the room, there was one in the room.

MR. MORGAN: When you entered which room?

WITNESS: My room.

MR. MORGAN: Your room? There was a rug in your room?

WITNESS: Not the rug, I mean the bag.

MR. MORGAN: The bag was in the room?

WITNESS: The gift bag.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, do you recall seeing any rugs any gifted rugs?

WITNESS: No, I haven't seen any rugs.

MR. MORGAN: You know I can tell you that several of the staff who went, have told us that they received rugs while they were there and that they were under the impression that it was a gift from SOCAR. Why would that be?

WITNESS: Usually for those, you know when they deliver the rugs to individual room you know usually if they don't tell us or we will know they will usually…

MR. MORGAN: But how do they know who's in what room? They are just dropping rugs off at rooms? I don't get it.

WITNESS: Yeah I don't know who organized that and how you know if they received rugs so we didn't…maybe they look at the name on the hotel… the guest list from the hotel? So… you know I understand is like the gift bag for everybody, but you know rugs it could be hundred dollars could be like much higher. So you know there are a lot of ethic rules here in providing gifts, so I think… but I don't have that information. Who organized, and who received and who claimed…

MR. MORGAN: Did anybody ask you --

WITNESS: No, nobody asked me anything.

MR. MORGAN: For information about your travelers so they can give them gifts?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Was it apart of the convention were there… were those gifts given to all convention attendees? Do you have any sense of what it was?

WITNESS: You know I mean… no for the convention you know like Wednesday, we distributed one like the brochure like the pen or something like that. So we tried to do that you know to showing our appreciation for the participants. But not really very valuable gifts obviously we can't provide.

MR. MORGAN: Let's just look at our notes for a moment.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. ASHMAWY: I have… yeah I do have question actually. So Kemal is no longer part of the Turquoise Council. Is he still part of TAA?

WITNESS: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: Why not?

WITNESS: Why not? He left… usually for our board members, we have board members I would say are presidents of federations and we added some members from at large. Representatives from Turkey like one Turkman, one Azeri. So Kemal… I think, I didn't invite him so he didn't want to be part of this since he left so he's… he wants to just specifically focus…

MR. ASHMAWY: Why isn't AFAZ part of TAA?

WITNESS: Because that's C4, I believe. All other organizations C3.

MR. MORGAN: Why would that have… I mean that wouldn't preclude it from being part of your alliance? So can you explain that?

WITNESS: Yeah, our first discussion with our lawyers when we established our organization, we asked specifically you know, what are our…. Because of our individual… when I was in the west coast all five of us C3. So I didn't know C4, C6 so they explain us. C4 is requirements, C6 is pros and cons. You know you can do this or that. So we decided to stick on C6 to you know and he said that you know a lot of organizations here not C3, but C4 and C6. But we want to keep that kind of tradition being C3 and don't have any kind of… other than cultural education and social issues . So I think best way to keep that tradition is keep C3 away from other issues and….

MR. MORGAN: When was the last time you spoke to Kemal?

WITNESS: Kemal? Last time he came to our convention Wednesday and stopped by.

MR. MORGAN: This past Wednesday?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: That was two days ago?

WITNESS: Yeah, two days ago. He stopped by I saw him briefly.

MR. MORGAN: Did you talk to him about the OCE's Review?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Did he know that you were speaking to us today?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: He didn't mention it at all?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: He didn't ask you anything about it?

WITNESS: You know the sensitivity because you even though it's our board, we have… we are really sensitive about… we believe and trust that this should be a kind of independent so no shared document or conversation, so we haven't discussed with anybody else you know in my staff only in all document, I only shared with the one person to help me to the writing and the collecting information.

MR. ASHMAWY: Has Kemal sent you any documents? Invoices? Any information from the 2013 trip recently?

WITNESS: No.

MR. ASHMAWY: No?

MR. MORGAN: Have you had any… when was the last time you had any communication with NIL Travel?

WITNESS: Not recently, back in 2012.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, what about SOCAR? Any representative from SOCAR?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Have you discussed our review with anyone outside of your organization?

WITNESS: No, never. So this is the first time we are experiencing this. You know all kind of, you know, accusations you know people asking you know detail and banking and all the like. Very private as you know, sharing those information but I understand the seriousness of the issues, you know. I appreciate for taking quick look and I know that as we discussed, there are certain issues we need to make up you know all the payments and everything, so I really honestly in our organization, our member organization so we need your recommendations suggestions so that for the upcoming next trip so we would take a right, proper from beginning to end. So I will value your evaluation or report on whatever.

MR. ASHMAWY: Yes and we appreciate your time and your honesty today so, thank you very much.

WITNESS: Thank you.

EXHIBIT 27

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF TAFS PRESIDENT

4/3/2015

MS. EISNER: This is Helen Eisner from the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by Bryson Morgan on April 3, 2015. We are interviewing TAFS President. This is – well I'm not going to list all the numbers of the review and we have given TAFS President the statement under 18 U.S.C. 1001; he has signed the form and acknowledged it. We also have let him know that the interview will be recorded. Okay, so why don't you tell us a little bit about where you're currently employed?

WITNESS: At Turkic-American Federation of Southeast, Atlanta based in Georgia base and…

MS. EISNER: And is it okay if we from this point on, refer to the Turkic-American Federation – sorry, of Southeast –

WITNESS: TFS.

MS. EISNER: TFS, is okay?

WITNESS: It's okay.

MS. EISNER: Okay, so and your position there is?

WITNESS: President.

MS. EISNER: President. And how long have you been employed there?

WITNESS: Started '13…probably end of March? Yes.

MS. EISNER: March, 2013?

WITNESS: Yes. First payroll I remember, March or April. Yeah.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And where were you working before then?

WITNESS: There was a maintenance company in Texas, Crystal Solutions.

MS. EISNER: Okay. And you were hired in March, 2013. Who hired you at that point?

WITNESS: I mean the board of directors of Turkic-American Federation offered me position and I decided to move.

MR. MORGAN: So where in Texas were you with Crystal Solutions?

WITNESS: It was in Houston, Texas.

MR. MORGAN: Houston, Texas.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Were you on the TFS board prior to being president?

WITNESS: TFS? No. After I moved, I become familiar all the organizations in Southeast area.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Is there any other employment that we should know about?

WITNESS: No…just…it was the only thing that I was making money in Crystal Solutions.

MS. EISNER: I meant currently, any other positions?

WITNESS: Currently, no.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Are you on the board of any other organizations? Board of directors or…

WITNESS: Okay. I had membership like Congress-club, like Capitol Hill club and…but the membership, in terms of membership…I don't know if this is considered, I'm the Honorary Council of Tanzania. I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, yeah.

MS. EISNER: What does that involve? Honorary Council?

WITNESS: Honorary Consulate of Tanzania.

MR. MORGAN: Consulate?

WITNESS: Yeah, Honorary Consulate.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: And also, I'm the member, if I'm still…I'm not sure. The sister-city organization in Houston, Istanbul.

MS. EISNER: It's the sister –

WITNESS: Sisters organization under Mayor of Houston. You know, sister-city?

MR. MORGAN: Yeah. So –

WITNESS: If I'm still because I don't know after I moved, maybe…

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So, you started at TFS in 2013, how long had TFS existed prior to that?

WITNESS: I served…actually, I'm the first guy, I mean initiating technically TFS. October '12 actually, they registered for the state of Georgia and applied for the non-profit things.

MR. MORGAN: In 2013, October –

WITNESS: '12.

MR. MORGAN: Oh, '12.

WITNESS: '12. Just established, but not run you know. It was just an organization and most probably last…I don't remember when we became the tax exempt whatever, but '12, October application I remember, from paper works that I provide you guys as well.

MS. EISNER: Sure. And who would have registered that paper work? Who would have filed that?

WITNESS: There was a president, Mustafa Godhen Sahin and Yasin Bagel.

MR. MORGAN: Could you write those two names down for us? Just so we have it for transcript?

WITNESS: These are all in the files as well and first establishment; I provide and printed all information to you guys.

MR. MORGAN: Great.

WITNESS: That's my first contact and second contact.

MS. EISNER: So why was TFS created?

WITNESS: Excuse me?

MS. EISNER: Why was TFS created?

WITNESS: Turks…mostly immigrated United States for educational purposes. We have very stable community in nationwide and they started establishing non-profits actually in different periods of time; cultural center, dialogue centers…all basically just to be able to in the community, you know? Then we started being familiar with the Central-Asian and East-European nations because culturally they are very close to us. As in diaspora, we decided and told we can move together to be able to behave as a community. It was the first…reason at least in carrying that mission you know?

MS. EISNER: And we have a sense of you know, I think there are a lot of Turkic cultural organizations throughout the country –

WITNESS: Correct.

MS. EISNER: For this one in particular, was there a reason this one was created?

WITNESS: It's a similar idea. Even if you do not have any...Central-Asian or East-European members, but individually people are all time together with us, moving together you know? Yeah, that's it.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

WITNESS: Is that kind of…in old time, we get advice from the friends, you know, American friends, hey, you guys are…doing great job in cultural areas and everything, but to be able to behave as a community and recognize and you can also…establish an umbrella you know, it can kind of be liaison for you guys and you know… that's why, basically established that.

MS. EISNER: And does TFS have a staff besides you?

WITNESS: Yeah. One assistant we have right now.

MS. EISNER: What is his position?

WITNESS: Assistant. Executive assistant.

MS. EISNER: Assistant, okay.

WITNESS: Kind of scheduler for us and…

MS. EISENR: What is his name?

WITNESS: You want to write it? Zinaida Vugdelic is his name.

MS. EISNER: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: You said the board of directors offered you the position?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. MORGAN: Who was your main contact on the board of directors?

WITNESS: Yasin Bagel. I already mentioned him.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: And does TFS have a treasurer?

WITNESS: Yes. And we have a Chamber of Commerce, he's president… Omer Casuvluz is president. Let me write. He's the treasurer.

MS. EISNER: Is he a board member as well?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Okay. How does TFS receive funding?

WITNESS: Let me think. Mostly… mostly donations and also… we are organizing trips to overseas and most of the participants you know, other than their airfare and their costs, they are participating as fee. For example, right now everybody is participating with $700.00 fee, you know, those are we are bringing Turkey and… it's kind of a little bit of money as well, you know… funding as well, plus donations. We can consider those as donations as well because they are just donating basically you know.

MS. EISNER: What other types of donations do you receive?

WITNESS: Regular individuals, you know? People are you know, sometimes comes and give the checks you know or I have some people give their credit card yearly, we charge… they say specific amount money you know, those type of… donations.

MS. EISNER: Any donations from any other types of entities, companies, businesses?

WITNESS: Two now… as well as I remember from the accounting or individuals, you know?

MS. EISNER: Okay.

WITNESS: As far as I remember.

MR. MORGAN: Are those individuals, are they people who live here in the United States?

WITNESS: Yeah, from the community basically. Mostly from Atlanta, Georgia, but I do receive sometimes because I have jurisdiction in Tennessee, you know Florida and sometimes I'm receiving you know from them as well.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. Who are some of your big donors? Do you have any certain individuals who provide larger checks, larger amounts of money?

WITNESS: No. I mean… we can just diversify, you know? I cannot say 90% is coming from this individual, but the rest 10% is coming from you know… it's kind of combination, you know. And last year, I had a construction guy here, he moved to United States, he write checks, but maybe no more than $30 - $40,000.00 I guess if I can tell you know, but not specifically… one person you know.

MS. EISNER: I think you said donations come from mostly individuals. Are there any companies that donations come from?

WITNESS: I should look at it you know because sometimes individuals are telling me, "okay, we're going to donate," but when they send their company checks…I should know it you know to look at it and I can understand and tell you guys yes, this is an individual, but he write check from his company that I should figure it out, you know.

MS. EISNER: Would there be any documentation of that? You could go back and look at them?

WITNESS: Of course. All our accountings is in quick books in one click, all the donations stuff we can provide you guys.

MR. MORGAN: That would be great.

MS. EISNER: So let's go on and talk a little bit about the convention that you know, we're here to talk about. So, what was the 2013 U.S.-Azerbaijan convention?

WITNESS: '13? As I said, I took the office…March or April and in our time, you know the mission was, as I mentioned before, Turkish based, Central-Asian based or East-European based individuals…they do live here. They're American, basically and…we provide them you know, cultural services, similar things and…emotionally we have a tie with those people and we have individuals in the community from those nations. Every time they do see…before we actually, I don't remember the TAA conventions when it started, I don't remember, should be prior you know, but maybe it's…it was the first sample for the convention types. It was a kind of community gathering, every year you know and everybody coming together in Washington and you know, celebrating and everybody's visiting their elected officials. After that, individuals in the community started telling, this okay, TAA is umbrella you know…and representing us as well, can we do the similar things, you know? Most probably start to like this because I have the same feeling right now because you know all time, I have individuals in the community from different backgrounds take in similar things, that's why I'm just referring. And then…the Kazakhs, Azeris and Kirgiz, and all others who wanted to represent you know, the same way. When I came to office, already you know…all my other sister-organizations and leaders, "hey you know we are organizing, especially Texas one, a convention, the same purpose you know…the individuals who want that, they want to be represented you know…because after '13 when you guys inquire, I just did research and it seems before that they did the same thing in Washington, you know? And –

MS. EISNER: Yeah, let's unpack all of this a little bit because I know you have a lot of information to provide, which is great. We really do appreciate that, but just so I can

break it out and understand a few of the things that you said. So you said, "especially the Texas one", which organization are you referring to there?

WITNESS: Turquoise Council because as well as I understand, they have a specific number of community members in Texas… they you know all time, very active and want to be you know, represented as a country as well, you know? And then… when I come to office, "hey you know what, a month later we are organizing such trip" and this is for the convention you know just to be able to….both sides actually, they explain me, "okay it's mutually, on our side, American side, we will see interest to American individuals you know, Iran and Russia is there"… these are philosophical conversation, I'm sorry about this.

MS. EISNER: No, it's okay.

WITNESS: And that we should teach at this of leaders, what American interests you know overseas and the mission –

MR. MORGAN: Was this a meeting? Was it a conversation you were having with someone else?

WITNESS: In Washington, I mean we are having… the board meeting you know, with TAA because –

MR. MORGAN: With TAA?

WITNESS: Eventually I'm the board member for TAA, but at that point, it was just a month right after I take – took the office, it was not the proper meeting for me because I received an all time cost, you know?

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: From Kemal, you know. Mostly focused on because he was in the center for that convention as well as I understand, that's why he just direct me you know, "could you please invite you know, the people" and things like that and I was –

MS. EISNER: So you're referring to a Kemal Oksuz? Is that who you are –

WITNESS: Yeah. He was the CEO or the president is whatever or president, I guess.

MR. MORGAN: Of Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Turquoise Council and then, I was very fresh at the office and yeah, it was a good opportunity for me to work on the field, you know? Then I just… invite people.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: So you Kemal asked you to invite people?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. What – which people did he ask you to invite? Was it the people in your region or was it –

WITNESS: Actually, the people representing my region, but were in Washington like staffers you know…that's why I communicate with the staffers.

MR. MORGAN: So did he give you a list?

WITNESS: No, basically in my jurisdiction, I have six to five members of Congress and ten Senators. Basically, when you go their office web page, you can just send the invitation. And whenever you understand is enough, you just cut it off; it's working like this.

MR. MORGAN: Whenever you have enough people who have accepted the invitation –

WITNESS: Then I'm just done, you know. I didn't go further.

MS. EISNER: So there was some limits, thresholds, for how many people –

WITNESS: I was very new people. I was very new and I was not sure for the manageable things and it was seven or eight people…most probably accepted them.

MS. EISNER: So we'll get into some of the –

WITNESS: Then, you know, I'm done with that.

MR. MORGAN: So how did you know how many people you could take?

WITNESS: That's what I'm saying. I was very new, for me to be able to you know, the manage people, seven, eight people is enough for me you know in my part.

MR. MORGAN: Oh, to manage the logistics of it?

WITNESS: Yeah. In my mind, I mean…if I am seven, eight people, how…what is the purpose of that trip, you know? How can we communicate with those people?

MR. MORGAN: So you've done – have you done trips to Turkey and Azerbaijan before, with Congressional staff?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Or with other – with non…with other people though? So how did you know that seven or eight was about the right number?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MR. MORGAN: How did – did you have some experience in taking people on these trips?

WITNESS: I was participating in trips to overseas, not to Azerbaijan, but also to Turkey… would the different inter-faith groups you know.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, yeah. So you've done a similar –

WITNESS: I know what is the nature of the trips in three, four days… I mean for twenty people, but I mean what can you do it.

MS. EISNER: Were these trips to Turkey, were they with Congressional staff as well? The Turkey trips?

WITNESS: No. It was just… as I said… diversified. Kind of mixed and different parts of life and it was, as I said, after that I did that, you know? Fourteen, most probably, but I'm just in here, that's why…

MS. EISNER: Okay. And you were – as you've said, you're kind of new to this; this was March 2013, when you started the job, the new job at TFS, how did you know how to reach out to Congressional staffers? You hadn't done that in the past, how did you know prior to this?

WITNESS: I was volunteering in the non-profits and when I was in Texas, you know. Not just from Congress delegation, any people… when we are inviting people, I know how to reach them, you know? Just call them, their office and send the invitation. The same process, I guess. Everybody is the same people, you know?

MS. EISNER: Was anyone walking you through the specifics of reaching out to Congressional staff and anything that might be different there?

WITNESS: No. It was the same thing, that's why if I did mistake it's just because of that… I… you know I'm not sure about…

MS. EISNER: So, kind of stepping back. We talked about TAA at first; you're familiar with them and their sort of role in previous conventions –

WITNESS: Right now, I'm familiar more because it was first time at that time, I started their meetings and right now I'm attending, you know?

MS. EISNER: Okay. But at that time and you were getting to know them at the time and you were attending their meetings?

WITNESS: Right, last two years, I'm familiar right now. The mission, the field works and everything.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Do you recall when you first heard about that 2013 convention?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MR. MORGAN: When did you first hear about it?

WITNESS: Uh…whenever I deploy here, you know, whenever I come here, I rent my house and at that point you know, I started to work on it you know. Even if I didn't know that there was going to be a convention or whatever, because I'm not in that planning committee or whatever if there is a planning committee, you know?

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, so who was on that planning committee?

WITNESS: If there was a planning committee.

