## <u>Press Releases: Republic of Indonesia</u> <u>National Day</u>

Press Statement Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC August 15, 2018

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, it is my pleasure to send our warmest wishes to the people of Indonesia as you celebrate your 73rd year of independence this August 17th.

Our relationship is founded on shared democratic values and ideals. This common vision forms the basis of our strong U.S.-Indonesia Strategic Partnership, and we are encouraged by the progress made on our joint goal of promoting a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The United States looks forward to another year of progress and advancement between our two countries.

I send my deepest congratulations to you on this National Day and wish you continued success for years to come.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.

#### Press Releases: Republic of Congo

### **National Day**

Press Statement Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC August 15, 2018

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Republic of Congo on the 58th anniversary of independence on August 15th.

The United States looks forward to increased cooperation with the Republic of Congo through African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)-generated trade and in areas such as preventing the spread of infectious diseases and increasing maritime security. We hope that our bilateral ties will continue to grow stronger in the coming years.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.

# <u>Press Releases: Indian Independence</u> <a href="mailto:Day">Day</a>

Press Statement Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I extend my best wishes to the people and government of India on their Independence Day. Since gaining its independence 71 years ago today, India has set an example for South Asia and the world by supporting democracy, diversity, and the rule of law—values shared by the United States.

As members of the oldest and largest democracies, the people of the United States and India have always enjoyed strong bonds of friendship. We are grateful for the vibrant Indian-American diaspora and the growing number of young people strengthening ties between our countries as exchange students. The values shared by our people contribute to inspiring collaboration in health, energy, environment, science, and high technology that will fuel the jobs and prosperity of the future.

On this Indian Independence Day, we congratulate India—a unique civilization, fellow democracy, and a friend—on taking its rightful place as a leading global power and continuing our shared efforts to sustain the rules-based order.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.

# <u>Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's</u> <u>Call With Swedish Foreign Minister</u> <u>Wallstrom</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC August 10, 2018 The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert: □

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo spoke today with Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom. They discussed denuclearization efforts in North Korea as well as bilateral relations.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.

# Press Releases: Department Press Briefing - August 9, 2018

Heather Nauert Spokesperson

Department Press Briefing Washington, DC August 9, 2018

Index for Today's Briefing

- INDONESIA
- **DEPARTMENT**
- ZIMBABWE
- YEMEN
- IRAQ
- TURKEY
- ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS
- RUSSIA
- NORTH KOREA/SOUTH KOREA
- CHINA

#### TRANSCRIPT:

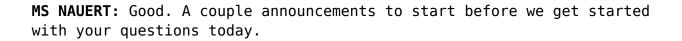
3:00 p.m. EDT

MS NAUERT: Hi, everybody. How are you today? And why are so many of you showing up on an August afternoon? You're supposed to all be on vacation or something, but I notice a few empty seats. But Gardiner's back from vacation. Gardiner, welcome.

**QUESTION:** Thank you.

MS NAUERT: How've you been?

QUESTION: I've been good.



First, I would like to express our condolences to the victims of the recent earthquakes and also the aftershocks in Indonesia. The United States has experts and partner organizations on the ground. We're consulting with the Government of Indonesia at this time. We're closely monitoring the situation, and we stand ready to provide additional aid to the Government of Indonesia. Our U.S. consulate personnel are assisting affected U.S. citizens. At this time, we do not have any reports of U.S. citizen casualties associated with the earthquakes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Indonesian people. As many of you know, we were recently on the ground in Indonesia and had some terrific meetings with government officials there.

Next, I have some staffing news to bring you now. And I'm really excited about this one, because it affects our Bureau of Public Affairs and specifically the folks that you will working with. Today I'd like to announce that Robert Palladino will be joining our press team as the State Department's deputy spokesperson. Robert is a career Foreign Service officer and I believe known well to some of you or perhaps many of you.

Over the past year, Robert has served as director of press and acting National Security Council spokesperson. In that role he's helped to prepare Sarah Sanders for her briefings at the White House. He was also a spokesperson to the White House press corps and worked as NSC communications lead for both Asia and Europe. Robert's Foreign Service career has included postings in Washington, where he worked for our Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy, and also on Capitol Hill. Overseas, he's worked in Milan, Italy; Guangzhou, China; and also Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

