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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

October 2, 2019

His Excellency Scott Morrison
Prime Minister of Australia
Embassy of Australia
1601 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

His Excellency Giuseppe Conte
Prime Minister of Italy
Embassy of Italy
3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

His Excellency Boris Johnson
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
Embassy of the United Kingdom
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Prime Ministers Morrison, Conte, and Johnson,

Following the publication on September 30, 2019, of a New York Times article alleging that United States Attorney General Barr is “using high-level diplomacy to advance [the president’s] personal political interests,”¹ I write to request your country’s continued cooperation with Attorney General Barr as the Department of Justice continues to investigate the origins and extent of foreign influence in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.²

¹ Mark Mazzetti and Katie Benner, *Trump Pressed Australian Leader to Help Barr Investigate Mueller Inquiry’s Origins*, New York Times, Sept. 30, 2019.

² See Attorney General Barr’s April 10, 2019 testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee during which he explained that he was:

going to be reviewing both the genesis and the conduct of intelligence activities directed at the Trump campaign during 2016. And a lot has already been investigated and a substantial portion of it has been investigated and is being investigated by the Office of the Inspector General at the Department. But one of the things I want to do is pull together all the information from the various investigations that have gone on, including on the Hill and in the Department, and see if there are any remaining questions to be addressed. . . . Well, you know, for the same reason we’re worried about foreign influence in elections, we want to make sure that during—I think spying on a political campaign is a big deal. It’s a big deal. . . . *I think spying did occur, yes.*

United States Cong. Senate Committee on Appropriations. *Hearing on the Justice Department’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request*. April 10, 2019 (in response to questioning from Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)) (emphasis added).

One of the principal duties of the U.S. Attorney General is to supervise ongoing investigations within the Justice Department. Moreover, as you are undoubtedly aware, Australia, Italy, and the United Kingdom routinely exchange law enforcement information with each other to assist in the course of investigations.

It appears that the United States law enforcement and intelligence communities relied on foreign intelligence as part of their efforts to investigate and monitor the 2016 presidential election. These efforts included: (1) relying on a deeply-flawed dossier filled with hearsay and written by a biased, former United Kingdom intelligence officer; (2) receiving intelligence from an Italian “professor” who was directed to contact a low-level Trump campaign advisor, George Papadopoulos to gather intelligence on the campaign; and (3) accepting information from an Australian diplomat who was also directed to contact Papadopoulos and relay information obtained from Papadopoulos regarding the campaign to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That the Attorney General is holding meetings with your countries to aid in the Justice Department’s investigation of what happened is well within the bounds of his normal activities. He is simply doing his job.

I therefore write to urge that you continue cooperating with the U.S. Attorney General as he continues this important investigation into the origins of the Department’s investigation into foreign interference with the 2016 U.S. election.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable William P. Barr