MR. MORGAN: Was there –

WITNESS: I'm not familiar, that's what I'm saying. If Kemal has a team, it is his team, but I… he just called me. That's it. Other than that –

MR. MORGAN: Oh, okay. I just wanted to get this specific; he called you? Was it a phone call?

WITNESS: That's what I'm saying. From the beginning, he called me, "could you please invite people and we are having you know, the convention overseas" –

MR. MORGAN: Did he send you materials to look over?

WITNESS: Should be because…I did research in my email accounts and everything, I printed all the things…maybe more than sixty or seventy emails…but…his assistant, Razul, the only thing I received emails from him is here because you know he just call me, Razul sent me documentation.

MS. EISNER: And who is Razul?

WITNESS: Razul is in Kemal's team. Most probably, vice president of Turquoise.

MS. EISNER: And his team is for the Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Turquoise Council. And then Razul sent me you know, directions you know, the invitations, hotel recommendations and everything.

MS. EISNER: Oh, he sent you – so… when you say, he sent that to you, was it information about that for the travelers?

WITNESS: Actually, first, how… what type about the nature of the convention.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, what's the nature?

WITNESS: Material.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

WITNESS: And then I invite people and whenever they accepted, they direct me how to run the process you know because I'm not as familiar. After that point, when the Ethics approve, that point Razul start to send me the confirmations and others as well.

MS. EISNER: Well we're going to get into a lot of this stuff, but just to kind of… I'll bring it back a little bit before we dive into the next thing. So, I mean, you mentioned reaching out to these seven or eight people and inviting them to the convention, what role did TFS play in the convention?

WITNESS: Actually, TFS was just participant. I mean because I was only person, there's no TFS back then, just me and I invited and with those people –

MR. MORGAN: Did you go to it?

WITNESS: Yeah. That's what I'm saying. I was the one who traveled with them and then come back. That's it.

MR. MORGAN: Did you travel with them on their Turkey portion of their trip as well?

WITNESS: I should remember that because we've very focused on… maybe Istanbul because I don't remember exactly what the schedule was. Some of them wanted to extend their trips; they were on their own private rides, they did it. According to the tickets purchased, I remember that part, yeah. I was together with them whole time, but other than Istanbul, I don't remember anything because Istanbul was kind of a hop for people to transfer to go all over the world.

MR MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: And during those initial board meetings, when you were just sort of being approved as new president of TFS, was the convention mentioned? Was there any anticipation of the convention?

WITNESS: No, they're not familiar with it. I mean, if right now, I mean… the… I mean… just they gave me the right to do things and… yeah.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So, we've –

WITNESS: Nobody participated from my board members.

MS. EISNER: Nobody attended?

WITNESS: Yeah. Even just in Washington as well…you know.

MS. EISNER: Were they familiar with the convention?

WITNESS: They don't know about it. I mean…I'm very honest about that; they don't know what the convention is.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Who else was on – you referred to Kemal's team?

WITNESS: Razul. Razul was –

MR. MORGAN: Anybody else on that?

WITNESS: I really don't know because Razul was the person who was contacting me with email most probably Kemal was busy that's why he was calling me. Razul was running the system.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Was Kemal and Razul, anyone else, maybe not on Kemal's team, but you would mention who was a part of this on going, planning and information on anyone else you were getting, sort of planning information from, about the convention?

WITNESS: They don't have secret ideas and if they would have, they would make…communication with me just for [indecipherable]. I'm just trying to remember and also I look at the emails, only person I saw was Razul, that's why I'm just mentioning right now, you know.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Do you know how the logistics were decided for the convention? You know, the time, when it would be held?

WITNESS: I really know…the information about that because I was one invited like participant, you know? I was guest as well. Even if…if you ask the question, what was the panels, even if I don't remember you know…those things –

MS. EISNER: How do you think those decisions were made? How do you think the decisions were made?

WITNESS: Okay. Most probably Kemal decided you know? Because it was his convention, you know?

MS. EISNER: Yeah. Why do you say that? I mean we keep going back to sort of Kemal being the center of this, why did it seem like it was his convention?

WITNESS: Because he communicate with me you know, Tafar didn't communicate with me about the convention, I mean Kemal communicated with me, that's why it was his project I guess. Because I know my projects you know, with a group of people I'm having Turkey; I'm arranging everything you know…I know everything, if you ask the question to me, I mean every single second I can tell you everything, you know. If I am a guest, I participate different groups as a guest and even I don't remember as a guest those type of things as well. It's the same thing for as well you know.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Did convention attendees need visas to enter Azerbaijan to get into the country?

WITNESS: Yes because they provide us and they sent us the visas, the papers you know.

MS. EISNER: How did you get those papers? How would you –

WITNESS: When we sent the pictures and passport copies to Kemal or Razul, whatever, and then they communicate with the Ambassadors, they send all the information and everything to the embassy. And whenever they receive the approval visas, they send us. This is what I know about that.

MS. EISNER: So you would be in contact with the staff and the staff would send you the passport information and then you would forward it to Razul?

WITNESS: Forward it to them, correct.

MS. EISNER: I don't want to put words in your mouth, just want to make sure I'm getting it.

WITNESS: No, no. It is. You know because individually, nobody…applied for the visas as Azeri member because I remember the paper work or the approval came in one page, I remember keep these visas…I remember those details, you know.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So we've been talking about TFS sponsoring Congressional travelers. How many travelers was it? How many Congressional travelers did TFS sponsor?

WITNESS: [indecipherable], you mean?

MS. EISNER: TFS. How many –

WITNESS: At that time?

MS. EISNER: To the convention. Yeah, how many Congressional travelers to the 2013 convention?

WITNESS: As far as I remember, seven or eight, as I said.

MS. EISNER: Seven or eight?

WITNESS: Yeah, no more than that. And there was no…there weren't any Members, just the staffers.

MS. EISNER: No Members?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Did you invite Members?

WITNESS: Most, probably, but generally how it works is, the Members, if I know people from the first-hand, I can invite. I mean, other than that…it's just sending email, that's it. For the Member's level, staffers they are very open, they are all time, but for the members, I mean you should know him personally and knowing anybody here.

MR. MORGAN: Did Kemal want Members, you to invite Members?

WITNESS: He…generally wanted me to invite people from Washington, but…I mean I was very new you know, and even if I talked to people from other districts, they were not that much in contact with Members, that's why…it was meaningless for us to invite you know…Members.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: Not specifically all the Members, but from Washington people you know that's it.

MS. EISNER: How did he communicate that to you that he wanted people from Washington?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MS. EISNER: How did he communicate to you that he wanted people from Washington?

WITNESS: He called me.

MS. EISNER: He called you? Phone conversation?

WITNESS: It was very limited time, you know. Just think about it, I'm moving here…late March or early April and a month or two months later, there's a big event –

MS. EISNER: Fast turnaround.

WITNESS: Also, I really didn't care about this stuff. I was moving you know, it was kind of stressful things for me. I just invite people, that's it.

MR. MORGAN: Did you know Kemal when you were in Houston?

WITNESS: Yeah, Kemal…everybody knows him.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. You know, it's one of the things we're trying to get a sense of in our investigation, is Mr. Oksuz. Just tell me a little bit – what is he like? How did you meet him?

WITNESS: What he's like?

MR. MORGAN: You said everybody knows Kemal. What is he – is he really out going?

WITNESS: He's a very important guy, you know in the leadership level. If you are new community, for example in my community in Georgia, everybody knows me now. Why? Because I'm communicating with people that need help, you know? That's why it's the only thing you know, that I can tell you. It's similar things you know. If there is a leader and everybody knows him, at least we know everybody should know him, you know.

MR. MORGAN: So is that what Kemal was in Houston? He was the leader in that area?

WITNESS: Yeah, for the TFS…

MR. MORGAN: TC --

WITNESS: TCA –

MR. MORGAN: Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Turquoise Council, that's why…you know…at least we are thinking that everybody should know him, you know.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. Did he help you get your position at TFS? Was he involved in that?

WITNESS: Most probably, he can offer people if, you know, people from here, but…I really didn't you know…yes, he was knowing me and they wanted TFS…to activate it, you know that's why and they were most probably asking people from all states, not just from there and…Houston…was kind of tired to me; it's hot, humid you know…

MR. MORGAN: Well –

MS. EISNER: When did you – oh…

MR. MORGAN: Oh, I was just going to say, the sense we have is that the Turquoise Council was a really active organization.

WITNESS: Yeah, I was volunteering as well. Not only just the sister-cities, every relative organizations, our Raindrop center…IID dialogue center…you know…Turquoise…and we people were you know all time volunteering, whenever they needed, that's why…yeah, go ahead please.

MR. MORGAN: So among the – and the way we understand it is, there's sort of – there's TAA, which is the umbrella organization –

WITNESS: Yeah, for nationwide.

MR. MORGAN: And there are the regional, sister organizations. Was Turquoise Council more active than the other sister organizations? Was it sort of the most prominent one? The most well-financed one?

WITNESS: You mean more than TAA, then yes because…Texas people are very you know stable. I mean, individuals I mean and they have enough funds you know, enough staff and enough centers; they very well established organization.

MR. MORGAN: Why is that?

WITNESS: I don't know, I mean years and years…it's a long-term question, you know, maybe 15 years ago, they start to create community and here, we have just one cultural center in Moralfreda, I have office in Midtown and because, maybe because of universities, I don't know. When people receive and I mean when the cities receive community members, then community we active it. If you ask me why you guys are this much lazy here in Georgia, I cannot say anything because it's community members and the image people, that's it.

MS. EISNER: Has Turquoise council been established for that you know, longer period of time? You mentioned a long period of time of funding in Houston –

WITNESS: I'm not referring Turquoise, I'm referring to all non-profits.

MS. EISNER: All non-profits.

WITNESS: Because, even in 2003, there were cultural center, you know? And before Turquoise…

MS. EISNER: I just want to go back and confirm some of the travelers you had mentioned, seven or eight. We've pulled the public filings, so we have a sense of you know exactly, who they are on behalf of TFS. So, I'm just going to go through the names and if you could confirm that they were part of the trip?

WITNESS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Matthew Hodge?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Jessica Carter?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: David Black?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: James Wiley Deck?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Glen Miles?

WITNESS: Miles… yes.

MS. EISNER: Julian Johnson?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Erica Strable?

WITNESS: Erica Strable…yes.

MS. EISNER: And Christopher Shell?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Okay. So that –

MR. MORGAN: Anybody else that wasn't on that list?

WITNESS: I remember one name, but she was in this group or…Courtney Tidus. I don't – I was not sure because Courtney Tidus.

MS. EISNER: Courtney?

WITNESS: Courtney Tidus, yes. Courtney. As well as I remember, maybe…I'm not sure.

MS. EISNER: Is it possible they were Senate staff?

WITNESS: Huh…no. Courtney is a Congregational – she's at South Carolina? Tom Rice's office. Congressman Tom Rice's office, but I don't know. I mean she attended another because she is a good friend in old time; every time I see her, whenever I see…people…I just…guessing she was in the group as well; that's why, I don't know. You maybe just check it professionally, that's better.

MS. EISNER: Okay, we will follow up on that. And were you the primary point of contact for these travelers that I just mentioned?

WITNESS: Yes ma'am.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Did you ever – if they ever had any logistical questions, did you ever ask any of those travelers to speak directly to Kemal or Razul? Do you recall that ever happening?

WITNESS: I'm just trying to remember…because my conclusion that they should…maybe a few times? A few staffers name on the ticket was wrong, at that point I just directed them to Razul just to handle it. At the point, they communicated. Yeah.

MS. EISNER: What is the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: Assembly of?

MS. EISNER: Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan?

WITNESS: I was in Houston…that's why I was hearing things because I'm not in that board. Whenever this representation started and continued, most probably strong community members, Azeri community members, wanted to establish their own…you know. Most probably just because of that…either the establish other than Turquoise because Turquoise kind of Turkish…still you know and they didn't want any big brother and they wanted to establish such organizations, probably.

MR. MORGAN: You're saying – who was at the…who would've been in charge of –

WITNESS: Members are very strong because of the oil industry in Houston. I mean…they were considering themselves in the community, but after that most probably…because right now they have a cultural center separately, that's why I can just

tell you guys…individuals from Azeri community and I cannot tell you this and this, who wanted to do that.

MR. MORGAN: So were you involved in the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan forming?

WITNESS: No. No.

MR. MORGAN: Do you know when they formed? Do you have a sense of what it was?

WITNESS: I was in Texas. It should be two years you know, because I was hearing…because it was kind of disturbing things for the community because the Turks…you know when the community started here you know, the leadership and the…I was hearing they didn't want it and they wanted to just get their own leadership and –

MR. MORGAN: Were there sort of disagreements between them and Kemal or Turquoise Council –

WITNESS: No! Because Kemal was in their board as far as I know, that's why you know –

MR. MORGAN: Oh, okay.

WITNESS: And that's why –

MS. EISNER: Whose board is he on?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MS. EISNER: Kemal's on whose board? You said he's on their board?

MR. MORGAN: [inaudible]

WITNESS: Yeah, he should be because they were running together, you know and they were moving together and then the community itself, the grass root I mean, because there was one organization when you guys were talking establishing another organization, things like that…is that disturbing for the community, you know.

MS. EISNER: So there was this kind of, you mentioned an oil interest or in the area–

WITNESS: Area. That's why I talk of engineers you know…education purposes, other PhD from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan…people working in Houston industry eventually, you know.

MS. EISNER: Would there have been an oil interest or in that general industry, you know, that was interested in the Azeri kind of interests as opposed to the Turkish interests?

WITNESS: It was different thing; you know…I'm mentioning the people of Houston mostly working in the oil industry. They can be working for other industry as well, it's just because of you know…they know the best, you know? It's not related with that. Turkish community very diverse I mean the professors, business people and whatever I cannot specifically one type of group of people, but mostly they have an interest to come to United States for the PhD programs for their future, you know.

MS. EISNER: So you were hearing about this, we're going to I think refer to it as A-F-A-Z or AFAZ? Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan.

WITNESS: AFAZ, you said?

MR. MORGAN: People have told us that that's what –

WITNESS: Azerbaijan…friends?

MR. MORGAN: It's called Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan.

WITNESS: AFAZ, if you just… like TFS.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, the acronym.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, AFAZ. I mean you were hearing about it, you heard about kind of the formation, have you become familiar with AFAZ since? You learned about AFAZ, do you know – have you, you've been now at TFS for two years, have you heard about AFAZ?

WITNESS: When I was in Atlanta?

MS. EISNER: Just over the last two years, have you come to know…

WITNESS: When I was in Houston, I was familiar because we had friends from Azerbaijani community. They were talking, "okay, we are going to do this things, and we are going to open culture center, is whatever, but after that point, I have no recollection.

MS. EISNER: Okay. I think we're going to start to show you some documents and try to kind of work through them with you. So…

MR. MORGAN: So if at any point you need to take a restroom break, let us know.

WITNESS: No, I'm okay. Let's finish this up it's better for me, you know.

MS. EISNER: Sure.

WITNESS: First time ever I'm facing this type of thing, you know. Even if I'm not first or second partner on the Turk party.

MS. EISNER: So I'm going to hand you MH_0050. And –

MR. MORGAN: And what we're doing is reading the number at the bottom there so the transcript knows –

WITNESS: Okay, what should I do this…should I read? Or just what…

MR. MORGAN: Take a look at it for as long as you would like.

MS. EISNER: You know, familiarize yourself with it.

WITNESS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: I'm just going to direct you towards some language, which is towards the bottom, it says, "our organization as the sole organizer, will cover airfare to and from the event; hotel accommodation, ground transportation as well as meals during your travel."

WITNESS: Yes. Our organization refers to Kemal's organization, here if you are asking this question.

MS. EISNER: So…okay. Let me show you –

MR. MORGAN: Who drafted this invitation? Did you write this?

WITNESS: No, no. As I said, Razul sent me and then I used the same sample even if you know…I'm not familiar with detail. So whatever I receive, I just provide it to the people.

MR. MORGAN: This is text that Razul sent to you to send to them?

WITNESS: Yes sir. Correct.

MS. EISNER: So, you sent this to them…with just so I'm clear, with your signature here so it's TFS, but this was on behalf of the Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Definitely, yeah. Because as I mentioned I was not familiar in detail, this is the detail that you should, they should, provide me and I should just extend the people, you know, that's it.

MS. EISNER: Did you have other conversations with staff where you mentioned you were TFS and you would be sponsoring them, and that you would be their lead point of contact for the convention? Did you talk to…

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MS. EISNER: Did you have conversations with the staff when you were inviting them to explain to them that you were not TCAE you were TFS and that you would be acting as their sponsor for the convention?

WITNESS: I'm just trying to understand what ... sorry

MS. EISNER: You know this so… did you have discussions with… we talked about these eight staffers…

WITNESS: Basically we did the staffers, we met them you know, at the… the only conversation we had is emails.

MS. EISNER: Did you explain to them who you were, that you were TFS?

WITNESS: Yeah I mean I was telling them, you know, TFS is the regional organization, you know, in the south, and we are invite you guys, but that's it. Because of… that's why I haven't seen initial and my business card. You can see it you know.

MS. EISNER: Just another document which is TAFS_0269. Let you familiarize yourself with that.

WITNESS: Yes ma'am.

MS. EISNER: So here you say, "I personally will lead our group, but at the same time, just in Azerbaijan in the Azerbaijan part TCAE will be hosting 370 American Politicians" and you go on from there to describe who will be attending.

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: So, in one, it kind of represents sole organizer, you were referring to the sole organizer in the first document I showed you as TCAE. Here it seems like you will be leading the group, but TCAE will be playing the role of host in the country.

WITNESS: Yes, correct.

MS. EISNER: Why was there sort of this division -- there was some work you were doing and there was some work TCAE was doing?

WITNESS: Actually, they were the main, you know the counterpart and if something missing they are the responsible part because I'm just, you know, I'm not technically in the loop, you know. And that's why I associated everyone to the people because you are bringing them overseas not to the next neighborhood. It was the reason.

MS. EISNER: So let's get into funding for the convention, how was the Convention funded?

WITNESS: As I said to you I was a kind of participant and in overall convention I have no idea. And I just know, you know, I just invited a few people but other than it is a huge, you know, complex and I was not any part of it. That's why I'm not familiar with it.

MR. MORGAN: How as your travel paid for? You went and used hotels, how was that paid for?

WITNESS: I'm in the same thing, you know, TCAE…TCAE right? Turquoise…

MR. MORGAN: Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Yeah, they paid for me as well, the same thing.