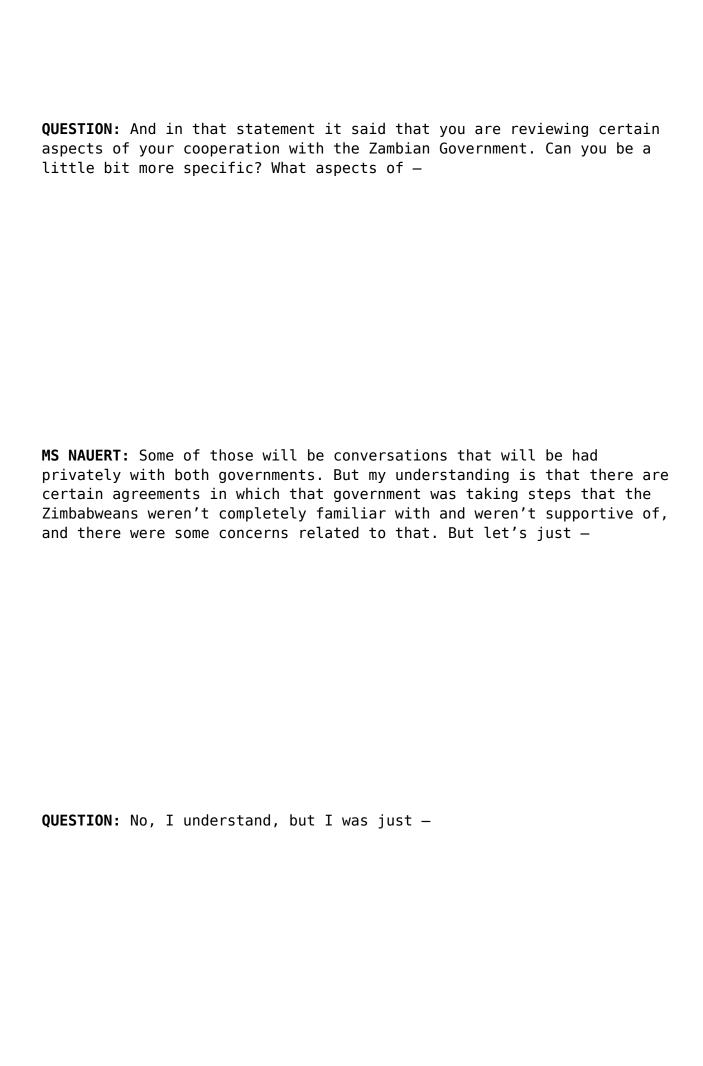
Prior to joining the State Department, he practiced law in Asia and Europe in the Army JAG Corps. His service included deployment to Rwanda. He is a graduate of Notre Dame University, Washington and Lee School of Law, the U.S. Army War College, and he also speaks Chinese and Italian. Pretty impressive.

We are delighted that he is coming back to the State Department from the White House. I know you will enjoy working with him. For those of you who have not met him, he is a terrific guy. We've worked closely together for the past year or so. I asked him what his children thought, because he has two young girls — I asked him what they thought of his job, and I love these quotes. His youngest daughter said, "I'm proud of America and I'm proud of you, Dad, but it sounds really boring." And then his older daughter said this — and you'll appreciate it — "But wait a minute, everybody yells questions and they're angry. That's the worst job in the world." That actually might be the White House press corps, not you all. But we look forward to welcoming Robert when he joins us on the 20th of August. But try not to bug him between now and then; he's on vacation with his family. So another addition to our press family.

And that's it. With that, I'd be happy to take your questions.

QUESTION: Okay, thanks. We'll try not to be so angry.

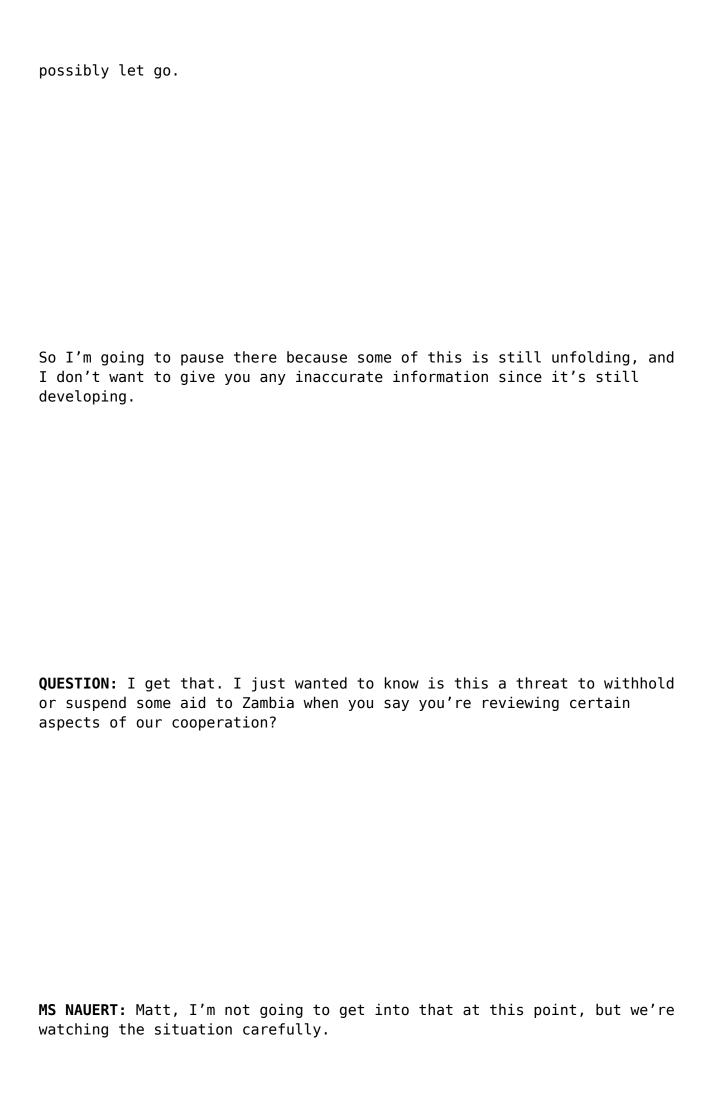
MS NAUERT: I said not you all. QUESTION: Let's — me, yes me. I just wanted to ask you briefly before I ask you about Yemen. I noticed the statement that you guys put out about Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe elections and the Zambian decision to deport the opposition leader. MS NAUERT: Right.

