

# Exhibit I

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

February 24, 2020

Charles J. Cooper  
Cooper & Kirk  
1523 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20036

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO CCOOPER@COOPERKIRK.COM

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Last Friday, I was pleased to meet with your client, Ambassador John Bolton, to discuss our preliminary review results concerning the draft manuscript submitted for prepublication review on December 30, 2019. As I noted in my letters dated January 23, 2020, and February 7, 2020, our preliminary review determined that the draft contains numerous instances of classified information. The meeting furthered the iterative review process by providing an opportunity to inform your client of many of the specific instances of classified information identified in the draft manuscript and offer guidance to prevent unauthorized disclosure of this information for the protection of national security.

During our meeting, which lasted four hours and was most productive, I discussed with your client our use of the classification standards and categories found in Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information," to identify classified information found in the draft manuscript, and he appeared to acknowledge the need to revise the manuscript to address our concerns regarding classified information. I provided guidance as to when and how he should modify language that is classified in its current form so that it no longer meets the standards to be classified. In addition, we discussed with your client guidance as to when he should delete instances of classified information found in the draft manuscript, as even with revisions the information would remain classified and thus would not be publicly releasable. Finally, I advised him on the use of citations of authorized releases and publicly available information related to national security.

I reviewed the preliminary results of three chapters in the draft manuscript in detail with your client during our meeting. Additionally, I discussed the details of a sample of review findings throughout the draft manuscript to convey instances of identified classified information. We discussed how your client can potentially avoid including classified information when discussing matters related to national security. These examples should aid your client as he revises the draft manuscript.

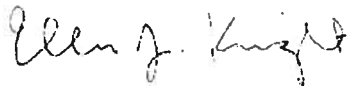
It became apparent during our meeting that it would be most helpful to the process if we hold one or more follow-on meetings. We agreed to meet again at my office to discuss the remaining portions of the draft manuscript. In order to ensure the safeguarding of identified classified

information, we discussed your proposal to locate a secure facility for your client to complete the edits of the draft manuscript. Once we complete our follow-on meetings, your client may then implement the required changes in a secure location. We can discuss the appropriate method for resubmitting the manuscript as the process moves forward.

The notes your client took at our meeting, as well as the draft manuscript he annotated, remain secured at my office. I have reviewed your client's notes to identify and redact any classified information and am enclosing a copy with this letter.

Please note the prepublication review remains in process, and your client may not publish or further disseminate the manuscript or any of its contents until authorized. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about next steps in the prepublication review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen J. Knight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen J. Knight  
Senior Director for Records Access,  
and Information Security Management

Enclosure: a/s