MR. MORGAN: You say in addition to the staffers, that you were accompanying?

WITNESS: Yeah the Staffers plus me.

MR. MORGAN: They paid… okay they paid for you as a group?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MS. EISNER: And how did that work? How did they, you know, how did….

WITNESS: TCAE the plan was I mean eventually I'm invited people, you know, and I should have paid the costs to Turquoise still it is open you know. That I should paid, but is not paid and normally they did all the arrangement everything the payments and our, you know, discussion with them was, you know, I should pay the amount…. How much that owed them, you know, to Turquoise.

MS. EISNER: So you're saying that the discussion was that you would pay TCAE at another point in time?

WITNESS: That is correct, because you see I didn't want to involve, one by one, you know, because I didn't have that much, you know, budget. And I told them, you should handle everything and one invoice that I should handle everything.

MS. EISNER: So how….

MR. MORGAN: But I thought you were, you've got to help me understand this…

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. MORGAN: I thought you told them in this initial invitation email, MH_50, that TCAE would be funding it?

WITNESS: TCAE is funding, you know, the main… the whole organization I don't know, how much they spend for the whole organization, but for our hotels and everything, yes TCAE paid. But the discussion was as I said they told me you should pay us at the end you know.

MR. MORGAN: Who was that discussion with?

WITNESS: Kemal.

MS. EISNER: When did that discussion happen?

WITNESS: When first he initiated I asked him how it would work, you know what should I do? And it was a conversation we had, and he told us let's wrap up everything and at the end of you guys pay us this but I ask him, you know what the cost for hotels, what will be the transportation, that's why I mentioned those numbers in the Ethics forms. Whatever I get comes from him, you know that I was responsible to pay to him and I not personally deal with the logistic or hotel, I just called them or I didn't reserve anything from them you know.

MS. EISNER: You said you didn't personally call the hotels…

WITNESS: No I can't because I don't know, that familiar with, you know, that region.

MS. EISNER: Did you personally you know call the Travel agency or anything?

WITNESS: No just the travel agency part is the correction of the tickets I said. Other than that the Razul they sent me everything you know.

MS. EISNER: Razul [inaudible]?

WITNESS: Yeah, Razul.

MS. EISNER: You said, "he told us, Kemal told us", who is us?

WITNESS: Me. I mean us means the group, you know, and because I'm responsible to the group because I am telling them I am going to lead the group and I should know the rules and everything that's why Kemal just directed me. You know we're going to handle everything, then you guys will pay us a debt.

MR. MORGAN: So did he ever send you an invoice for those amounts? That you owed?

WITNESS: In all time he told me, but I told him whenever we have the budget we are going to pay off. You know, and it should be… I don't remember… I should remember the numbers, whatever I disclosed, you know.

MR. MORGAN: Did he send you those numbers?

WITNESS: Whatever I disclosed for the staffers for the trip, I responsible for that number that I should pay to Turquoise, you know because after that reason I want that invoice from them, they send me, you know, just the invoice of the hotels, I mean I didn't want it because I sold the numbers, numbers is not matching that I had mentioned, you know.

MR. MORGAN: Let me get into that a little bit. Which numbers were not matching?

WITNESS: Recently the, to be able to collect all of the information I requested the invoices from them.

MR. MORGAN: From the hotels or from…?

WITNESS: From hotels and they just send me the numbers and numbers are not matching with the numbers that I mentioned in the disclosure form

MR. MORGAN: Where did you get… okay so the numbers you put down on the disclosure form, where did you get those numbers?

WITNESS: I asked Kemal first how much I'm going to responsible for the hotels, airfare and everything that I should know because it was from it that I should write it down and everything you know. Because I was not in contact with the hotels I couldn't get the real information and everything, whatever they gave me it was information that I just disclosed.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, and then so you weren't in contact with the hotels to make the reservation?

WITNESS: I was not the contact person, Razul was.

MR. MORGAN: But then you recently reached out to the hotels?

WITNESS: No I recently reached out to Razul, and send me I'm preparing, you know, some recommendation I will need some, whatever recommendations you have, you know, and then he send me hotel invoices. But the invoice and the disclosure form even if I don't have the disclosure form but I don't… I do remember the numbers should not be that much higher you know because there is a specific numbers it should be in the gap, you know. That's why I'm mentioning this.

MR. MORGAN: So the more recent information you got from Razul….

WITNESS: Just the invoice for the hotels…

MR. MORGAN: The hotels…

WITNESS: And a few restaurants.

MR. MORGAN: Those amounts are higher than what you have on the forms.

WITNESS: Higher that it should have been, yeah. Correct that's why I'm not responsible to pay to Turquoise those amounts because we agree with them whatever they mentioned the numbers that I am responsible to pay off, you know. Even if they sent me the invoice of the hotels, I don't care about that because they told me whatever the numbers in the disclosure form that I am responsible to pay off to them, you know, like I said. This is another internal discussion I'm sorry.

MR. MORGAN: So if we… you know however you do your accounting for TFS, does that reflect this debt that you owe to Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: No, Did you… cause all, you know, I'll be straight up with you. This idea that you owed that money to Turquoise Council seems far-fetched.

WITNESS: I understand.

MR. MORGAN: So I want you to help me understand –

WITNESS: No, Bryson, no.

MR. MORGAN: We've talked to a lot of people that've told us something different that there was no agreement to pay back. So I want you to help me, what evidence do you have that….

WITNESS: Let me explain, when I got the first inquiry from you guys and I didn't want to touch anything you know. Whatever is there is as is, you know, we don't have anything in our accounting system showing because, as I mentioned, it should be belongs to that time of period, you know, in '13 our accounting maybe if you look at the statements you know starting very later on I mean it was in the establishment of you know system. And as I mentioned you guys are teaching me right now and verbally when I told to Kemal, you owe this one is meaningless, and whatever you say, you are right, I cannot convince you of this.

MS. EISNER: Did your board know about this agreement, this loan agreement?

WITNESS: They know that we are going to pay to them, but as I said it is not in accounting system.

MS. EISNER: Does TFS have funds to pay them back; is this something that you're planning on doing?

WITNESS: Actually this year is not a good year for us in terms of funding. We are just handling the basics. If you can get, you know, donations for next year then we should. At least officially we should have because I promised them that the staffers, you know, this is a disclosure this is my responsibility. That's why the end of the story somehow I should do it, you know. And I should ask, but….

MR. MORGAN: So I understand that. At the time that you went on the trip to Azerbaijan, went to the convention, did you at that time intend to pay Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: We talked about that, but I told them that we have very new establishment, you know, whenever we have money then we can pay, you know, even if right now we just started to establish the system. That's why they know I really cannot pay off immediately, you know, that's why if you agree with this I can invite people. If not I have no budget for this you know.

MR. MORGAN: So you told them that you didn't have the budget?

WITNESS: Of course, I mean, even if… for the salary just mainly we've just recently we've started receiving donations from the people, how I can you know invite that much people, you know, they spend that much money, I can't.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, when was the last time you had a conversation with anybody at the Turquoise Council or Kemal or Razul –

WITNESS: For the invoice deal, when I inquired for the documentations and everything, you know at that point I asked him we need some recommendations even if I didn't know what recommendations I should provide I searched my email and everything. Whatever I find I tried to put together you know.

MS. EISNER: Yeah, how did you receive those documents?

WITNESS: Email.

MS. EISNER: And did they say, did they communicate anything to you in the email? What did they say in the email when they sent the documents?

WITNESS: They just send me the email, I mean, attached documentation that's it.

MS. EISNER: Okay, they didn't explain the differences?

WITNESS: Not just attached. No there is no explanation. I can print it and send it to you if you wish.

MR. MORGAN: Did anybody tell you to tell us that you plan to pay them back?

WITNESS: No sir. Definitely no

MR. MORGAN: Was that Kemal's idea?

WITNESS: No definitely because I know my responsibility at least I learn the last two years my responsibilities that's why that I should do that you know. With Kemal, you know, I have no, I mean, warm relation with him in these days because he is far away I'm far away. I mean, things happen, things on going and also I see this situation, you know, why I this you know.

MS. EISNER: Was there a time when you had a warm relationship with him, when you were in DC?

WITNESS: I mean usually everybody knows each other and everybody as I said I was volunteering for him, for the cultural center, for everyone, you know. And a warm relation is the relation I mean.

MR. MORGAN: Okay so, the money at least, you know setting aside the issue of whether or not you intended to pay that back or will pay that back, where did TCAE get the money, the Turquoise council where did they get the money, to pay for all of that travel?

WITNESS: I mean in generally you mean or generally how to generate the money right now? Because normally….

MR. MORGAN: Generally what are their… what are Turquoise Council's source of fund?

WITNESS: Normally it is the same thing as the donations, you know, from all over they have member organizations individuals and I mean [indecipherable], you know. Yeah.

MS. EISNER: Let's go a little deeper into TCAE I think. I'm going to give you a document this is TCAE's tax Form 990 from 2013. It doesn't have a bates number so I'm just going to describe it for our recording; here is the return organization exempt from income tax form.

MR. MORGAN: For 2013.

MS. EISNER: For 2013, just going to…

MR. MORGAN: Is this a document you are familiar with?

WITNESS: It looks familiar even if right now my accountant for my organization doing you know tax referrals I'm just signing documentation you know.

MS. EISNER: Just let you look at it for a second, if you could turn to page 7 when you have the opportunity.

WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

MS. EISNER: So on page 7 you'll see under number 2, it lists you as an officer of the Turquoise Council.

WITNESS: Yes, voluntarily the board members.

MS. EISNER: It says, well it lists here as an officer, yes and it says you spend an average of 15 hours per week.

WITNESS: It is voluntary, but not a paid position as I said as for different, you know, the non-profits I am in. Even if right now I'm not familiar or not you know.

MS. EISNER: Right, well you just hadn't mentioned this to us before when we asked you about positions so we're trying to get a sense of your involvement.

WITNESS: I said I volunteer for all the non-profit I said.

MR. MORGAN: So this said officer here was that incorrect, were you just a board member?

WITNESS: I mean board members classifications or describe I don't know how do they describe, whenever for example, I am a member or board member in sister or Raindrop or other non-profits' but I don't know what it means you know. The officers to me I'm an officer right now because is a paid position you know. I mean I'm responsible for that not responsible for the organization. That's why in our minds, the meaning of board member, if it is officer it is officer, but as I mentioned, just to me is a paid position officer.

MR. MORGAN: You weren't paid by Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: Did you have any ability to direct its activities or control its activities?

WITNESS: They had member organizations like cultural centers, Raindrop for example, I was you know establishing cultural programs; you know, at the center, you know, things like that. But generally this is directed by the board members of the Raindrop organization, you know, and I don't know their responsibility each other.

MS. EISNER: So Raindrop is a separate entity though?

WITNESS: It is a cultural center.

MS. EISNER: A cultural center.

WITNESS: And it is a member organization of actually, Turquoise is the member of umbrella for non-profits that's why when I am acting in sister-city, you know, Raindrop or IID organizing things there is on behalf of Raindrop or Turquoise, we really don't know that. That's what I'm saying.

MS. EISNER: So this was an unpaid position…

WITNESS: An unpaid position.

MS. EISNER: As a board member for the Turquoise Council. And it says you spend 15 hours a week, is that correct?

WITNESS: I mean 15 hours voluntary spending in cultural center, for example, I do consider spending time for Turquoise as well, you know. Because they are the member organization, that's why my 15 hours as a volunteer for all.

MS. EISNER: For the umbrella organization?

WITNESS: Yeah that's what I'm saying; standing for 15 hours for Raindrop or IID is for me, to me, is a concentration of spending 15 hours for Turquoise as well.

MS. EISNER: And, you know as a board member did you attend board meetings?

WITNESS: Some, but I was not that much familiar in, you know, what is maybe few, you know.

MS. EISNER: So you attended some. How many?

WITNESS: I mean…

MS. EISNER: Would you say five?

WITNESS: No I cannot say.

MS. EISNER: 10?

MR. MORGAN: Would they have board meetings without you?

WITNESS: They did yeah. And I attended few times as I said. Really even if not just Turquoise, I mean, for the Raindrop, if you are officer there, I mean, if you are paid you generally the responsible officer. That's why we really don't you know...Raindrop the same thing you know. I mean the, is responsible just for attending and for me, you know. Because I'm just promising that okay I can spend some times 15 hours but in all the areas, you know. That's why really, technically, whatever they give you the title they can give you the chairman even, you know. And my dedication of time, you know, giving them, I mean is limited amount of time. Because I have…

MR. MORGAN: Are you still a board member or officer of Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: Not just Turquoise, for Sister, for Raindrop, I mean… I really don't know, for Turquoise, most probably not. But whenever I search and go back to Raindrop webpage I do still see my name there. That's why you know I have a confusion about that because of they decide how they, you know. If I say to you right now I'm the board member or not honestly I don't know because I'm not the member for Raindrop, but my names there you know.

MS. EISNER: You mentioned to that you did attend some board meetings did you attend board meetings for the Turquoise Council in 2013, any board meetings?

WITNESS: No, ma'am no.

MS. EISNER: In 2014?

WITNESS: Not '14, '15 or…

MS. EISNER: What about in 2012?

WITNESS: No, oh '12 maybe because I was there and I should just look at the records, you know. Because there was 1 or 2 times that I remember, that I attended. As I said being a board member to me was not kind of the full responsibility because I was doing something in cultural center it can be considered for me to me is something for Turquoise council, you know.

MS. EISNER: Did you work closely with Kemal Oksuz, when you were, you know, on the board to the Turquoise council?

WITNESS: Actually in the field I was mostly in the cultural center you know area. But Kemal eventually you see and he, you know, whenever he has a program at the cultural center eventually you should be there, you know. And the, when you said closely, I closely worked with Kemal, with Mahmut, you know different board chairman's there. Because everybody and all volunteers works closely, you know, I mean closely means this much.

MS. EISNER: Okay so let's talk about funding for the Turquoise Council. How does the Turquoise Council get its funding?

WITNESS: As I mentioned again the donations from whole region I mean it was covering seven or eight states I guess and the members, individuals that I familiar with this much, you know.

MS. EISNER: Donations from companies?

WITNESS: Mostly individuals again as I said individuals generally, considering but people are business owners when they are donating never ever I'm experiencing, you know, their bank account that's why I really cannot say to you guys, "hey this individual donate money with his company." I really cannot say that.

MS. EISNER: Who would experience their bank account, who would have access?

WITNESS: Kemal should have, you know.

MS. EISNER: Anyone else?

WITNESS: Other than Kemal I'm not sure who was the treasurer, maybe the treasurer but I don't know who has access for that.

MS. EISNER: So let's go to page 2 of that same document if that's okay. And page 2-4A describes the US-Azerbaijan Conference; says it generated $2,147,112.00 in revenue. Where did that come from?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Does that figure seem right, in terms of how much it cost to put on the convention and the travel?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MR. MORGAN: Does 2 million a little over 2 million, does that seem about right?

WITNESS: I have no idea because I really cannot manage the whole operation it is a big operation it can be 2 million, 1 million, 3 million. I 'm not part of it you know.

MR. MORGAN: So, that's a lot of money, 2 million's quite a bit. Where did Kemal get that money?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Where did Turquoise Council get the money?

WITNESS: Honestly I have no idea.

MR. MORGAN: We have a sense of where some of that money came from. So, you know, you went to the convention there were… I think you saw on the banner behind the speakers at the main conference sign; there were a lot of companies listed. So, I think you're aware for example, you know McDermott was a sponsor, Conoco Philipps, BP, a lot of entities listed as sponsors.

MS. EISNER: Maybe we'll go through a list of those entities and you can tell us how much money came from those entities?

WITNESS: I really cannot tell because I don't know it, you know, if I know… believe me if I know I can share with you guys, but I really don't know you know. If you tell me, "hey President of TAFS, these names these"… I have no idea about that. Kemal is a kind of street guy I mean even if you just volunteer to work with him you are just volunteer no more than that.

MR. MORGAN: Explain that a little bit "street" guy?

WITNESS: I mean…

MR. MORGAN: That's not a term I'm super familiar with do you mean… I just… can you explain what that means?

WITNESS: Okay I mean I can ask you the questions as friends and you can tell me right? And you tell me everything, but I don't tell you anything.

MR. MORGAN: Okay, so is that what Kemal is like, he doesn't share information?

WITNESS: That's his nature, you know, that's why even if I didn't ask any time to about this question to him, but I'm talking about normal life, you know. In normal life it's his lifestyle and I can't blame him you know maybe it's the nature, but at the point is not my business to ask Kemal, you know, how much it will cost, who is sponsoring how you guys are doing. I don't care about it because I was the time of moving and I didn't really care about that, you know.

MS. EISNER: So he's a street guy he's hiding some information, he's not disclosing some information?

WITNESS: I didn't… because he… I'm not that position to… for him to share that information because I'm just a man, third party inviting people, that's it. They should have, you know, discussion with him.

MS. EISNER: So you didn't know necessarily where he was getting it, getting the funds or where they were coming from. Where did you think they were coming from?

WITNESS: I didn't think about that, honestly, why should I think about that? The convention is not the only biggest organizations he did you know. A festival, the community is familiar things going on in the region you know. And that's why, I mean, it's not a new thing you know for the community to ask him how do you do that.

MS. EISNER: Here we were talking about 2 million dollars specifically for this convention so I mean if we give you an opportunity now to just think about it for….

WITNESS: If I will know the 2 million dollars I will think about that you know and is the first time I'm hearing that number right now.

MS. EISNER: So when you hear 2 million dollars where does… where do you think he got the two million dollars in revenue came from?

WITNESS: I mean, the answer can be kind of emotional comment it's not technically thing, but I should think about that you know. And at that point I should think everything. "Hey Kemal how did you organize this festival, How did you organize this and this?" I don't care about that.

MR. MORGAN: Was he offering sponsorship opportunities to companies?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Do you recall any conversation about soliciting sponsors?

WITNESS: No even if I don't know the names that you are mentioning, those companies, what they do, how they operating you know what is there everyday relation with this convention.

MR. MORGAN: Well some of it, you know, at the convention a couple of companies were identified near the top of the banner as main sponsors.

WITNESS: Yes I'm saying what does it mean you know? I don't know what it means.

MR. MORGAN: SOCAR and Caspian Drilling, so just based on what you know what was their role? Were they ….