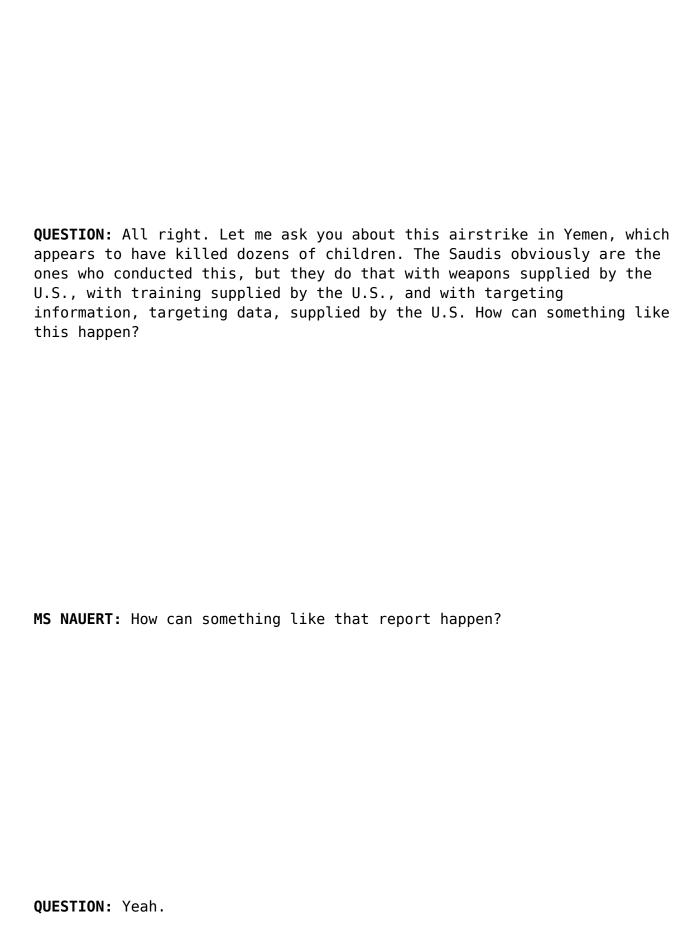


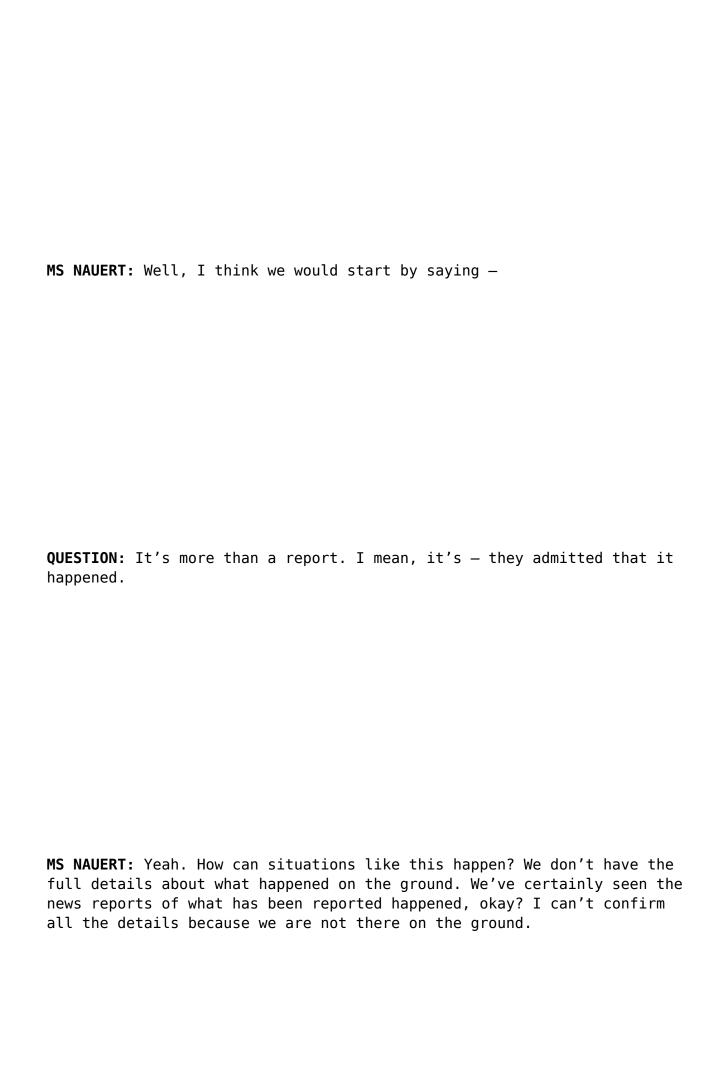
MS NAUERT: But let's just back up a couple steps for folks who've not been following this perhaps as closely as you have. Elections on July the 30th — those were promising, very promising. We thought it was a historic chance to sort of move beyond the political and economic crises of the past and toward a more democratic change and better dialogue in that country. People turned out massively in those elections. We put out a statement just after those elections complimenting them on those elections.

