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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 17, 2020

Alan Garten
Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
The Trump Organization
725 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Garten,

Recent reporting states that President Trump asked the Chinese government to help him win the 2020 election by telling President Xi Jinping that “increased agricultural purchases by Beijing from American farmers would aid his electoral prospects.”¹ In other words, President Trump sought and accepted incentives from the Chinese government in order to boost his standing in the upcoming presidential election. This disturbing revelation raises new questions about other ways in which President Trump benefits personally, and financially, from the Chinese government, including through ongoing business relationships.

Specifically, the Trump Organization—which President Trump still profits from—maintains a business relationship with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), which is controlled by the Chinese government. According to publicly-reported figures, ICBC paid the Trump Organization up to \$24 million over the course of its previous lease at Trump Tower in New York.² Coincidentally, the lease expired the same month that President Trump asked the Chinese government to investigate his domestic political rival, which coincided with a Trump adviser claiming to have gathered related information from the Chinese government during a visit to Beijing.³

Last year, ICBC reportedly decided to continue leasing one floor in Trump Tower.⁴ The terms of that arrangement do not appear to have been publicly reported. However, they are of significant interest to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has jurisdiction over U.S. foreign relations. It is important that Congress and the American public know how much money China, and any other country for that matter, is paying President Trump through his company. To that end, I request that you provide the Committee with the following information by July 1, 2020:

1. The value of ICBC’s past lease with the Trump Organization;

¹ Josh Dawsey, “Trump asked China’s Xi to help him win reelection, according to Bolton book,” *The New York Times*, Jun. 17, 2020.

² “China’s Biggest Bank Said to Cut Space at NYC’s Trump Tower,” *Bloomberg*, Jan. 9, 2019.

³ Peter Baker & Eileen Sullivan, “Trump Publicly Urges China to Investigate the Bidens,” *The New York Times*, Oct. 3, 2019; Demetri Sevastopulo, “Trump adviser says China provided information about Hunter Biden,” *Financial Times*, Oct. 10, 2019.

⁴ “China’s Biggest Bank Said to Cut Space at NYC’s Trump Tower,” *Bloomberg*, Jan. 9, 2019.

2. The terms of ICBC's new lease, including the length of the lease, the amount of ICBC's annual payments to the Trump Organization, and any other relevant information; and
3. A list of any other state-owned or controlled companies in China or any other foreign country that are current or prospective lessees of or lenders to any Trump Organization properties.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Menendez
Ranking Member