WITNESS: Brother, believe me you are asking a question ignorant guy about this information. I mean for example if I organize something in Georgia a cultural event, just to be able to have a good relation with a company even if without any cost, I can ask them to use their banner as a main sponsor just to warm up the relations even. That's why I know myself and how he handle if he really got the funding or not, I don't know the relation. If I know and honestly if I feel something I can share with you and at this point, I don't know, you know?

MS. EISNER: Well why don't we go through some of these organizations and you know talk about, you know, the potential, but you were at the conference and you saw their branding, you saw them on the banner, you've seen some of the pictures. It looks like there's a lot of banners up about the convention. Talking about you know if the funding came from those sources to the Turquoise Council. From McDermott I think that was mentioned. Do you know how much came?

WITNESS: I don't know I mean even the company wasn't a big part…

MS. EISNER: How about from Caspian Drilling Company Limited?

WITNESS: No, ma'am. I don't… I have no idea...they have funding or not.

MS. EISNER: What about from the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, SOCAR?

WITNESS: I have no idea.

MS. EISNER: Are you familiar with SOCAR?

WITNESS: SOCAR is the company investing Turkey, they are investing 22 billion dollars and everybody knows SOCAR in Turkey.

MS. EISNER: Were they present at the convention?

WITNESS: What?

MS. EISNER: Was SOCAR present at the convention?

WITNESS: I mean what does it mean the presence of SOCAR, I mean anybody from their leadership level, I mean we had just reading their leadership names from the news papers in the convention did anybody deliver the speech….

MR. MORGAN: Yeah

WITNESS: I don't know I should go out and look at the, you know, the web page, if they mentioned it.

MS. EISNER: We've actually talked to quite a few people from SOCAR and we have a sense of their involvement in the convention and some of the conversations that they've had with various people who were involved in planning the convention. Did SOCAR contribute money to the Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MS. EISNER: Did SOCAR contribute money into, you know, any other organizations that you're familiar with?

WITNESS: No ma'am

MS. EISNER: What about SOCAR USA?

WITNESS: What are you asking?

MS. EISNER: SOCAR presence in the United States.

WITNESS: Officially, they have a presence here, they have an investment here? I don't know whether they contribute or not. I'm not sure.

MS. EISNER: How about the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan? Did they contribute money to the Turquoise Council?

WITNESS: I have no idea their relation as well because Kemal is the president, but I have no idea about that.

MR. MORGAN: Are you familiar with the, something like the Turkic or Turkish American Chamber of Commerce; is that a group you are familiar with?

WITNESS: We have a Turkish American Chamber of Commerce here, but it is TACC whatever.

MR. MORGAN: There was one person we talked to stated that he was surprised… well this person stated that SOCAR hired TCAE and AFAZ to put on the convention.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: And stated some surprise that SOCAR had hired those organizations as opposed to the Turkic American Chamber of Commerce. Does that…?

WITNESS: I'm not familiar with this conversation I mean, what does it mean, what is chamber of commerce trying to say or what it is that… I don't understand you know. What is…

MR. MORGAN: Well speaking hypothetically, if SOCAR let's say, SOCAR had wanted to put on this convention, would they have gone through the Chamber of Commerce or when SOCAR wants to do things that are sort of U.S. facing who do they use?

WITNESS: I have no idea, I mean, if you are asking me the, what is the Chamber of Commerce role in the convention, eventually the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas member for Kemal, they should work together you know. And…

MR. MORGAN: Where they working together? You don't know, or…?

WITNESS: Actually for specific projects they were getting together, but I don't know what it is exactly their responsibility to each other like a cultural center.

MR. MORGAN: Is Kemal involved with the Chamber of Commerce, with that chamber of commerce?

WITNESS: In the Texas you mean?

MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

WITNESS: As a friend, but officially I don't remember if it was part of it, you know.

MR. MORGAN: But they have done some events together you think?

WITNESS: They should because….

MR. MORGAN: They should or they have?

WITNESS: They should because Chamber of Commerce is the member of TCAE.

MR. MORGAN: Oh, the Chamber is a member of TCAE?

WITNESS: Yeah. And for the festivals, I mean the main funding that they should find from the community, this is how we've worked generally in Houston based organization, that they should work together just by should, you know. Because they are the chamber of commerce guide knocking doors to individuals to help you know for the events, you know. Not just For Kemal, if the Raindrop has an event generally they'll generally knock their doors, you know, to help each other.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

MS. EISNER: Do you know how much funding TCAE receives from the festivals? You seem familiar with the festivals.

WITNESS: For the funding part I'm out of it, but it was a big organization as well you know.

MS. EISNER: What about… how does the Raindrop foundation receive funding?

WITNESS: All the non-profits in the region. All… I mean they are all donors, you know from the members. Mostly the Raindrop is project based. They go and individuals ask we have this project could you donate? And generally project based you know donations coming to the Raindrop project by project, you know. Weekend school, cultural activities and things like that, yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Sorry I didn't mean…

MS. EISNER: Oh no, happy to do it. So, let's talk about travel. You told us about you know you identified a traveler and you provided that information to Razul. What was that process did you work with any type of travel agencies or did you work with anyone to organize that part of it?

WITNESS: Razul worked actually because I received the tickets from the travel agency, you know, they were in contact with them. And when we first… first of all we invite people and the Ethic process until approve, we didn't approve the ticket confirmation,

excuse me, and the Razul, right after Ethic approve they purchased the tickets. If you are asking this question if I am understand correctly.

MS. EISNER: So Razul purchased the tickets? How did that work? Do you know how that was handled? How Razul would purchase the tickets?

WITNESS: The only thing I am familiar. Razul sent me the tickets what travel agency purchased and then he just forwarded those emails to me that I printed.

MS. EISNER: So how did you figure out how much those cost, the travel tickets?

WITNESS: Generally….

MR. MORGAN: I mean specifically. I don't want you to speak generally on this.

WITNESS: Generally I'm telling you because generally in the first time we discussed this with them they gave us, "Okay the tickets will be around, for example $1,000.00 to $13,000.00 in this gap and hotels will be in this gap", you know, and this one will be this gap.

MR. MORGAN: So that was an estimate?

WITNESS: That's what I'm saying, you know, how I can tell you because I don't know the agreement with the travel agency. For example, if they purchased a hundred tickets, okay we will have a special discount to you, you know. I don't know the discussion that's why what portion applies to ours you know.

MR. MORGAN: You said, just to be clear, did you make up that estimate or did Razul?

WITNESS: Razul, I don't care about the estimate. What I care is Bryson, whatever they gave me the number that I should disclose with that number, this is my responsibility. That's why I'm telling you know, all time, you guys what numbers did I receive from them. I'm sorry I'm kind of….

MR. MORGAN: And then on the… there was a form that also included those numbers after the trip. Do you recall where you got those?

WITNESS: Well of course I mean in 21 days I disclose it and they sent me the numbers that you should use these numbers. The numbers…

MR. MORGAN: Who?

WITNESS: Razul.

MR. MORGAN: Razul sent you those numbers as well?

WITNESS: Yeah and then I'm going to be responsible to pay those numbers to them, that's what I'm saying.

MR. MORGAN: Okay

MS. EISNER: Let's actually talk about those forms. So I am going to provide you ES_0037-39. Give that to you first and let you take a moment to look it over.

WITNESS: Can you send a copy of this to me later on email if possible?

MS. EISNER: They're actually all publicly available so these are things that are… you can find on the website for the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

WITNESS: Okay

MS. EISNER: They're you know the travel forms that have to be disclosed.

WITNESS: How am I going to search it?

MS. EISNER: Okay, I'm sorry?

WITNESS: How am I going to search it?

MS. EISNER: How do you research it? You go to the website for the Clerk of the House of Representatives and there's a disclosure section and under that there's a travel section so you can look there.

WITNESS: Okay.

MS. EISNER: So if you go to page 39, which is the third page.

WITNESS: Third page?

MS. EISNER: It's ES_0039 bottom of the page.

WITNESS: This one?

MS. EISNER: Is that your signature there?

WITNESS: Yes it's mine

MS. EISNER: I'm also going to give you a WD_0016. This is the…

MR. MORGAN: Post form.

MS. EISNER: Yes, the post travel disclosure form.

WITNESS: Yeah this is a correct signature.

MS. EISNER: Okay this is also your signature then?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: Did you get these forms from Razul? Do you recall how it was that you… the process for filling them out? You told us you got the numbers from Razul…

WITNESS: Probably from the participants because they were familiar because I wasn't familiar at that time what is Ethic you know, forms and whatever, most probably the participants should provide me what I should follow up, but I don't know.

MS. EISNER: We've gotten a lot of information from different organizations that Kemal sent them these forms so that they could complete them.

WITNESS: These forms you mean?

MS. EISNER: Yes the…

WITNESS: I really don't remember. If I say something it can be wrong because what I think most probably from the participants I should have get it you know.

MR. MORGAN: But the filling out the lines on the forms do you recall doing that?

WITNESS: No, normally I consulate these with the people who's participating because I'm not expertise on this I'm telling… I'm asking people how to do this I mean the… Kemal… actually I don't remember for this no, no. If I tell something like that it should be wrong.

MR. MORGAN: So I mean some of it if you look over at page 2 of the first form. I mean some of it is describing what TAFS is. Who would have written that?

WITNESS: 2?

MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Do you see near the top is TAFS is a non-profit….

WITNESS: Number 12 you mean or?

MR. MORGAN and MS. EISNER: Yeah number 12.

WITNESS: And it should be from my mission statement on the webpage, most probably.

MS. EISNER: Would you have put that in there?

WITNESS: Yeah generally whenever I need something I copy it from there and I put it there you know. I mean generally you know.

MS. EISNER: Do you see on the first page under number 1 that says sponsor? And it says TFS; would you have put that in there?

WITNESS: Yes ma'am.

MS. EISNER: Okay and then under number 3A, it says the, "primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip."

WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

MS. EISNER: Did you check that box?

WITNESS: Yes.

MS. EISNER: Okay is that an accurate statement.

WITNESS: I mean at this point it seems no. I mean because….

MS. EISNER: At the time?

WITNESS: Because I said I was on the process of learning what this is what it does, what does it mean for me. Paying later to a counterpart to me is the thing, but at this point what this says is, "another source of funds" I mean at the time it seems that it shows me that I should have used my own sources, but it's to me, you know, using that source later on paying back is the same thing to me, but is wrong, you know.

MR. MORGAN: But you had in your invitation email you had told the staff you said this was on behalf of Turquoise Council. You told the staff there that Turquoise Council was paying for it?

WITNESS: No, I mean, the Turquoise Council whatever is, you know, in the counterpart in overseas they're responsible. If they don't like hotels they will not accuse me they will accuse them.

MR. MORGAN: What you wrote there is, "our organization as the sole organizer will cover airfare to and from the event and hotel accommodations, ground transportation, as well as meals during your travel." And we asked you about this before and you said that was referring to Turquoise Council.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. MORGAN: So I'm just… help me understand how it is that in this email you're telling the staff that the money is coming from Turquoise Council and in this document you're telling the staff that it's all from TAFS.

WITNESS: Mostly what I refer in that email is it can be mentioned the funding, but to me I mean they are the main responsible in our culture you know, I mean…

MR. MORGAN: Who's the main responsible?

WITNESS: The Turquoise Council. I mean whatever is happening you know they are the first hand complaint party is them. They are organizing everything. I don't know the hotels and anything. I mean it refers to them, you know.

MR. MORGAN: So did you have any… when you checked this box 3A on the form, did you have reservations when you checked that? Were you worried about that; did you have any conversations with Razul or Kemal about that?

WITNESS: No sir. Because it doesn't make sense to me at the time the source or later it is not different for me you know. I mean the paying off, to me, is using my own funds you know, is to me, but it can be wrong.

MS. EISNER: Yeah it says, "Funds intended directly or indirectly in any aspect of the trip." I mean it seems like even you know, did you think that TCAE was paying for the entire trip?

WITNESS: No actually I am learning right now, everything even you know, Ethic rules change five times. We get emails from the ethics saying even if I know right now the funding should come from the general funding not specifically for… even if I'm learning it every day, you know.

MS. EISNER: What about… you know, you attended the trip, you know, there were different lunches; there were dinners sponsored by different entities; there were different hotels people were staying at. There's a lot going on in this trip there was a lot of banners; there was a lot of branding that showed a lot of different sponsors for the trip. Does that, you know, you attended did you see a lot of these banners with different logos and different companies that were present?

WITNESS: Oh yeah.

MS. EISNER: So then later you returned and filled out this post travel disclosure form. Did you think differently when you filled out the post travel?

WITNESS: No it was the same thing that I told, because I [indecipherable], you know because eventually I will pay what I should responsible because… I mean, it's my responsibility that I know and different I didn't think about that, no.

MR. MORGAN: Did Bakiad cover the expenses for the Turkey portion?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MR. MORGAN: Bakiad. Are you familiar with Bakiad?

WITNESS: No I'm familiar with the travel agency….

MR. MORGAN: NIL Travel?

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: Tursan Travel Group?

WITNESS: No, let me just remember.

MR. MORGAN: Bakiad doesn't ring a bell?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MR. MORGAN: Bakiad that's not an organization you're familiar with?

WITNESS: No, because Razul told us as a… there's a travel agency you know… Nissan Travel, Nissan I can write it down.

MR. MORGAN: Nissan?

WITNESS: Yes, Nissan.

MR. MORGAN: Spelled N-I-S-S-A-N?

WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. MORGAN: Were they covering the in country expenses in Turkey?

WITNESS: No, actually it was the part of the deal with the Turquoise, I mean they were going to send us just one invoice they are responsible for the Nissan Travel that I know. They should pay them. Then I should pay to Turquoise. I mean it was the thing that we talked with them, you know. I don't care what travel agency is a part of it. The same thing Azerbaijan and Turkey, no difference for me.

MS. EISNER: I'm going to skip forward a bit here. I'm just going to talk about a little bit more TCAE and Kemal.

WITNESS: Okay how many more questions could you just tell me? Just at least I can be…

MS. EISNER: We're getting… we're close, we really are.

WITNESS: Just make me kind of you know, relax.

MS. EISNER: We're getting there. We're getting closer.

WITNESS: Okay good. That's good.

MS. EISNER: What's the relationship between the Turquoise Council and AFAZ?

WITNESS: What is the relation? Kemal is the president for both I guess. Right? That is the relation. Because…

MR. MORGAN: Did they share funding?

WITNESS: Funding? I'm not sure, but Kemal responsibility was president for Turquoise and AFAZ, but at that point I don't know their technical relation, you know, I have no idea.

MS. EISNER: Did you hear AFAZ mentioned at all when you were in conversations…

WITNESS: No AFAZ… the only thing that I know about AFAZ is they newly established a cultural center that's it. Other than that I don't know what they do, you know.

MR. MORGAN: So I think you said the invoices you provided for the Park Inn, the Four Seasons and the Hilton, you got those invoices from Razul, I believe you said, is that right?

WITNESS: Razul , Kemal one of them you know.

MR. MORGAN: Okay.

WITNESS: That, I can easily check you know.

MS. EISNER: Okay, was it strange to you that the invoices included travelers who were not sponsored by TFS?

WITNESS: Can you say again?

MS. EISNER: Let me just show it to you; it might be helpful. I'm going to show you TAFS_0387. There you go. So there are quite a few travelers on these invoices.

WITNESS: What was the question about this?

MS. EISNER: There are a lot of travelers on these invoices who were not sponsored by TFS.

WITNESS: Yeah is not related to me. Maybe when they were printing, they just print my page and send in other names as well.

MS. EISNER: Do you recognize the names of any of the people who weren't….

WITNESS: No I have no relation to anybody else.

MS. EISNER: Do you know why they would've sent you these invoices for people who weren't part of TFS travel?

WITNESS: No, if I can be familiar I can just send you guys this part, I just send all you know. I have no idea about it.

MR. MORGAN: And do you think these invoices are accurate?

WITNESS: According to their numbers they gave me that I am responsible, if it is the question technically, is not.

MR. MORGAN: These are higher than what was previously discussed?

WITNESS: Higher of course. Of course. Should be around $120-$130 something like that.

MR. MORGAN: Did you – when you were on the trip, did you see any bills for your hotel?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. MORGAN: Like a bill come to your room or when you checked out a bill?

WITNESS: No.

MR. MORGAN: You didn't see anything like that?

WITNESS: No, sir.

MS. EISNER: What – Thank you, I'll take that – gifts did you receive at the convention?

WITNESS: Me?

MS. EISNER: Yes.

WITNESS: Me personally, I did not receive any gifts.

MS. EISNER: Did the attendees receive any gifts?

WITNESS: I don't know.

MS. EISNER: We've come across some information that attendees received gifts like rugs. Do you remember people receiving rugs at the convention?

WITNESS: Delivery of rugs in the lobby if you're asking? But I have not received any…

MS. EISNER: What was it? There were rugs in the lobby?

WITNESS: When we are leaving you know.

MS. EISNER: They gave… they handed out rugs?

WITNESS: Already some people were carrying. And you should be given because we didn't receive anything. That is why I am considering we should be given maybe night or whatever I don't know. But for my people I don't remember that.

MR. MORGAN: You don't remember your Congressional travelers receiving rugs?

WITNESS: I don't remember. If they received maybe later on because at that lobby I don't remember anybody because we get on the bus together and they were not carrying anything. If they received maybe it should be sent later on, if they received.

MR. MORGAN: Were they in red bags? Does that ring a bell if you saw people walking around with red bags?

MS. EISNER: If you saw people walking around….

WITNESS: What was that?

MS. EISNER: Were they in maroon or red bags? Did you see people walking around with –

WITNESS: I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Who were the rugs from?

WITNESS: I don't know, you know, that's what I'm saying I wasn't familiar… I ask people what was going on and they just told us the hosts… when they say the hosts it refers to me you know, Kemal and Turquoise, I don't know anybody else host you know. The only counterpart for me is I know him and other than that I don't know any locals you know. Maybe it come from locals, I don't know.

MS. EISNER: What locals would've been –

WITNESS: I don't know, that's what I'm saying; you know the only person I communicate was Razul. That's why whatever they direct me I know that portion that's why. I don't know the locals whatever I don't know.

MR. MORGAN: Some congressional staff who attended told us the rugs were gifts from SOCAR.

WITNESS: SOCAR?

MR. MORGAN: Is that surprise you?

WITNESS: It's not surprising me why I'm surprised because –

MR. MORGAN: Does that refresh your memory?