However, the success in delivering an election day that was peaceful and open to international observers was then marred by violence, which we've been seeing and has been heavily reported, at least in the international press, over the past about week and a half. We've seen a disproportionate use of deadly force against protestors by the security forces, which is a great concern of ours. We're concerned by those numerous reports of human rights violations since the elections had taken place about a week and a half or two ago. We have received credible allegations of detentions, of beatings, and other abuses of the people of Zimbabwe, particularly targeting opposition activists.

Now, the latest news today is the foreign — excuse me, the former minister of finance had left to go to Zambia. Zambia returned him to Zimbabwe, we understand. And some of this is still fresh so we don't have all the details at this point. But I understand he was detained and



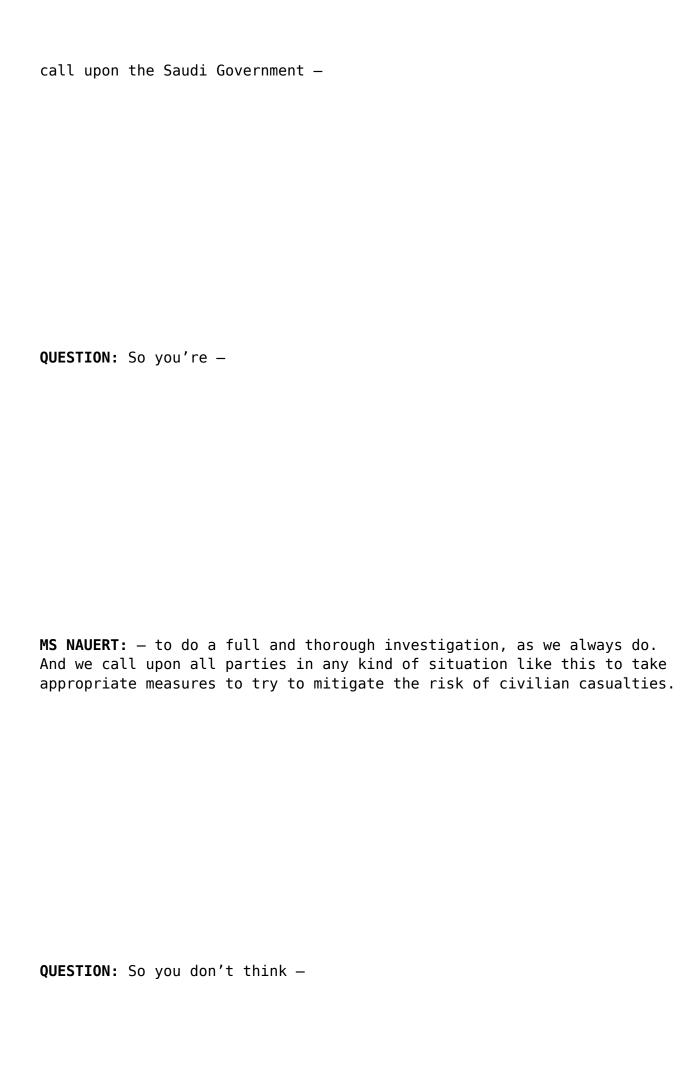


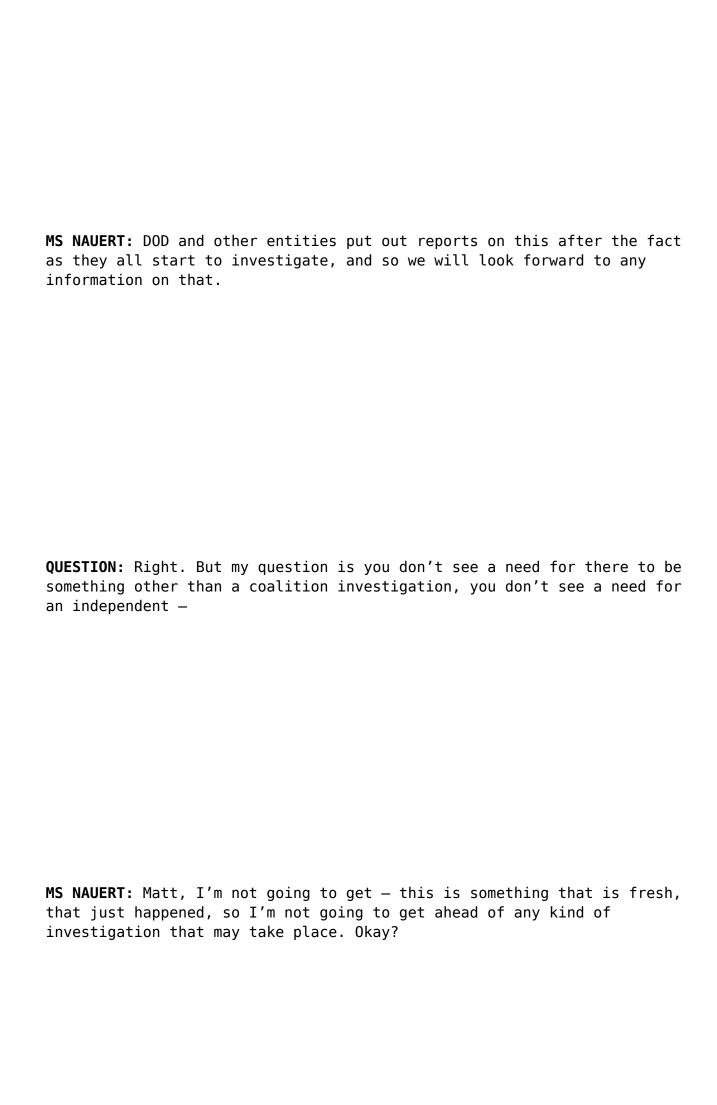


