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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 14, 2018

His Excellency Elin Suleymanov
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2741 34th Street, 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 occurred at Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. on December 14, 2016, when the Embassy of Azerbaijan co-hosted a Hanukkah party at the hotel's Lincoln Library. 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 hosting events at hotels or other venues in Washington, D.C.? Was that process followed for the December 2016 event?
- Were other hotels or venues considered for event? If so, which ones?
- Did other hotels or venues submit bids for the event? 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 December 2016 event? 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