WITNESS: No it's not because when you said the local host, generally it is the counterpart country you know. And I don't know the… SOCAR is not a company, it is the State for me you know…

MR. MORGAN: So you sort of view Azerbaijan the government there and SOCAR there as interchangeable?

WITNESS: They are Azerbaijan, you know. I mean SOCAR to me is not as a company it is a state, you know, Azerbaijan itself.

MR. MORGAN: Where there a lot of Azerbaijani officials involved with the convention? I mean from what we've read and seen I think the president of Azerbaijan…

WITNESS: Received, yeah I saw the pictures.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, who else from the Azerbaijani Government was there?

WITNESS: Should be the finance maybe I'm not sure.

MR. MORGAN: Do you remember members of their parliament being there?

WITNESS: I'm not familiar with those people, but we visited parliament as I remember. The counterpart was maybe the Speaker of the House? I don't remember those titles whatever. We had a tour, you know, in the city, parliament and the different places the museums, but if you ask officials. I mean you know that part of the world and I mean other than us everybody is official to me you know. Basically.

MR. MORGAN: So who is – getting like the President of Azerbaijan to speak at something, that's kind of a big deal, that's a big accomplishment. Does Kemal have that type of connections? Is he connected to the Azerbaijani Government?

WITNESS: Did you look at the board members for AFAZ because I don't know them and if there's a strong name from Azerbaijani community, that should be the contact for that.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, So you're saying it wouldn't be Kemal that has that connection?

WITNESS: Kemal work in Turkmenistan 15 years ago. I mean he has no connection in Azerbaijan. I mean we cannot create that connection, you know, from U.S. Should be an Azerbaijani know is to me.

MS. EISNER: You asked us if we looked at the board members of AFAZ to see if they made the connection.

WITNESS: That's what I'm saying you know there should be a strong name for that.

MS. EISNER: Why AFAZ? Why do you mention AFAZ?

WITNESS: Because his only connection with the Azerbaijan is AFAZ you know. He became the president for AFAZ and to be able to reach out, for example for Tanzania, it is easy for me I know what to do you know.

MR. MORGAN: So wait, help me to understand this.

WITNESS: Okay, sorry.

MR. MORGAN: Kemal is the president of AFAZ?

WITNESS: Yes as you already know right?

MR. MORGAN: He is the president of an organization representing Azerbaijanis, yet he would not be the one who would have Azerbaijani connections?

WITNESS: He can still, but I'm telling you, I mean at least with a person the help of those people he can create that connection that I am thinking of.

MR. MORGAN: But he would need someone else to help him?

WITNESS: Of course I mean the locals, you know, those iron curtain countries. Is one voice you know, you should have Azerbaijani to be able to be trusted or get connections or create connections in those…

MR. MORGAN: So how did Kemal do it? How did he create those connections?

WITNESS: That's what I'm saying. Did you look at the office board members because there should be Azerbaijani you know, you know, strong names.

MR. MORGAN: That's what I'm asking you, do you know?

WITNESS: I'm sorry, I know. I don't know. I'm just referring, my understanding there should be a connection in his board, you know. But Azerbaijani not American or Turkish, you know.

MS. EISNER: It seems like earlier you weren't very familiar with AFAZ.

WITNESS: What?

MS. EISNER: It seemed like earlier when we were discussing AFAZ, you weren't very familiar with AFAZ, but now it seems like….

WITNESS: No, AFAZ was a kind of disturbing situation for the community.

MS. EISNER: It was, but it seems like you know you mentioned them as the group with board members that would be most likely –

WITNESS: Should be –

MS. EISNER: Should be most likely to have a connection to the Azeri.

WITNESS: Because they were the ones who were trained to create another organization, you know, other than Turquoise. Turkish people are kind of sensitive, you know, we were doing things in our…

MS. EISNER: So you think that the… I mean we talked about the kind of different ties in the Texas area and Houston that would have resulted in the creation of AFAZ, but you think that the Azeri Government was involved in the creation of AFAZ?

WITNESS: Okay that point you should look at the board member of Azeri, who has the connection with the government. The… you can just understand that way you know. If the person related with the government you can tell at that point if there is government involvement. But at the point I really don't know the board members you know.

MS. EISNER: Okay. Any other gifts that you can think of besides the rugs, that people might have received?

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: Okay.

MR. MORGAN: Tea sets, DVD sets…

WITNESS: What?

MR. MORGAN: Tea sets… Tea? Doesn't ring a bell?

WITNESS: Yeah maybe we are the last… [inaudible]

MS. EISNER: Have you had any recent conversations with the eight congressional staffers that we mentioned earlier that TFS sponsored?

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: Did you have any contact with them after the convention?

WITNESS: Actually every time when I travel to Washington, I mean I do see friends and we are having lunch or you know seeing them at the office because in all time we are knocking their doors, okay we have this event; could you please tell the Congressman… is the nature of our, you know, visits to them.

MR. MORGAN: How much time your role, with your role at TFS, how much time do you spend contacting Congressional staff and members of Congress? Is it a big part of your work?

WITNESS: No actually it only last one year because of the funding is a problem for me that I should know more of them. I'm trying to see most of them in the district when they are in, you know, Atlanta. But I'm a bad president you know.

MS. EISNER: Have you… so you haven't… so have you had any conversations with anyone regarding our work?

WITNESS: About this issue or generally?

MS. EISNER: Yes, about this issue.

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: Anyone about our investigation?

WITNESS: No.

MS. EISNER: The Office of Congressional Ethics?

WITNESS: I didn't talk and also…let me just share with you, I mean our relation them is still, I mean when I go to Washington, they very warm. It means I don't know if they are familiar about this investigation or not; if they know maybe they are kind of offended I don't know.

MS. EISNER: You are referring to the Congressional staffers right now?

WITNESS: Yeah because they are at the same office right now, the same…

MR. MORGAN: So you're saying that you still have a warm relationship with them?

WITNESS: I mean when I go and knock the doors you know the staffers, I mean generally they come and how can I help you, you know. At least they are smiling face; we are sitting and drinking something at their office. It's to me still warm relation you know.

MS. EISNER: Besides beyond Congressional staff have you had conversations with anyone about our investigation?

WITNESS: No, ma'am. That's why even if I have a problem with my staffers, you know, here. That's the problem for me right now. Should I, can I talk to them? Explain them what was this about or not?

MR. MORGAN: We ask that you keep it as confidential as possible, but if you… I mean if there is anybody you need to reach out to...

WITNESS: No, I mean at my office that's it because my staffers they received calls. I didn't explain anything to them you know, should I tell them, this is the thing.

MR. MORGAN: Sure, you know we can talk about that a little bit more once we are done with the recording.

MS. EISNER: Just checking my notes and making sure we covered everything.

MR. MORGAN: And we are going to follow up with you. We do want to see that you know that it's sort of QuickBooks or whatever accounting list is.

WITNESS: That's fine for all three years, two years, one year, or '13 after '13?

MR. MORGAN: Ever since TFS started through the end of 2013.

WITNESS: At this point, can I put that debt in my QuickBooks or not is the question? My…

MR. MORGAN: That's not something I would legally give advice with.

WITNESS: No, officially I'm asking you. If there's a problem still I can touch, you know that's what I'm saying. You know because you are very strict about confidential deal. That's why I'm not… if I put the debt there I don't want to put myself in the spot, you know, that's what I'm saying. If nothing is important, I can just put there. That's it you know. Or later on you can let me know or after you finish up or whatever you know.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, we're just not in a position to advise you on that.

WITNESS: Okay that's fine.

MR. MORGAN: If you do end up putting it in there. Make sure that there's a clear record of when you put it in.

WITNESS: Okay that's fine.

MR. MORGAN: I don't think there is anything else.

MS. EISNER: Yeah that's all, I think we're good. Thank you for your time.

EXHIBIT 28

From:	Rohn, Michael </O=U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MICHAEL.ROHN>
Sent:	Friday, December 13, 2013 11:53 AM
To:	Davis, Shelley <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>
Cc:	Lee, Mark <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>
Subject:	FW: Birthday greetings!
Attach:	Dear President Aliyev.docx; US Senator Mark Pryor.pdf; ATT00001.txt; Ruben Hinojosa.pdf; ATT00002.txt; Jim Moran.pdf; ATT00003.txt; Henry Cuellar.pdf; ATT00004.txt; Ted Poe.pdf; ATT00005.txt; Robert Aderholt.PDF

Hey Shelley,

Should we draft this letter? It is for the President of Azerbaijan's birthday.

Thanks!

-----Original Message-----
From: Saim Cagirici [mailto:[redacted]@turkiccouncil.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 5:25 AM
To: Rohn, Michael
Subject: Birthday greetings!

Dear Michael,

We received birthday greetings for President Aliyev, as you know President Aliyev hosted Congresswoman Clarke in Baku, if possible can we get a letter. Attach is the letters we received from other members.

Best,

Saim

EXHIBIT 29

From: Ari Mittleman <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 10:44 PM
To: Jay Rouse <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Itinerary for ROUSE JOHN.G.IV Monday 27 May 2013

You are probably getting a sense of why the Azeris value their Turkish friends' efforts, but realize they need actual professionals.

For tomorrow morning, the important thing to remember is that Rauf is sold. We are providing him the best ammunition to sell his Chairman.

You should get a sense about Brenda from Rauf. He is very intrigued by her and loves the way she engages Jewish/Pro-Israel audiences, but knows she needs this to be bolstered. As discussed, according to Rauf, she will also be consulted on the proposals.

I don't think we dwell much on the conference as he views it [redacted], but, like all of them is grateful so many of visitors will come to Baku. He has a good perspective looking big picture and long term. Remember that he is potentially going to be promoted to Director of the Western Hemisphere so he will be excited to learn more about your Colombia trip.

You will clearly get a sense from Rauf his dynamic with Kemal. It is Kemal who is managing the conference budget and will handle the honorarium. The SOCAR chair, parliament speaker and Ambassador value Kemal's opinion and, according to Rauf, Kemal will be consulted after Rauf delivers our proposals. We should have a call with him after meeting Rauf to discuss all logistics.

2013/5/13 Jay Rouse <[redacted]@gmail.com>

> I have no idea, this is what he sent.
> On May 13, 2013, at 10:28 PM, Ari Mittleman wrote:
>
> > What happened to meeting in Frankfurt?
>
> 2013/5/13 Jay Rouse <[redacted]@gmail.com>
>
> > I don't mean to be a prima donna, but I'm not fling
> > coach to Turkey.
> > I think I am going to bag this. 10 hours each way in

coach with my
current travel schedule doesn't work for me

JR

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kemal Oksuz"
<[redacted]@gmail.com>
Date: May 13, 2013 7:07:22 PM EDT
To: "'Jay Rouse'"
<[redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Itinerary for ROUSE JOHN.G.IV Monday 27 May 2013

Jay, here is your booking! Please see if all is well. Then I will have this purchased.

Best, Kemal

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **NIL TRAVEL (Bahri Caliskan)** <[redacted]@niltravel.net>
Date: Mon, May 13, 2013 at 5:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: Itinerary for ROUSE JOHN.G.IV Monday 27 May 2013
To: raksoy23
<[redacted]@gmail.com>

NIL TRAVEL
2667 CONEY ISLAND AVE
BROOKLYN NY 11223

OFFICE : 800 769 7407
OFFICE 2. 347 767 2951

TRAVEL SPECIALIST; BAHRI CALISKAN

Trip Locator: N53RLH

JOHN.G.IV ROUSE

Monday 27 May 2013

Turk Hava Yollari - Flight TK 0008		**Status:**	Confi
Depart:	Washington Dulles Int'l Airport	**Airline Ref:**	SRPV
	Washington, DC, US	**Seat:**	
	11:25 PM	**Class:**	M-Cc
		Mileage:	5233
Arrive:	Istanbul Ataturk Airport	**Travel Time:**	10:15
	Istanbul, TR	**Stopovers:**	0
	Tuesday, May 28, 2013		
	4:40 PM	**Aircraft:**	Airbu
	Terminal I	**Meal Service:**	Meal

Remarks:

Tuesday 28 May 2013

Turk Hava Yollari - Flight TK 0336		**Status:**	Confi
Depart:	Istanbul Ataturk Airport	**Airline Ref:**	SRPV
	Istanbul, TR	**Seat:**	

	10:45 PM	**Class:**	M-Cc
	Terminal I	**Mileage:**	1096
Arrive:	Heydar Aliyev Int'l Airport	**Travel Time:**	2:55
	Baku, AZ	**Stopovers:**	0
	Wednesday, May 29, 2013		
	3:40 AM	**Aircraft:**	Boeir
		Meal Service:	Meal

Remarks:

Thursday 30 May 2013

Turk Hava Yollari - Flight TK 0337		**Status:**	Confir
Depart:	Heydar Aliyev Int'l Airport	**Airline Ref:**	SRPV
	Baku, AZ	**Seat:**	
	6:55 AM	**Class:**	M-Co
		Mileage:	1096
Arrive:	Istanbul Ataturk Airport	**Travel Time:**	3:05
	Istanbul, TR	**Stopovers:**	0
	8:00 AM	**Aircraft:**	Boein
	Terminal I	**Meal Service:**	Meal

Remarks:

Thursday 30 May 2013

[redacted]

Turk Hava Yollari - Flight TK 0007		**Status:**	Confir
Depart:	Istanbul Ataturk Airport	**Airline Ref:**	SRPV
	Istanbul, TR	**Seat:**	
	1:35 PM	**Class:**	M-Co
	Terminal I	**Mileage:**	5233
Arrive:	Washington Dulles Int'l Airport	**Travel Time:**	11:35
	Washington, DC, US	**Stopovers:**	0
	6:10 PM	**Aircraft:**	Airbus
		Meal Service:	Meal

Remarks:

Agency Remarks

--
BAHRI CALISKAN

General Manager

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Brooklyn, New York 11223 USA

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EXHIBIT 30

From: Kenul Ismailova <[redacted]@socar.az>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 1:16 AM
To: Aynura Ahadova <[redacted]@socar.az>
Subject: FW: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue
Attach: Exxon Mobil Sponsorship Letter.pdf

FYI
Dear Aynura khanum,
Please advice the below and attached file.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Kenul Ismailova

From: [redacted]@socar.az
To: [redacted]@socar.az
Subject: FW: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue
Date: Wed, 15 May 2013 10:15:15 +0500

From: Kemal Oksuz [mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 7:52 PM
To: Mammad Nazaraliyev
Cc: Zaur Gahramanov; Eldar Orucov
Subject: RE: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue

Attached is the ExxonMobil sponsorship letter.

KO

From: Mammad.Nazaraliyev [mailto:[redacted]@socar.az]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 12:22 AM
To: 'Kemal Oksuz'
Cc: [redacted]@socar.az; 'Eldar Orucov'
Subject: Improtant: U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention sponsorship issue
Importance: High

Dear Kamal bey,

I trust this email finds you well.

I am writing to you in relation to the sponsorship issues for the upcoming convention. As instructed by our management, some local companies are expected to act as sponsors for this event. After initial discussions with these companies it has been agreed that an official letter from AFAZ (or TCAE, whichever you think fits more) shall be addressed to these companies with the below explanation and request/invitation for sponsorship.

The letter shall be urgently sent to:

KBR (Kellog Brown & Root) – Mr. Alp Kurum
Chevron – Mr. Bakhtiyar Akhundov
Caspian Drilling Company – Mr. Farid Akhundov + invoice for main sponsor for 50,000USD
ExxonMobil – Mr. Alistar MacLeod
Halliburton – Randy Gilchrist

The text can be as follows:

We would like to invite you as a sponsor for the upcoming** "U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention: Vision for the Future", **which will be held in Baku on May 28-29, 2013. The conference will be dedicated to the 21st anniversary of US-Azerbaijan diplomatic relations with special emphasis on trade and energy relations, while also paying close attention to the subjects of promoting culture and tolerance. This conference is seen as an opportunity to further strengthen the political, cultural and business relationship between the US and Azerbaijan.

The conference is being co-organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians with USAN, and the Johns Hopkins University's Central Asia Caucasus Institute at SAIS in Washington, D.C. and Caspian Strategy Institute.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available and would be appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.

More information about the Conference can be found at http://www.usazconvention.org

Heydar Aliyev Center

Silver Sponsor

10'000 USD – mentioning in all billboards and advertisement within Heydar Aliyev Center
2 participants

Gold Sponsor

25'000 USD – mentioning in all billboards (upper row) and advertisement and media print document
4 participants

Main Sponsor

50'000 USD – mentioning in all printed and digital sources as main sponsor
Number of participants to be agreed

Please print it on your letterhead, sign and adress to the above specified companies.

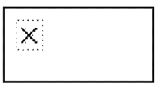
Thank you,

Best Regards,

Mammad Nazaraliyev
Department for Legal Support of International Projects

State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic
Tel/Fax: [redacted]
Int. Ext.:
Mobile: (

E-mail: [redacted]@socar.az



www.socar.az

EXHIBIT 31

From: Farkhad Kasimov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 07:29 PM
To: Patton, Brad D
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

FYI

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Strickland, Lynn M." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>
To: Farkhad Kasimov <[redacted]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 11:37 PM
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

that is correct Farkhad,

thanks

Lynn M. Strickland
Manager Asia Pacific and Russia Caspian Exploration
Conocophillips
office number: +[redacted]

From: Farkhad Kasimov [mailto[redacted]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 1:15 PM
To: Orelup, Luda V.; Strickland, Lynn M.; Burkett, William H.
Cc: Patton, Brad D
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

I will check with SOCAR and drop a note to Kemal Oksuz of Turquoise Council tomorrow on the right structuring of our sponsorship. I understand the decision is to proceed with Silver Sponsorship of USD 10K? Please confirm.