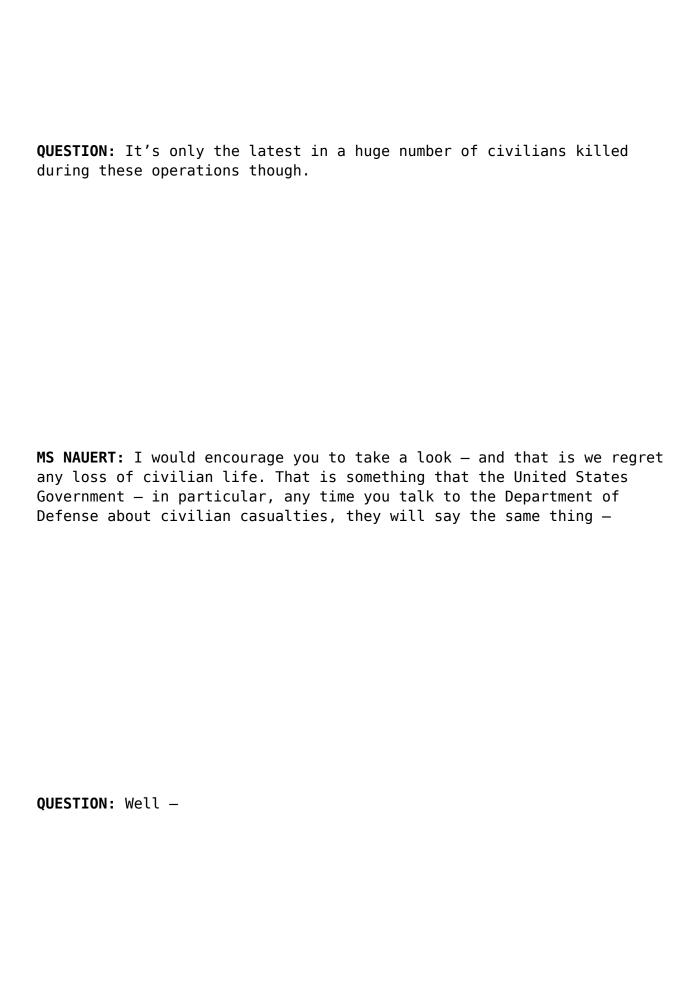
We can say that we're certainly concerned about these reports that resulted — that there was an attack that resulted in the deaths of civilians. We call on the Saudi-led coalition to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident. We take all credible accounts of civilian casualties very seriously. We call on the parties to take appropriate measures to protect civilians in accordance with international law and urge all parties to investigate all reported incidents of civilian casualties.

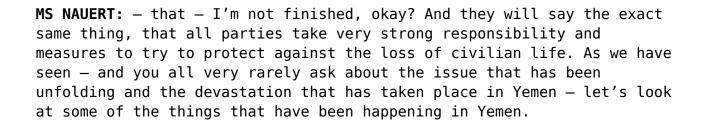
**QUESTION:** Okay. Well, they say — already the coalition says that they acted in accordance with international law. But if you look at the photographs, the video that come from the scene, it doesn't look like that's a really — that that's a credible answer. So are you okay with the coalition on its own doing an investigation, or would you like to see some kind of an international component to it or an international investigation?

