

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 14, 2018

His Excellency Zulhasnan Rafique  
Ambassador to the United States  
Embassy of Malaysia  
3516 International Court, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Your Excellency:

I am writing to request information about transactions involving your government and the Trump Organization. As you know, President Trump has refused to completely divest from his business interests or place them in a blind trust, which creates the potential for conflicts of interest that may lead him to put his own financial interests above those of the U.S. government and the American people. Our founding fathers had this concern in mind when they wrote Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution, which prohibits federal officeholders from accepting emoluments from foreign states without first obtaining the affirmative consent of Congress.

The event I am requesting information about is former Prime Minister Najib Razak's September 2017 visit to Washington, D.C. and his reported stay at the Trump International Hotel. According to reports, that visit involved dozens of members of Najib's entourage, the rental of several conference rooms, and a white-tablecloth breakfast in the hotel's Lincoln Library meeting room. Press accounts note that similar events of this scale have earned hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue for the Trump Organization. To assist the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in its oversight responsibilities, I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide the Committee the following information:

- What is your government's usual procurement process for booking official travel and hosting events at hotels or other venues in Washington, D.C.? Was that process followed for the September 2017 visit?
- Were other hotels or venues considered for the visit? If so, which ones?
- Did other hotels or venues submit bids for the visit? If so, how much did they bid?
- Was your government encouraged or advised to select this venue by any U.S. organizations or individuals, including but not limited to those providing lobbying or advisory services, or any U.S. government officials or employees of the Trump Organization?
- Did anyone from the U.S. government discuss the Trump Organization venue with officials from your government before it was selected for the visit? If so, please provide details of these discussions.

- How much did the Trump International Hotel charge for the visit and accompanying meetings and meals? Please include detailed billing information, such as a breakdown of costs for food, beverages, service, etc.
- When did the Trump International Hotel submit its invoice and when was payment made?

I respectfully request that you provide this information to the Committee no later than July 11, 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or require any information about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member