Best regards, Farkhad

From: "Orelup, Luda V." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>
To: "Strickland, Lynn M." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>; "Burkett, William H." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>
Cc: "Patton, Brad D" <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>; Farkhad Kasimov <[redacted]@yahoo.com>; "Orelup, Luda V." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 11:08 PM
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

#yiv8275428674 UNKNOWN { FONT-FAMILY:Calibri;panose-1:2 15 5 2 2 2 4 3 2 4;} #yiv8275428674 UNKNOWN { FONT-

FAMILY:Tahoma;panose-1:2 11 6 4 3 5 4 4 2 4;} #yiv8275428674 P.yiv8275428674MsoNormal { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:11pt;} #yiv8275428674 LI.yiv8275428674MsoNormal { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:11pt;} #yiv8275428674 DIV.yiv8275428674MsoNormal { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:11pt;} #yiv8275428674 H2 { FONT-FAMILY:"Times New Roman", "serif";MARGIN-LEFT:0in;FONT-SIZE:18pt;FONT-WEIGHT:bold;MARGIN-RIGHT:0in;} #yiv8275428674 A:link { COLOR:blue;TEXT-DECORATION:underline;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674MsoHyperlink { COLOR:blue;TEXT-DECORATION:underline;} #yiv8275428674 A:visited { COLOR:purple;TEXT-DECORATION:underline;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674MsoHyperlinkFollowed { COLOR:purple;TEXT-DECORATION:underline;} #yiv8275428674 P { FONT-FAMILY:"Times New Roman", "serif";MARGIN-LEFT:0in;FONT-SIZE:12pt;MARGIN-RIGHT:0in;} #yiv8275428674 P.yiv8275428674MsoAcetate { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Tahoma", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:8pt;} #yiv8275428674 LI.yiv8275428674MsoAcetate { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Tahoma", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:8pt;} #yiv8275428674 DIV.yiv8275428674MsoAcetate { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Tahoma", "sans-serif";FONT-SIZE:8pt;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674Heading2Char { FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";FONT-WEIGHT:bold;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674BalloonTextChar { FONT-FAMILY:"Tahoma", "sans-serif";} #yiv8275428674 P.yiv8275428674Default { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Times New Roman", "serif";COLOR:black;FONT-SIZE:12pt;} #yiv8275428674 LI.yiv8275428674Default { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Times New Roman", "serif";COLOR:black;FONT-SIZE:12pt;} #yiv8275428674 DIV.yiv8275428674Default { MARGIN:0in 0in 0pt;FONT-FAMILY:"Times New Roman", "serif";COLOR:black;FONT-SIZE:12pt;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674EmailStyle21 { FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";COLOR:windowtext;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674EmailStyle22 { FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";COLOR:#1f497d;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674EmailStyle23 { FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";COLOR:#1f497d;} #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674apple-style-span { } #yiv8275428674 SPAN.yiv8275428674EmailStyle25 { FONT-FAMILY:"Calibri", "sans-serif";COLOR:#1f497d;} #yiv8275428674 .yiv8275428674MsoChpDefault { FONT-SIZE:10pt;} #yiv8275428674 UNKNOWN { MARGIN:56.7pt 42.5pt 56.7pt 85.05pt;} #yiv8275428674 DIV.yiv8275428674WordSection1 { }

Dear Lynn and Bill,

Farkhad will go ahead and respond locally about COP participation in the convention within Socar. However, we need to get an invoice for this sponsorship either from AFAZ or Turquoise council (TCAE) to avoid FCPA issues.

There is an Independence day in AZ on the 28th and it will be nice to include congratulatory paragraph in our response to Socar and Kemal.

Additionally, I'm providing the link to the "Logo Gallery" section of the ConocoPhillips website to pass on to organizers:

http://wh.conocophillips.com/news/identity/digital.asp

thanks, Luda

From: Strickland, Lynn M.
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 12:05 PM
To: Burkett, William H.
Cc: Orelup, Luda V.; Patton, Brad D; Farkhad Kasimov
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

Bill,

On further discussion with Luda, I now understand the importance of this conference and we should definitely sponsor. Luda will work with Farkhad facilitate and we can discuss if and who needs to be in attendance as well,

thanks

Lynn

From: Burkett, William H.

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 4:34 PM
To: Strickland, Lynn M.; pat
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

Lynn,

Not sure if you want to spend $10,000 on this? Probably not worth it unless Luda and I both attend. Personally not wanting to go as I have to be there the following week. However, I am sure Exxon will support and attend. As they are our main competition for the offshore I am willing to attend if you want to sponsor. Just let me know your thoughts. Thanks!

Bill

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]@yahoo.com" <[redacted]@yahoo.com>
Date: May 13, 2013 4:56:23 PM GMT+01:00
To: "Burkett, William H." <[redacted]@conocophillips.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fw: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress
Reply-To: [redacted]@yahoo.com" <[redacted]@yahoo.com>

This is quite a serious event given the time - May 28 is Independence Day in Azerbaijan, venue - new Heydar Aliyev Conventional Hall, list of attendants and the fact that it will be done in Azerbaijan, not the US, for the first time and all the dignitaries will travel here to attend. All the Azerbaijani executives will be there to attend. President will come to welcome the attendants. There is no any other second similar US/Azeri event of similar caliber that we can be a part of or sponsor. We indeed need to attend and sponsor. Please consider and give me a call if you have any questions.
Thank you very much.
Best regards, Farkhad

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone using Azercell Azerbaijan.

From: "Zaur.Gahramanov " <[redacted]@socar.az>

Date: Mon, 13 May 2013 15:10:11 +0500

To: <[redacted]@yahoo.com>

Subject: FW: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

fyi

From: Zaur.Gahramanov [mailto:[redacted]@socar.az]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 12:18 PM
To: Aynura Ahadova
Cc: Rufat Zamanov ([redacted]@socar.az)
Subject: sponsorship- US-Azerbaijan Congress

Heydar Aliyev Center

Silver Sponsor

10'000 USD – mentioning in all billboards and advertisement within Heydar Aliyev Center

2 participants

Gold Sponsor

25'000 USD – mentioning in all billboards (upper row) and advertisement and media print document

4 participants

Main Sponsor

50'000 USD – mentioning in all printed and digital sources as main sponsor

Number of participants to be agreed

We would like to invite you as a sponsor for the upcoming "U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention: Vision for the Future", which will be held in Baku on May 28-29, 2013. The conference will be dedicated to the 21st anniversary of US-Azerbaijan diplomatic relations with special emphasis on trade and energy relations, while also paying close attention to the subjects of promoting culture and tolerance. This conference is seen as an opportunity to further strengthen the political, cultural and business relationship between the US and Azerbaijan.

The conference is being co-organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians with USAN, and the Johns Hopkins University's Central Asia Caucasus Institute at SAIS in Washington, D.C. and Caspian Strategy Institute.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available and would be appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.

More information about the Conference can be found at http://www.usazconvention.org

EXHIBIT 32

afaz
ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJAN

Gulia Taghiyeva
Public Relations & Communications Manager – Caspian
McDermott Caspian Contractors, Inc.

Subject: Sponsorship for the US-Azerbaijan Convention!
Date: May 16, 2013

Dear Ms. Taghiyeva:

Greetings! I hope this email finds you well!

As the Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ) we would like to invite you, MCCI Compnay, as one of the sponsors for the upcoming "U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention: Vision for the Future", which will be held in Baku on May 28-29, 2013.

The US-Azerbaijan Convention is an annual conference in celebration of the two decades of strengthening relations and deepening strategic partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Convention is a prominent assembly of government officials, legislators, and leading academics and experts, and it features keynote speeches, panels, roundtable discussions and deliberations highlighting shared strategic interests of the United States and Azerbaijan, including Energy Security, and Peace, Stability and Regional Cooperation in the South Caucasus and the Caspian Basin.

The Convention also showcases Azerbaijan's rapid transformation from a young country into a regional leader and a reliable actor of the international community, promoting peace and stability, developing the Eurasian energy and transport corridor while integrating into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The US-Azerbaijan Convention which was held in DC the first time in April 2012 hosted Vice President Joe Biden, Governors Bobby Jindal and Haley Barbour, US Senators Kristen Gillibrand, Charles Schumer, Roger Wicker, David Vitter and Scott Brown and many House of Representatives, agents from State Departments, experts from think tanks, legislators from states and government officials and members of the parliament from Azerbaijan and more. More information is at www.usazconvention.org.

Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ) together with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE) will serve as the sole organizers of the Convention.

Sponsorship opportunities below are still available and would be much appreciated. More information about the Conference can be found at www.usazconvention.org.

Galleria Tower I, 2300 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1450 Houston, TX 77056 Phone: (713) [redacted] Direct [redacted] Fax [redacted]
www.afaz.org

Silver Sponsor – 10,000 USD – mentioning in all billboards and advertisement within Heydar Aliyev Center and 2 participants at the Convention;

Gold Sponsor – 25,000 USD – mentioning in all billboards (upper row) and advertisement and media print document and 4 participants at the Convention;

Main Sponsor – 50,000 USD – mentioning in all printed and digital sources as main sponsor and number of participants to be agreed.

Should you have any further inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

Kemal Oksuz
President & CEO
Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan
www.afaz.org

ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJAN (AFAZ)
BANK DETAILS

BANK NAME:	WELLS FARGO BANK
BANK ADDRESS:	Beltway Office, 9702 Bellaire Blvd. Houston, Texas 77036 USA
ACCOUNT NO:	[redacted]
SWIFT/BIC:	WFBIUS6S
Fed & CHIPS ABA:	FW ABA: 121000248
AFAZ ADDRESS:	2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1750 Houston, TX 77056-5715 USA
AFAZ Tel:	+1 713.622.[redacted]
AFAZ Fax:	+1 713.622.[redacted]

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
111900659
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS
2326989537
APPROVED

EXHIBIT 33

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION / COMPANY MEMBERSHIP
McDermott International, Inc.

ADM NO. 142 (7/04/03)

TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION: (See next page for definitions.)
☐ CHARITABLE ✓ INDUSTRIAL ☐ POLITICAL ☐ GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ☐ COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

☐ FORECAST for NEXT YEAR? ☐ VETTED (DATE:)

REQUESTING ENTITY McDermott Caspian Contractors, Inc.	LOCATION Baku
ACCOUNTING ENTITY WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE FUNDS McDermott Caspian Contractors, Inc.	LOCATION Baku
ACCOUNTING ENTITY WHICH WILL BE CHARGED McDermott Caspian Contractors, Inc.	LOCATION Baku
NAME AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH FUNDS WILL BE PAID **Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)** Galleria Tower I, 2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1750 Houston, TX 77056 USA	EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: [redacted] TAX STATUS ☐ Deductible X Non-deductible DATE FUNDS REQUESTED ASAP

PURPOSE/REMARKS: SEND CHECK TO: N/A

Intended contribution is for support of the "U.S. - Azerbaijan Convention: Vision for the Future" to be held in Baku on May 28-29, 2013. The conference is dedicated to the 21st anniversary of US-Azerbaijan diplomatic relations with special emphasis on trade and energy relations and is seen as an opportunity to further strengthen the political, cultural and business relationship between the US and Azerbaijan. McDermott has been invited to sponsor and participate in the event by the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic.

FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY

Is organization an U.S. IRS-approved as 501(c)(3) tax exempt? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(see http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=96136,00.html)

FOR COMPANY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY

NUMBER OF COMPANY EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN BUSINESS/TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL AREA SERVED BY THIS ORGANIZATION:

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION:

MEMBERSHIP FEE AMOUNT:

FOR COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
AMOUNT REQUESTED BY ORGANIZATION	$ 10,000	$
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	$ 10,000	$
AMOUNT APPROVED	$ 10,000	$

Originator (Name and Signature) [redacted] Gulia Taghiyeva — Date: May 17, 2013

SIGNATURE (All Approvals Are Required)	DATE	✓ IF REQD.	SIGNATURE	DATE	✓ IF REQD.
Originator's Manager [redacted] Ian L. Cochran	20/05/13		Chief Compliance Officer		
Regional Communications Manager [redacted] R. Rasmussen	20/05/13		General Counsel		
Regional Compliance Manager [redacted] S. Abbott	May 20 2013		Chief Operating Officer		
Business Unit Head/Regional Vice President			Chief Administration Officer		
Manager of Corporate Communications			Chief Executive Officer		

EXHIBIT 34

MCCI

Invoice Backup Print (NON-POR)

VENDOR [redacted] ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJ VOUCHER [redacted]

CURRENCY U.S. DLR CONTROL # [redacted]

COMPANY [redacted] DUE DATE 06 Jun 2013

P.O. NP REQUISITION #

TERMS

MCC No

INV DATE 27 May 2013 INVOICE # 27MAY2013

ACCOUNT CODE	RESILLABLE VENDOR	CURRENCY	RATE	AMOUNT	TAX RULE
[redacted]				10,000.00	
				DESC.	SPONSORSHIP

INVOICE NET TOTAL	10,000.00
ACCRUED TAX	0.00

PREPARED BY Gulsum Hajiyeva APPROVED BY [redacted] DATE 13-Jun-2013

EXHIBIT 35

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF NIL TRAVEL AGENT

4/10/15

Nate Wright: This is Nate Wright here in the OCE with Omar Ashmawy and NIL Travel Agent. It's April 10, 2015. You are the general manager for NIL Travel is that correct?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: You are also the owner?

Witness: Tursan Travel.

Nate Wright: Tursan Travel?

Witness: Yeah. We have two company. The NIL Travel closed 2012, and actually NIL Travel six years open, then it ... It's non-IATA. You know IATA?

Omar Ashmawy: IATA?

Witness: IATA.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah.

Witness: Non-IATA, then we purchased the Tursan Travel is IATA. We closed NIL Travel then encounter in it Tursan Travel.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, so NIL Travel ended in 2012 and since then it's been Tursan?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. How many employees now and did you have back in 2013?

Witness: 2013, I have three. Two is full time, one is part time. Right now, two part time, two full time.

Nate Wright: Okay. Are there any other names or entities that Tursan Travel has used in the past?

Witness: Entity?

Nate Wright: NIL or any other names?

Witness: Tursan only.

Nate Wright: Tursan?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay. Do you know World of Travel?

Witness: World of Travel. Yeah I know. My . . .

Nate Wright: Competitor?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Who're your average customers? Do they tend to be organizations planning trips, or does it tend to be individuals?

Witness: Little. Starts with friends of friends. I open a house, home office 2008, end of 2008. Friends of friends. We have many customer then we open the office Manhattan, thirty fourth Street. We think about the Manhattan, they are not Turkish. Come back to the Turkish community, back to open this location in 2010.

Nate Wright: Most of your customers . . .

Witness: Turkish, in-laws, friends.

Nate Wright: Individuals, families, people who are looking to take vacation.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: After I purchased the Tursan Travel, then we connect to the organization. Before I'm not issued a ticket. We just make a reservation then sent to the Mavi Travel. My host agency Mavi Travel.

Nate Wright: Let me make sure I understood that correct. I'm not as versed in travel. When you were operating under NIL you would make the reservations for the customers, but the customers would pay the airlines.

Witness: Airline. Mavi Travel. I make reservation, collect the information put the system then I forward to the Mavi Travel. They issue the ticket.

Nate Wright: Okay. When you switched to Tursan Travel then you could . . .

Witness: Tursan Travel, I'm host agency.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: Does that mean that you . . . You put the ticket on hold. Do you then but the ticket, and then be reimbursed by the customer?

Witness: No, because money withdraw from Turkish Airline not company. I'm not going to withdraw money to my agency.

Omar Ashmawy: How does that work? I've never thought about that. If I come to you and I want a ticket to Istanbul.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: You'll book my travel.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: You'll buy the ticket for me?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: I write you . . . Do I give you the check? I want to pay for it with a check.

Witness: If you'll pay the check. We put to bank or we are going to use our credit card.

Omar Ashmawy: You'll put it on your credit card?

Witness: That end of the statement we pay it. If you pay your credit card on the statement, Turkish Airlines withdraw, we receive a commission.

Omar Ashmawy: Got it. When Turkish Airlines gets my credit card payment, you get your commission.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: If I want to pay . . . Is it possible for me to pay you directly if I wanted to?

Witness: If you pay direct to me. We don't have margin account. Also, it has a margin account they are going to cut 3.5%. We receive by commission

from you if you pay credit card 3.5, already cut. That's why we're not going to withdraw the company.

Omar Ashmawy: It's better for you if I use my credit card to pay Turkish Airline directly?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: If I want to pay you, you lose 3.5%.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. That's interesting. How much of a commission do you get on a ticket anyway?

Witness: We have contract with Turkish Airlines, Azerbaijan Airlines, Ukraine Airlines, Transaero. All of these airlines we are going to use Picasso Travel. Picasso Travel has all airlines as a commission, same thing, we make reservation, put credit card, forward to the Picasso. For example, I sold five minutes ago Newark to Frankfurt, we forward to the Picasso. They are going to issue the ticket.

Omar Ashmawy: Just an average. What would be the average amount that a travel agency would get in commission? Is it 5%?

Witness: 5% to 6%.

Omar Ashmawy: 5% to 6%?

Witness: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Losing 3 1/2% that's a lot.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: That's a lot of money.

Witness: There is not . . . No, we issue ticket, behalf of the Turkish Airlines. Credit card, we are not going to . . . Actually we issue the ticket. Turkish Airlines doesn't do anything. The only assist on everything on the system. If you're United, I put to United. For example you're going to Frankfurt, you give all information. I issue ticket, but on the statement United Airlines on the credit card, they have to regulate relationship.

Omar Ashmawy: That makes sense.

Witness: They do all things, but with the margin account between to the carrier to the credit card.

Omar Ashmawy: Got it. So, if you're making 5% on a ticket, if I want to pay you directly then you lose 3 1/2%. That's a lot of money though.

Witness: Yeah. We never do like this.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. That's a lot. Okay. That's interesting.

Nate Wright: In what circumstances might you allow for the customer to pay you directly? If a normal customer. Let's say, I walk in and I want to buy a ticket and I want to pay you. Is that something you'd normally do? Would you prefer . . .

Witness: Yeah. We receive a lot of cash. We receive a lot of K, we two, three days cycle, we receive seven thousand dollars and we put to debit card. I issue the ticket. We use our debit card.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, you still lose that 3 1/2% in that circumstance?

Witness: No.

Omar Ashmawy: No? Why not?