MS NAUERT: Well, I think I just answered that and we said that we would





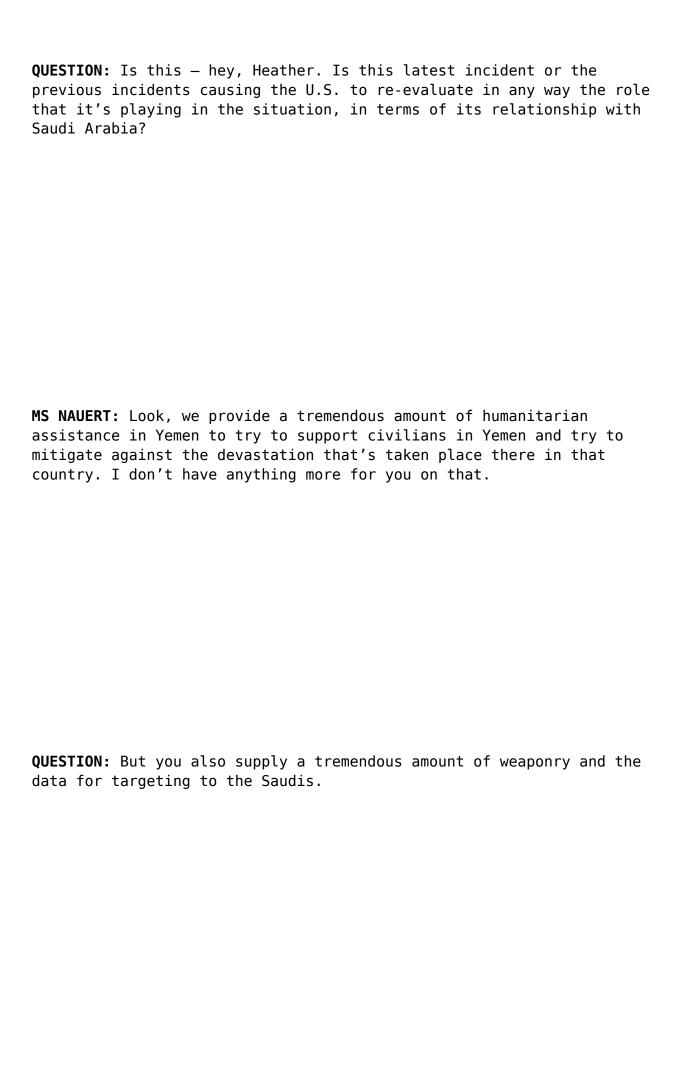




You have the Houthi rebels who continue to attack Saudi Arabia. They continue to do that with Iranian weapons, missiles, and rockets. They continue to try to attack civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, for example, and that is part of the reason why these actions are being taken.

Let me go back and remind you what I just said a moment ago, and that is we call for an investigation and we anticipate that a thorough investigation will be done. I don't have anything more for you on that.

QUESTION: The Secretary isn't planning on having a conversation with -MS NAUERT: I don't have any information for you on that. Okay. Hi, Nick.



 ${f MS}$   ${f NAUERT:}$   ${f Well, then - sorry.}$ 

**QUESTION:** Right? No?

QUESTION: No.

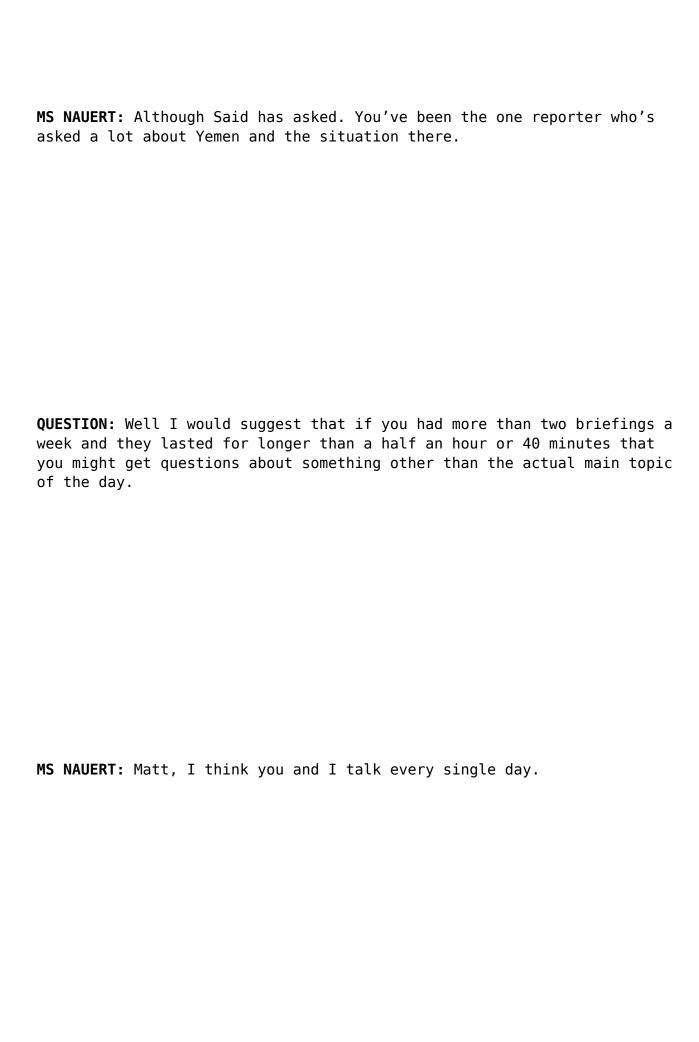
**QUESTION:** Am I wrong? Is that wrong?

