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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I am writing in advance of your meeting tomorrow with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. This is a critically important meeting. For the sake of our national security, I implore the administration not to return to "business as usual" with Russia in the wake of the Mueller Report. I urge you to raise the following three concerns with the President.

First, I am very concerned that the administration has missed clear deadlines with respect to established U.S. sanctions law. The administration is months overdue in imposing statutorily required sanctions under the Chemical and Biological Weapons Act in response to last year's chemical weapons attack in the United Kingdom. Historically, the administration has announced designations in December/January under the Magnitsky Act, in response to the Magnitsky assassination and the Russian government's gross violations of human rights. It is now May. I urge you to announce the imposition of CBW and Magnitsky sanctions during your visit to Sochi.

Second, Russian forces continue to kill Ukrainian soldiers and civilians in Donbas. You must be clear with Putin that the U.S. will continue to provide lethal weapons to Ukrainian forces and that the pressure track will increase so long as the Kremlin ignores its commitments under the Minsk Agreements. The U.S. must also be clear in its defense of Ukraine's democratic institutions, especially as Moscow seeks to weaken incoming President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Third, I fully support Senator Schumer's request that you tell Putin not to interfere in the 2020 U.S. election. In solidarity with our closest allies in Europe, you should also tell the Russian President to stop interfering in the European Parliamentary election process. You should remind President Putin that such interference is sanctionable activity under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44).

This is not a time for reset with the Russian Federation. The U.S. must be firm and abide by its national security commitments to the American people and our allies. I look forward to a briefing on your meeting with President Putin upon your return.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member