Witness: Turkish Airlines responsible to margin account. I'm not going to issue, we just pay to . . . For example, same thing, if we put credit card . . . On the statement it say Turkish Airlines. Turkish Airlines responsible. If you on statement, Tursan Travel, this we losing 3 1/2.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: We mostly use our margin account, service fee. For example, online is for fifteen hundred. I found to twelve hundred, but Turkish Airlines doesn't . . . I sold this ticket to fourteen hundred because customer doesn't show up to . . . Customer showing on the system, fifteen hundred. I have to make money. Fourteen hundred because we have commission two hundred dollar gap. They issued twelve hundred charge from Turkish Airlines two hundred charge from my margin account that's . . . customer

		has two transactions, twelve hundred from Turkish, two hundred. I lose to 3.5 from two hundred.
Omar Ashmawy:		Okay. I see.
Nate Wright:		Are you familiar with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians?
Witness:		I'm member of . . . On the paper I'm not member. I'm not sure, I'm not member. We have a Turkish called Sons of Brooklyn. I think this is a top federation. I think Turkish council sons are membered to Turkic Federation.
Omar Ashmawy:		When you talk about the one here in Brooklyn. Isn't that . . . Is that a Turkish Cultural Center?
Witness:		Brooklyn. Yes.
Omar Ashmawy:		Brooklyn.
Witness:		Yes. Yes.
Omar Ashmawy:		Okay.
Nate Wright:		That's separate from the Council on Turkic American Association. Which is also, I think, located in this region?
Witness:		No. I think it's a . . . They work like this, this local Turkish Cultural Center, Queens Turkish Council, Sons of Queens, Manhattan. All local member of the Turkic, or TCAA, or other. Turkish American Agency, my mistake. TAA.
Omar Ashmawy:		TAA.
Nate Wright:		Yes.
Witness:		The member of the TAA not Turkic. Maybe TAA member of the . . .
Nate Wright:		Turquoise Council.
Witness:		Turkic, maybe.
Nate Wright:		The Turkic American Alliance in DC that's the major umbrella of this.
Witness:		Yes. Umbrella.

Nate Wright:	The smaller ones in Queens, in Manhattan, in Brooklyn. They all converge up.
Witness:	East Coast. All East Coast. Manhattan, Boston, Massachusetts all East Coast local office.
Nate Wright:	The Turquoise Council is based down in Houston. Did you have interactions with them before 2013?
Witness:	[inaudible] Necip Orhan, Albuquerque. He was both TCC Manhattan, Turkish Council Center in Manhattan. They moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, is close to Houston. They said to . . . We have a planning to Azerbaijan Convention. You can come and you can talk to the Kemal Oksuz. You can get big revenue. Big job.
Omar Ashmawy:	Who is the name of the individual again?
Witness:	Necip Orhan.
Omar Ashmawy:	Can you spell his first name?
Witness:	N-e-c-i-p. Necip Orhan ... Resul Aksoy was before Albuquerque, then Necip Orhan go, then Resul Aksoy, the second man to Kemal Oksuz that Resul Aksoy that how we met. Necip Orhan moved to Albuquerque then they be friends, then Resul Aksoy moved to Houston.
Omar Ashmawy:	Okay. Resul Aksoy was in Albuquerque first. He moved to Houston. When he moved to Houston . . .
Witness:	Before Necip Orhan moved to Albuquerque.
Omar Ashmawy:	He moved to Houston. Necip Orsam moved to Albuquerque.
Witness:	Yes. Albuquerque.
Omar Ashmawy:	The last name is Orsam?
Witness:	Orhan.
Omar Ashmawy:	Orhan?
Witness:	Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: All right.

Nate Wright: When that meeting was set up with Oksuz. Was that in person? Was that over the phone? How where you put in touch with Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: They call me to morning, then I take a flight, Sunday, and come back to same night.

Nate Wright: Down to Houston?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. What was that conversation in Houston?

Witness: They said we have a travel agency but same thing non-IATA. I don't know the name to their travel agency. They said, "We are trying to give this job to our agency," because Houston, they give job. Normally, they give to other people but they said, "They are too lazy." They are not answering our phone and we need to maybe purchase two hundred, three hundred ticket. We need to answer the sent mail. If you sent . . . Tell you something, you are to give us quick response. That's why I am here, I can hear, I can do. If you check to the our email, some email is 3am, 4am. We won't answer 4am. They need to do faster agency that's why they call me to Houston.

Nate Wright: Was it your understanding that you're booking all the travel to the convention?

Witness: Airline. Yes.

Nate Wright: Airline?

Witness: Airline.

Nate Wright: Was there ever a discussion about hotels? Whether or not you with also be booking hotels?

Witness: I don't have any idea. I think they book in Baku. They are actually in Baku.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Just so that I understand. Do you understand that they book the hotels locally in Baku? Is that what you're saying?

Witness: Yes. I'm thinking.

Omar Ashmawy: Is it?

Witness: Because Azerbaijan government get good . . . This is a government issue, get good price from hotel I think.

Nate Wright: Okay. You normally book hotels right?

Witness: Normally yes. I do.

Nate Wright: They decided just to use you for flight in this instance.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, just so I'm clear. I know it's just your understanding, but you think that, because of the nature of the convention, because of this SOCAR and everything, that the government probably booked the hotels?

Witness: No. I'm telling to . . . This is a government connection. If booked you in Baku, is government it's cheap.

Omar Ashmawy: It's cheaper. Yeah. Right.

Witness: They can get any rate. That's what I'm trying to tell.

Nate Wright: Better than even you can get?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Yes. Okay. Thank you. Have you ever booked travel for . . . I know you've booked travel for the conference. Have you ever booked travel for anything else involving an organization called Assembly Friends of Azerbaijan, AFAZ?

Witness: Yeah. They are the same thing, I think.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. That's what I was going to ask.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: As far as you know, are they the same thing?

Witness: Yeah. It's the same person I contact AFAZ, or Turquoise Council, what was the name?

Omar Ashmawy: Turquoise?

Witness: Turquoise, yes.

Nate Wright: You sent us some invoices. Some of them had Turquoise Council at the top. Some of them had AFAZ at the top. How did you distinguish the activity?

Witness: They just tell me.

Nate Wright: What's that?

Witness: They just tell me. They have to put to AFAZ, and they have to put Turquoise. I'm not going to . . . I don't know even to the person in the passenger. How can I know?

Nate Wright: Resul Aksoy, he was the number two person under Kemal?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: What was his relationship with TCAE and AFAZ. Did he work for both the Turquoise Council and the Assembly of Friends?

Witness: For emails, they just email to . . . I don't know. Maybe it was. I don't know. If I tell something. On paper maybe it works to Turquoise, but they can't arrange the all tickets. It happened like this, I remember . . . For example, Brooklyn Culture Center send to the senator or congressman, they give to all information to all USA. All local contact to the Resul, they collect all information and sent me through email. This connection work like this.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Resul can't contact two hundred congressman.

Nate Wright: The organizations across the country that wanted to be involved. Local people who contact the travelers, and then they would send that information to Aksoy. He would compile it together and then send it to you.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: When you were . . . Just a backup to the trip that you took down to Houston to talk to Kemal. Was there anyone else involved in that discussion? Was Resul involved in that discussion?

Witness: Me, Resul and Kemal.

Nate Wright: Okay. It was your understanding that all of the travelers to the convention were going to use your agency? Was there . . . Is that correct?

Witness: 99% yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Did they talk about what sort of procedures or parameters you might be under as you're going about booking this travel? Did they say anything about price restrictions? Any things about classes of tickets? Things like that.

Witness: I think it's business class. They travel average but I'm not . . . There's not to average, because some tickets can't, so high . . . Can't so high, some person. Some person. Two years ago and I cannot remember the names.

Nate Wright: Sure. Some people, if the ticket price was too high, you were to look for better tickets.

Witness: Better ticket. Yes.

Nate Wright: That would be something that Aksoy would tell you, designating these people, we don't need to get the most expensive ticket. These people we should go ahead and get better tickets.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Were there any caps on the amounts of tickets that you would pull together before . . . How does payment arranged? Were there caps on how much tickets you would get?

Witness: I earn around five hundred dollars each ticket. Business one thousand dollar. Economy five hundred. Around . . . I don't remember.

Nate Wright: That's in commission from the airline?

Witness: No. Gap, I expense of fourteen hundred, it was online fifteen hundred I file up to five hundred. This is the gap.

Nate Wright: Okay, so the way-

Witness: Other than to airline commission. Other than airline commission.

Omar Ashmawy: In addition to the airline commission, you also received five hundred dollars for an economy ticket and one thousand dollars for a business class ticket.

Witness: I can't tell exactly the . . . Some four hundred, three hundreds, some ticket five hundred is average.

Omar Ashmawy: Approximately?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Nate Wright: You said that sometimes people would pay for them directly using a credit card. Why wasn't that the arrangement here? Why wasn't TCAE or AFAZ paying for the tickets directly?

Witness: Wire transfer. This ticket paid from to Kemal Oksuz. If use the credit card there are no limitation to the one million dollars. That's why . . . first we booked, I think five hundred or four hundred then they transfer to me money, then say, "Okay but four hundred thousand on the system, we are not going to able to . . . pay some money then we issue the ticket again."

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, say that again. I think I understood what you said. You would book ... You'd book the tickets.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Maybe for five hundred thousand dollars, but then he would send you four hundred thousand dollars?

Witness: No. More than.

Omar Ashmawy: He would send you?

Witness: Six hundred, six thousand. If you have a paper I can tell you.

Omar Ashmawy: Yes, absolutely.

Nate Wright: Yes we do. Do you have an extra piece or I can just rip something out from here.

Witness: Because.

Nate Wright: This will cut out. Here.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah.

Nate Wright: I'll just going to keep this around here. Here you go. You can use that pen right there.

Witness: I mean, I send to you.

Omar Ashmawy: Yes, yes. Absolutely.

Nate Wright: Is this the paper you were talking about?

Omar Ashmawy: Yes.

Witness: Yeah. That's what I'm telling. First we issue four hundred something, they sent me five fifteen, then it will cover to the all ticket then we continue the book.

Nate Wright: Okay. You would start off and buy a certain number of tickets and then at some point you would reach a cap, or you could really buy anymore tickets. Kemal would send you wire transfer that would allow you to pay off your balance and then you'll be able to . . .

Witness: Start to ... Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, just so that we're on the top of the tickets. The approximate, average five hundred, one thousand that was extra that Kemal was paying you per ticket?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. You made your commission from the airline and then Kemal, in order tp pay you for your time and your services, paid you approximately five hundred for an economy and a thousand dollars for . . .

Witness: Yes, exactly.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Nate Wright: Okay. I have a couple of questions on this document that's why we're here. I noticed down here there was the wire transfer in this first one is from the Turquoise Council, May 10th here. It says US Azerbaijan convention on it. Was that the normal . . . I guess what was the discussion leading into the wire transfers? Did Kemal say, "I'm going to send you this wire transfer put them as US Azerbaijan convention."

Witness: I'm not going to interest the who sent, AFAZ or Turquoise because I don't know the names on it. That I receive the money is important thing for me.

Nate Wright: Do you know by any chance . . . Right here it looks like there's Turquoise Council and then there's these numbers here.

Witness: This is I think their bank number.

Nate Wright: Okay. That's what I . . . I thought this might be, maybe a routing number and this would be an account number.

Witness: Yes. Maybe. Exactly. This is ... Routing number should be nine. Can you count how many numbers there? I think it's nine, it should be.

Nate Wright: Yeah. That is nine numbers there.

Witness: This is a routing number.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: It's not mine, their.

Nate Wright: Yeah. They were using the same account from the Turquoise Council as they were from the Assembly of Friends. It's the same routing number. It's that same account number ending in 1183. They would just designate as part of the wire transfer . . .

Witness: The same bank but you try to exploit . . . Same business, but you put two different two separate company.

Nate Wright: Okay. You could have the same account and-

Witness: Right now you're telling me but I was seeing to it first time here.

Nate Wright: Yeah, yeah. No, I understand that you probably . . . You worry about getting the money not necessarily if it was from the same account. I was just . . . I'm not familiar with seeing these and wanted to know what discussion might've lead into it.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: You're saying that he could have done one wire transfer and said let's put . . . from the same account. One time say, "Let's put Turquoise Council on the first one. Let's put Assembly of Friends on the second one."

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. That was when . . . I remember we spoke previously on the phone and you talked about how you thought that Kemal had paid for all of the flights. I think you would said, "AFAZ paid for them," but you really weren't . . . Even though this says Turquoise Council and AFAZ, you really didn't distinguished between the two. You thought that they were . . . It was all coming from the same place.

Witness: Yes. Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. You understood that Kemal ran both of these organizations?

Witness: Yes. I knew. That's why I'm not . . . ignore who is paying, that's it . . . purchase . . . I'm sending money. This is it.

Omar Ashmawy: You've been in Tursan Travel now for a few years?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Have you been doing work with other organizations?

Witness: Before?

Omar Ashmawy: Now.

Witness: Right now?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah.

Witness: We have consulates, but there's a mission, working turkey foreign minister.

Omar Ashmawy: My question now is this, because I know nothing about booking travel. Nothing. Is it common to earn an extra five hundred dollars per ticket? Is that normal or is that unusual?

Witness: Unusual.

Omar Ashmawy: It seems unusual to me.

Witness: Yeah. I know. They need to organize organization May 24th, I think, right?

Omar Ashmawy: I'm sorry, 24th?

Witness: May 24th?

Omar Ashmawy: May 24th, yes.

Witness: Azerbaijan. They start to ticket to May 10th.

Omar Ashmawy: I see.

Witness: Two weeks. Did they not because ... Also they tell me, they make reservation, tell me don't book it, we are get to confirm from you, Ethic Committee, extra. Also, get to confirm from senator. After that you need to confirm from Ethic Committee. Two weeks we need to purchase all two hundred tickets.

Omar Ashmawy: That's a lot.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: Part of it was . . . they were expecting you to book two hundred tickets in two weeks. Be available at 4am in the morning. Some of those they have to get . . . They had to run through approval process.

Witness: Yes. Exactly.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: I remember I work 4am a long time. I work 4am. You can't see it at the email time, if you checked.

Omar Ashmawy: I'm sure. I'm sure. That must have been very difficult.

Witness: 4am.

Nate Wright: I was wondering if we could walk through the process, because I think I understood from the emails that you sent. I just wanted to make sure I understand this correctly. I think and you said before that Aksoy was your point of contact. This is an email, NIL_1188, and it's an email from Resul to you. Attached is this spreadsheet . . .

Witness: Yes. Exactly. This spreadsheet I will explain to . . . Coming to local. Yeah. Exactly will work like this.

Nate Wright: These were the local TCAE people that were coming.

Witness: TCAE or other organization. Yes, exactly.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: They collect all information then send to me. I make reservation, they sent to Resul Aksoy. Aksoy send to the local information. They get to confirmation from the senator or congressman, then we issue ticket.

Nate Wright: Okay. Let me see if I . . . He sent you the spreadsheet and then at some point, and it looks like ... I think if I understand you correctly this comes later, so this . . . He sent you this spreadsheet. I think it's May 4th or something like that. It's pretty early on.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Yeah.

Witness: May 4th.

Nate Wright: Flip over further. This is NIL_0062. These are the itineraries that you had sent over to us. There are what the itineraries that you would put together and send to, . . . Did you send these to Resul?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Some of these here, you can see say, "Confirmed." Does that mean that the ticket was purchased? Does that mean that . . . Are these just holds . . .

Witness: Just reservation. All sets that say, "Confirmed." It doesn't means book, issue or not issue.

Nate Wright: Okay. At the bottom of a lot of these, there's . . . This is the actual issue date?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: That's when the flight was booked?

Witness: Issue date. I issued this date, booking to class. She is going to make target.

Nate Wright: Okay. This is the invoice number that goes with it?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: This is the amount?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. I had some questions that I'm trying to match these up with the invoices here. These are invoices that you had sent to us, it's NIL_0092. This is an invoice to the Turquoise Council?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: It was . . . How would you know who to put up at the top. Was that something that . . .

Witness: Were involved? Yeah. They told me that we have to put this name to Turquoise, then you have to put this name to AFAZ.

Nate Wright: Okay. That was something that Resul would tell you?

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Over the phone or is that on emails that I may not be able to . . .

Witness: No. Over the phone. Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay. I had a couple of questions about the process here? Just to make sure that I understand. I think I get what you were saying earlier but I want to make sure. We have here . . . this is Ted Poe, it's NIL_0062. Here it says that it was issued May 13th. Invoice number. Amount number. These numbers don't appear to correlate with these numbers on the invoice here. I guess . . .

Witness: You telling this number, it doesn't match to this number?

Nate Wright: Yeah. It doesn't match there and the invoice amount also doesn't match.

Witness: [gesturing to the invoice] This number I think I put the numbers. It starts this number and put them one by one. Maybe it doesn't match that's why.

Nate Wright: Okay. This is a document that you create. Is it . . .

Witness: One, two. This number start and the next one, twenty eight, twenty nine, thirty. That's why I put.

Nate Wright: Okay. This is a word document that you just put together with the numbers in there. You appear you just put whatever the first invoice is and then however many invoices there are. That's why these-

Witness: Doesn't match.

Nate Wright: Okay. About the amount, so here's another NIL_0055, so here this is Representative Jackson Lee. Again, the issue date, I think they're May 14th and amount. It seems to be a lot different. Ted Poe's flight, it looks like there's about five hundred dollar difference between this [itinerary] and here [invoice], where you're . . .

Witness: Where is it? Yeah, yeah. Twelve hundred to Three hundred seventy six.

Nate Wright: Yeah. See how this is $13,906 and yet his invoice for only 13376.

Witness: Five hundred, six hundred less.

Nate Wright: Yeah. If we go over to Sheila Jackson Lee's, that flight was $15,096.

Witness: There's $3,000.

Nate Wright: Yeah. You would . . . Help me understand. It looks like, based on these invoices, you're losing money.

Witness: Yeah. There's a time that we put five hundred to one thousand dollars to gap, just to be put to like this.

Nate Wright: Okay, so when you lose money on a tickets . . .

Witness: I already earned around a hundred thousand K. That's why we put some tickets lower price.

Nate Wright: Okay. Can you help with . . .

Witness: Sure.

Nate Wright: Just to match up. With these . . . With the bank account records, specifically this first one for $515,000 dollars from TCAE. This is dated May 10th?

Witness: May 10th yeah.

Nate Wright: We actually went through your invoices and pulled together . . . It looks like, so this one would match the first, I'm presuming would match the first set of invoices that you had sent to TCAE. Does that sound right?

Witness: Say again?

Nate Wright: You sent us . . .

Witness: Invoices. Yes.

Nate Wright: Invoices like this. We actually added together the first . . . I think if we put together the first six invoices you sent to TCAE . . .

Witness: I understand. Yeah. I thought you said it doesn't means to that it's not on the money but it doesn't go exactly the which passenger name. They just send me the money. That's why. It can be after . . .

Omar Ashmawy: He can pay you after. Why did he send you that amount of money, because it's a very specific amount of money.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Why that much specifically?