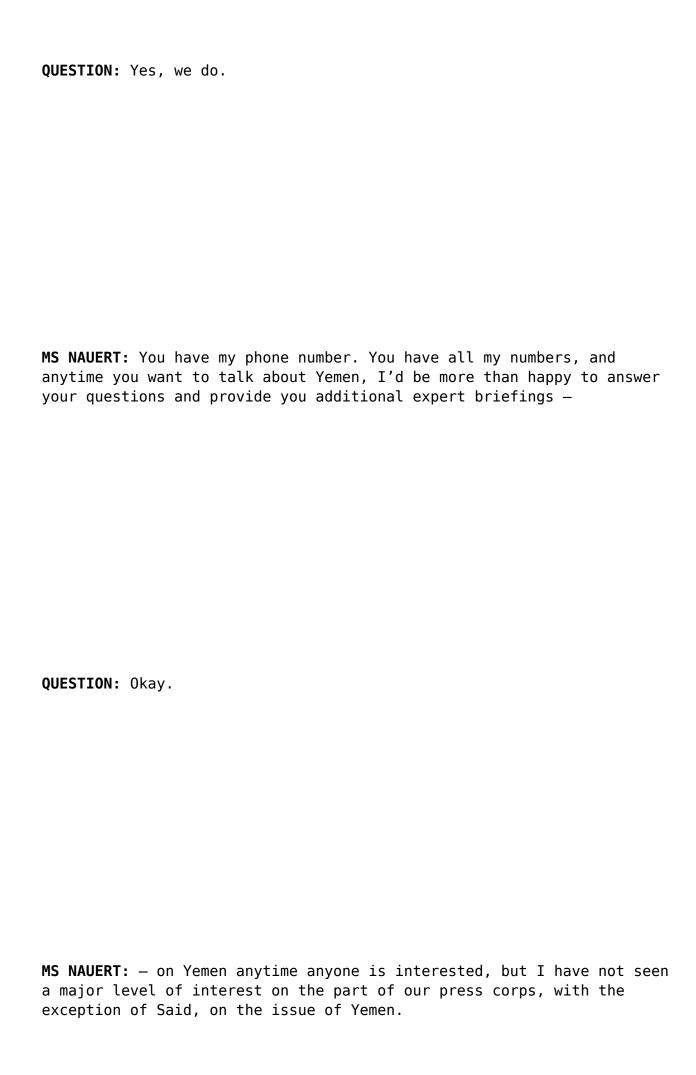
**QUESTION:** That's not wrong. MS NAUERT: Sorry, these ladies over here are laughing. On that I would refer you to the Department of Defense that is involved with that, but as you know, Saudi Arabia is an important strategic partner in the region to the United States. Okay. Hi, Gardiner.

**QUESTION:** Just a follow-up on that. Hey. So obviously, there's growing concerns in Congress about the toll this war is taking within Yemen. It's the worst humanitarian disaster on the planet. Aren't you concerned that incidents like this will further erode congressional support and lead to further support for legislation that could cut off Saudi Arabia from arms sales and the rest?

**MS NAUERT:** I mean, I think that is an entirely hypothetical question and we don't comment on congressional proposals in any event, but I would ask — all of you have been very silent on the issue of Yemen, and times