Witness: I don't know. I just receive money. I'm not going to turn down to . . . You have to send this money. They just send me the money.

Nate Wright: Okay. They sent the money but then the . . . We added up and the first six invoices that you have to TCAE come out to be the exact same amount of money that they sent you. How does that match up?

Witness: That's why they put Ted Poe less than this amount.

Nate Wright: Okay, so it would match with-

Witness: You got me? Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Maybe. Maybe.

Nate Wright: Okay. They're telling you not just what to put up here on the invoices. They're telling you what to put here in the amount column or the airfare column?

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay. Did you create this or did they create the chart?

Witness: No. I created.

Nate Wright: Okay, but they would say how much to put into-

Witness: They have to, yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. What they're trying to get out is they want the numbers down here to match up with the wire transfer. Okay, but they don't necessary match up . . .

Witness: They don't ignore this money.

Nate Wright: Okay. That makes more sense. The other thing that I had was based on this invoice we think was included in this wire transfer, and this wire transfer is dated May tenth. But, these tickets weren't issued until 14th.

Witness: May 14th, or 16th.

Nate Wright: Yeah. 13th. I think there's another one that was issued on the 16th. That's why, so the actual . . . They sent you money, they told you to put together this invoice that would add up to the amount of money that they sent to you for certain number of passengers. Later, you book the flights themselves.

Witness: Yes. Exactly.

Nate Wright: Okay. How did you make sure, other than that there's the difference, the five hundred dollars for regular airfare and a thousand dollars for business class. How did you make sure that you weren't going to lose money on this?

Witness: It's not all these, maybe five, six ticket like this. Other one I earn five hundred or maybe purchase 40, or I think 40 or 35, around 30 to 40, we issued business class.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Actually, panelist should be business class side because they're going to speak.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Span this number I think, thirty five, forty people.

Nate Wright: These were all people that probably had to go through the-

Witness: Results there.

Nate Wright: Yeah. Panelist and they were also, they had to go through . . . I think they all say business class. They also would've had to go through that process you talked about with getting approval.

Witness: Yes. Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. It's only those that you might end up losing money on.

Witness: Yes. Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay. Just a quick question while I remember. I think it's . . .

Witness: Martha? Sheila?

Nate Wright: Down here there's a Mike Turner.

Witness: Congressman. Yes.

Nate Wright: Do you remember ever booking a ticket for him?

Witness: I can check for you.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Real quick.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: I'm not remember any name. I only remember Clarke because she is here, right? We have recent purchase for her.

Nate Wright: Okay. All right. We can check on that later.

Witness: Sure.

Nate Wright: One of the . . . Ask you a couple of questions about, I think you refer to it as TCAA, or the Council on Turkic American Association led by Faruk Kosar or Furkan Kosar?

Witness: Furkan Kosar.

Nate Wright: Yes. You had supplied us with itineraries for three of the individuals that they had sponsored, Lance, Clarke and Meeks.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: You also gave us invoices, but we didn't see on these invoices. Here, NIL_0092. We didn't see Lance, Clark or Meeks on these invoices. Do you know why they weren't included on the invoices that you had sent to us initially?

Witness: Lance, Clarke?

Nate Wright: Yeah. The three members that traveled.

Witness: I sent you yesterday.

Nate Wright: Yeah. Why weren't those in the initial invoices?

Witness: I don't know, because they are separate right? I think. That separate organization, TCAE right?

Nate Wright: Yeah. Yeah. CTAA is separate from TCAE. What I'm wondering is why where those handled differently than the rest?

Witness: I think they give you to letter from TCAE that's why they put . . . They have to purchase from TCAE. I remember. Then they give you the letter right?

Nate Wright: Yes.

Witness: That's why they have to pay, TCAE gives the letter to Ethics Committee. That's they have to pay.

Nate Wright: Okay. They talked to you about the letter that they sent to us.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Saying that they . . . They said they had to pay?

Witness: They have to pay.

Nate Wright: Were those tickets ... This way I don't have to try to. Let's see. Should be.

Witness: Last one?

Nate Wright: Not quite. I will definitely not use a binder in the future to try to carry these documents.

Witness: This one.

Nate Wright: Yeah. NIL_0126. This is the invoice that you had sent us on Wednesday I believe.

Witness:	Yeah. Two years ago.
Nate Wright:	Was it Kosar that talked to you? Who would CTAA have this conversation with you about the letter to our office?
Witness:	Furkan.
Nate Wright:	He called you and said we have to pay for these.
Witness:	From this TCAA, CTAA I think. CTAA.
Nate Wright:	Did TCAE or AFAZ already paid for these back in 2013?
Witness:	No.
Nate Wright:	These were just an outstanding balance?
Witness:	Yes. Furkan Kosar worked to Amity, I was worked to Amity also. I emailed them too many times to send money, send money, because we understand relationship I'm not going to push off to pay, pay, pay. They are also still amount four hundred nine dollar. They do not pay this.
Nate Wright:	He didn't pay his ticket just-
Witness:	Yes. just guest.
Nate Wright:	You were sending him emails saying that he needed to pay this balance?
Witness:	Yes. Saim, his helper. I sent to his helper.
Nate Wright:	Is that Saim?
Witness:	Saim Cagirici, yes.
Nate Wright:	Okay.
Omar Ashmawy:	Do you still have those emails?
Witness:	I'll check. Can I check now or later? I'll email to you.
Omar Ashmawy:	Yeah. If you could email that to us that would be great.
Witness:	Now or later?

Omar Ashmawy: I think it's cool. I don't mind seeing them right now.

[BREAK IN RECORDING]

Nate Wright: Thank you. You've given us two documents dated July seventh 2013, and July ninth 2013 from you to Saim.

Omar Ashmawy: Translate.

Nate Wright: Yeah. Do you mind.

Omar Ashmawy: If you could translate. Which one? This.

Witness: July 7th to Saim, hi. Did you sent my checks? July 9th, same headline, Mr. Saim Osham, did you sent my check yet? Then Mr. Kosar sent me . . . After two minutes ago, he answer to me. Saim invoice, it was . . . This says not yet. It means, Saim Osham, We are going to try . . . We try to issue this, invoice issue to Witness.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Nate Wright: Thank you. I just have a couple questions about the process with them, with CTAA. This is NIL_1333. This is Resul Aksoy sending you a spreadsheet for the Council for Turkic American Associations, and then this is the spreadsheet here that Resul sent you. It came from Resul not from CTAA. Everything went through Resul even . . .

Witness: Everything. I don't know TCAE or AFAZ, all information coming from Resul.

Nate Wright: Okay. Here it says you have, Yvette Clarke, Gregory Meeks, Leonard Lance, and then over here there's this designation K.O.

Witness: K.O.

Nate Wright: What does that mean?

Witness: I think Kemal Oksuz.

Nate Wright: Okay. What did that tell you about what to do with those?

Witness: Yeah. That says that we're not going to . . . New York. They said we're not going to pay New York senator. That senator or congressman? That Mr. Kosar handle all passenger.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: That's why they have line, I think. Yeah.

Nate Wright: Why would it say . . .

Witness: Kemal Oksuz.

Nate Wright: Kemal Oksuz there?

Witness: Interest. Kemal Oksuz interesting this issue. They mark it. It's Resul Aksoy email to me. I'm not going to handle these three. Kemal Oksuz handle.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: Means, I think. Yeah.

Nate Wright: Okay. Any direction about those three was to come from Kemal, rather than from Resul.

Witness: No. They coming from to Saim.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: I think I'm a little confused too. I apologize.

Witness: Sure.

Omar Ashmawy: If they were going to come from Saim why does it say K.O., for Kemal Oksuz?

Witness: Well, that's Kemal Oksuz, I mean, just my opinion. It say K.O., it means Kemal Oksuz so it's handled to Kemal Oksuz. It mean, I don't know. You have tell ask who sent on the email.

Nate Wright: Okay. The coloring here you think, and I realize this is black and white so it's hard for me to ask you. The coloring thought might be significant to say wait on booking the flights or handle the flights differently in some way?

Witness: Yeah. Yeah.

Nate Wright: Over NIL_0098. This is an itinerary and as you see, a lot of these individuals. Starting here there's Mark Montigny as you can see over here. He's on the CTAA list. It looks like between Montigny and Kosar that 22 people from CTAA appear on an invoice to TCAE. Why was everyone else on this spreadsheet being invoiced to TCAE except for those three?

Witness: I don't know.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: You tell me, these sheets only three names difference. This is they mark it. That's the reason. I don't know. They are not going to turn on the book. Mr. Resul doesn't tell me the book to all these three names. That's why they mark it.

Nate Wright: Okay. You didn't subsequently bill CTAA, even though these initially showed up on their spreadsheet for these flights.

Omar Ashmawy: All these names. Right on these flights. These were paid for by the Turquoise Council?

Witness: Yes

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Was that what you were . . .?

Nate Wright: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. I have a small question just because I'm curious.

Witness: Sure. Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: On the list of this invoice 0098. Furkan Kosar's name is there.

Witness: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: It looks like TCAE, the Turquoise Council paid for Mr. Kosar's trip.

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Then it looks like he was then later . . .

Witness: Four hundred nine that, it's an exchange price. Exchange ticket price.

Omar Ashmawy: Exchange ticket price. Okay. There's a cost you needed to change it.

Witness: Change it. Yes. They are changing it up.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Witness: Everything they are changing.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Nate Wright: Showing you NIL_0018, 067, 042. These are the invoices for Meeks, Clarke and Lance. Again they show a later issue date. My question here with these invoices is, so if you look at the invoice and the amount and then you compare them. Compare them to NIL_0126, the invoice. What's odd to me is that these actually match up.

Witness: Yeah.

Nate Wright: You have Meeks matches up here, same amount, same with Clark, matches up.

Witness: Yeah. Everything that exactly match to the PNR because we receive commission. There are no . . . Furkan Kosar doesn't give to us same as other, no gap. Five hundred. We just receive commission from Turkish Airlines.

Nate Wright: Okay. You weren't getting the extra thousand dollars for business class for these three individuals that you were for. . .

Witness: Yes. Exactly.

Nate Wright: Okay. You created this invoice and sent it to him, prior to those other two emails you gave me today. Where you're asking him whether or not he's paid.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: I print that for you.

Nate Wright: It seems like this is . . . This invoice here is different from the other ones, from the Turquoise Council and AFAZ. Not only do the invoice numbers roughly match up, the amounts match up. This was something that . . . Did you used these [gesturing to itineraries] to create this?

Witness: No. I can also email to . . . Then I sent two thousand . . . I sent this invoice exactly 2013. I can print that also here.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: I'm not going to create this PNR and this invoice two days ago. They created 2013.

Nate Wright: I apologize, my question wasn't clear. With the other invoices you told us that—TCAE, AFAZ—that you were told what to put into the airfare column. Here it looks like you put it the actual airfare in the airfare column.

Witness: Yes. Exactly.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: I receive commission from ... There are no gap for Furkan Kosar.

Nate Wright: Okay. You wouldn't allow them to change the amount . . .

Witness: Any amount. Yes.

Nate Wright: On the invoice because you knew that you are only going to receive-

Witness: Commission from Turkish Airlines.

Nate Wright: Commission. Okay. How did you account, outside of this invoice, how did you account for the outstanding balance with . . . ?

Witness: This is unpaid. I think my accountant CPA, if it unpaid they are expenses. We have a lot selling to six million, maybe we have between ten thousand to hundred thousand dollar charge back. Charge back means fraud protection. They are all expenses. My accountant should be, this amount expenses. Unpaid now we receive this is a profit.

Omar Ashmawy: Revenue.

Nate Wright: Okay. You accounted for them initially as an unpaid expense. It comes out of your profit margin. Now that they paid most of it, you count that as profit.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: This is NIL_0308.

Witness: This the first I think after.

Nate Wright: Yeah. This is another email from Resul Aksoy to you with the . . .

Witness: Midwest.

Nate Wright: Yeah. With the Midwest.

Witness: This is local that I explain to you. Midwest is . . .

Nate Wright: I think they're based in Chicago. Does that sound right?

Witness: Midwest. Yes. I think. Yeah.

Nate Wright: Another spreadsheet here with . . . That Resul sent you with their travelers. Somewhere in here, there is . . . NIL_0815. There is Danny K. Davis here listed. This one's also sort of colored in, but then it looks like you had generated this itinerary for him. Looks like there is an issue date. May 18th. Here NIL_0103. Invoice. And it has Danny K. Davis here going to TCAE. I guess my question is, why was Danny K. Davis handled differently from . . . We went through the Council on Turkic American Associations. What's different in the paperwork that led you to . . .

Witness: This question you have to ask to Res Aksoy, because I'm issuing the ticket. They send another email, I'm not going to look to . . . You're telling me that Midwest but Danny Davis is not Midwest, you is telling me. Is it right?

Nate Wright: What's that?

Witness: Danny-

Omar Ashmawy: Representative Davis. I guess the question we have is, one of the question we have is, Representative Davis seems to have been handled a

		little differently. More directly, why . . . What's the static nation here as reimbursement on 0103.
	Witness:	Yeah. The reimbursement. They purchase tickets. I don't know why we. Actually they have to tally the reimbursement.
	Omar Ashmawy:	If you add it up. It looks like he's included in the total.
	Witness:	Yes.
	Omar Ashmawy:	Do you remember what reimbursement means?
	Witness:	I don't remember, also I don't reimbursement means. I know what it means but why we put that as reimbursement. I don't know why. We have to ask them.
	Omar Ashmawy:	Okay.
	Nate Wright:	Okay. One of my questions, walking through with Davis is . . . is it the coloring on the spreadsheet? What is it that differentiates the way that CTAA handled Clarke, Lance and Meeks and Davis was handled by the Midwest?
	Witness:	By the Midwest. Yeah.
	Nate Wright:	Is it the coloring of the spreadsheet? What tells you that I'm going to invoice a different organization that I am for every other one. Here it seems that Danny K. Davis followed the normal process.
	Witness:	Back to that colors name. There are no initial to color his name. They wouldn't tell the colors name.
	Nate Wright:	It's this page here.
	Witness:	Yeah.
	Nate Wright:	There's no initials next to it that tells you to treat it differently than anything else?
	Witness:	No. Actually if no . . . Is it black, so is not issuing yet or I don't know how to means. This spreadsheet I did not prepare . . . I don't know the means, you have to ask the Resul Aksoy.

Nate Wright: Okay. Yeah. I was mostly wondering if there was anything that jumped out to you as being different that told you with the three from CTAA to treat them differently other than maybe the initials next to it or the coloring.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Witness: It doesn't mean to me.

Nate Wright: Okay. Have you had conversations . . . I know you had conversations with CTAA, where they reached out to you and said, "We have to pay this." It was an invoice that you had . . .

Witness: Yeah. Maybe.

Nate Wright: That you had written off as an unpaid expense. Has anyone else that was involved in this convention contacted you about the convention?

Witness: No. There are three organization I think, AFAZ, TCAA and Turquoise. After we purchase everybody call for seat assignment, upgrades with mileage. I remember three names, Kemal Abi, Saim, Resul and Furkan Abi. Four names.

Omar Ashmawy: Spoken, so it was Taban, Kemal, Resul,

Witness: Saim.

Omar Ashmawy: and Saim. Okay.

Nate Wright: Have you had conversation with any of those individuals recently about the convention? Other that Saim and Kosar talking to you about the letter to our office and the outstanding balance.

Witness: I think it's [inaudible] said to check their accounting.

Omar Ashmawy: Has anyone talked to you about the investigation? Obviously we've been investigating this, so the questions around this trip. Has anyone talked to you, or send you an email, or a text about this, or anything?

Witness: Just Mr. Nate . . . One lady called me.

Nate Wright: Helen Eisner?

Witness: I think. Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Have you heard from Mr. Turhan or Kemal, or Resul about this? Have they talked to you about this?

Witness: Yeah. Before or after?

Omar Ashmawy: After.

Witness: After yeah. Saim was here two days ago, Furkan Abi need pay to his tickets. I told him I have a meeting with you.

Omar Ashmawy: Did he say anything?

Witness: No, just regular. They say to . . . We have to an open balance, we have to, I think it's my understand to check.

Omar Ashmawy: Say that one more time.

Witness: He said to we are going to open balance and is my office should have sent the check.

Omar Ashmawy: They have an open balance and their account should've sent the check to you?

Witness: Yes. Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Have you heard from Mr. Kemal Oksuz about the investigation?

Witness: No.

Nate Wright: You have booked travel for him recently. We saw in the emails.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: You haven't talked about this at all?

Witness: No. Say your question one more time.

Nate Wright: You booked travel for Mr. Oksuz, recently. I believe in February.

Witness: Yes.

Nate Wright: No conversation about the convention or about our investigation?

Witness: No, because we email then and talk about tickets.

Omar Ashmawy: You sure you didn't say . . . For you to say something specific?

Witness: I think his accounting lawyer contacted me.

Omar Ashmawy: His accountant, lawyer did you say?

Witness: Accounting lawyer said ... They sent me, can you sent me some invoices.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you remember who that was? Was it a firm?

Witness: Firm. Yeah. Firm . . . I can check for you.

Omar Ashmawy: Sure. I can't say that you remember, but is the firm called Caplin Drysdale?

Witness: I don't know the name. I can check for you. Also, I use the bathroom.

Omar Ashmawy: Sure.

Nate Wright: Okay.

[BREAK IN RECORDING]

Omar Ashmawy: The person that contacted you was Rachel Goldstein?

Witness: Yes. Capdale. The company name Capdale.

Omar Ashmawy: Capdale?

Witness: Capdale. Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Capdale?

Witness: Capdale. I can print for you.

Nate Wright: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: They just asked you to send them copies of the invoices?

Witness: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: When was this?

Witness: Two months?

Nate WRight: Did they ask for any other documents? Just the . . .

Witness: No. I can email all, you can read. I do not remember what they want to from me.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Witness: I can email you, or print for you.

Nate Wright: Okay. I don't have any more questions.

Omar Ashmawy: That's all.

Nate Wright: Is there anything we're missing in our questions?

Witness: No. We'll see. We have many . . . We issue tickets, rush tickets from TCC movement, RTCC. After two, three years ago, we have to ask same question.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. I understand. Well thank you very much for having us. We appreciate it.

Nate Wright: Thank you.

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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
4	24	Merchant Account not Mega Account	Misunderstood
24	20	Should CTAA	Confuse organisation name
24	24	Should be CTAA	Confuse organisation name

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 9/18/2015