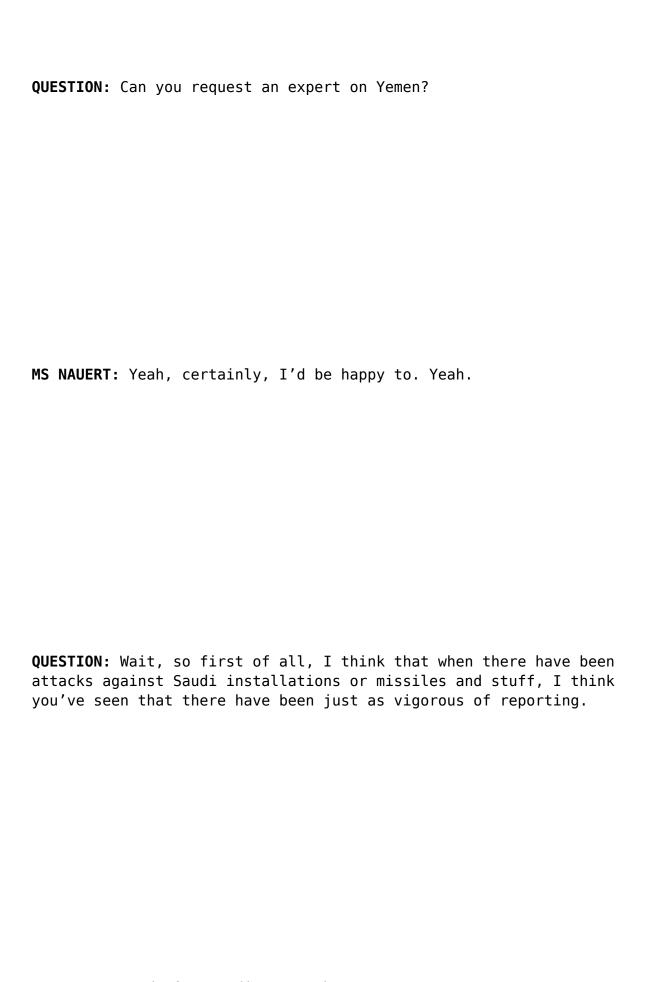
QUESTION: Well -

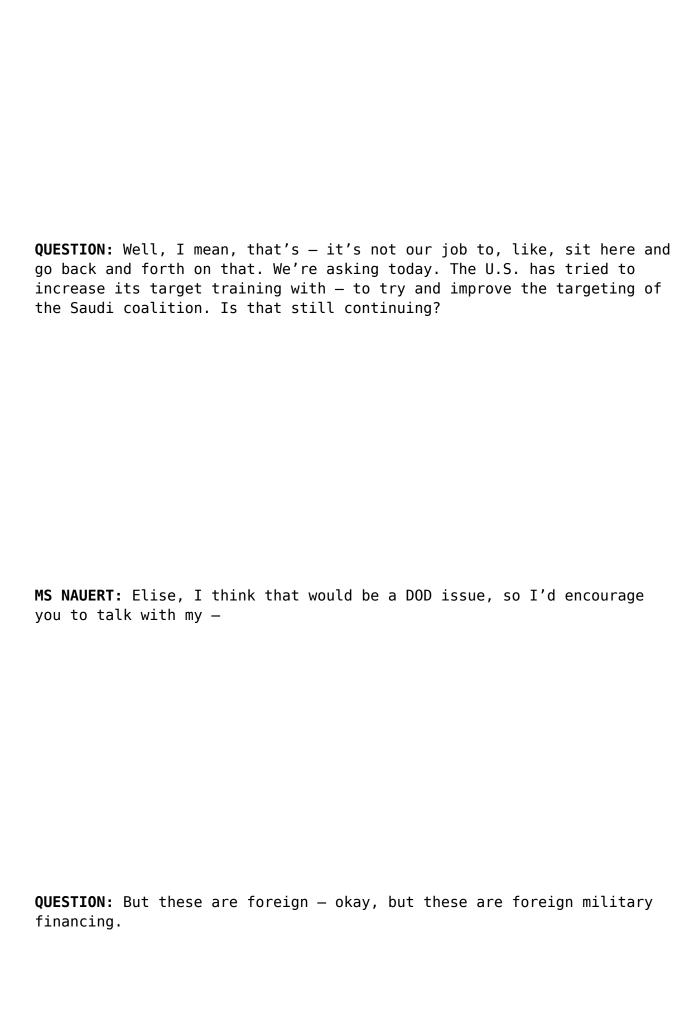




Yeah.  ${\bf QUESTION:}$  Why does that matter, though? There's news today, so -

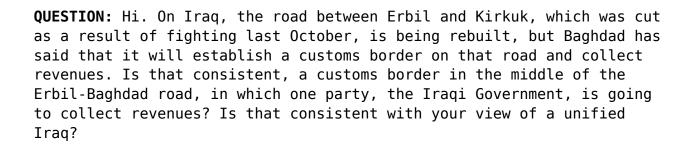
MS NAUERT: Yeah.





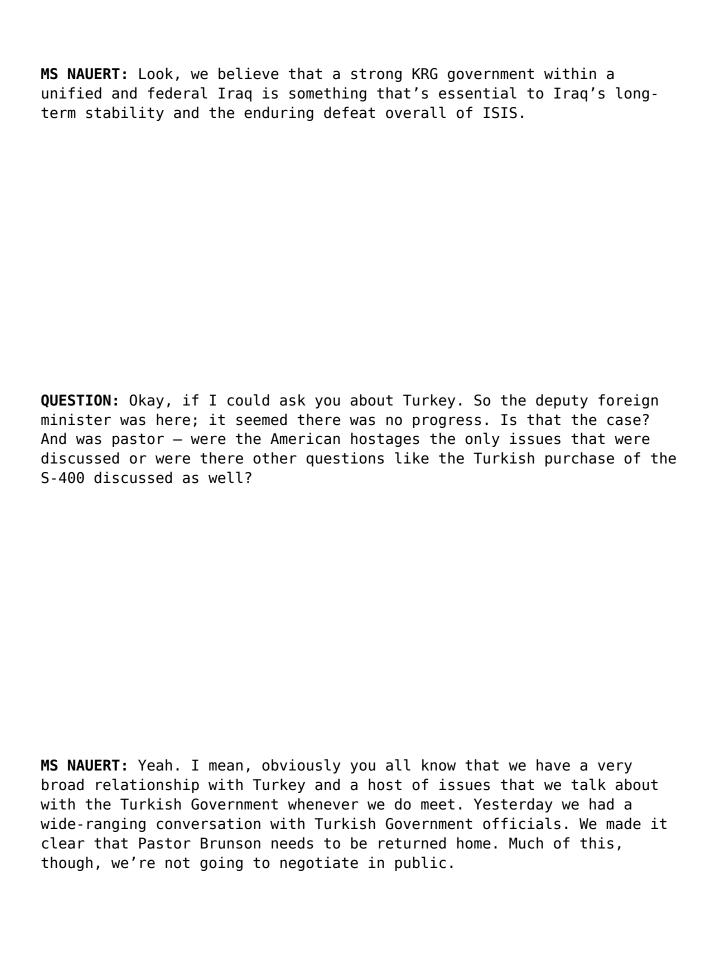






MS NAUERT: I would — there are other countries that have done this in the past, including our own country years ago in which this type of thing has been done. I think this is largely an internal matter for the Government of Iraq, between Iraq and Erbil, to try to work out. We do encourage them to resolve any remaining issues between Baghdad and Erbil.

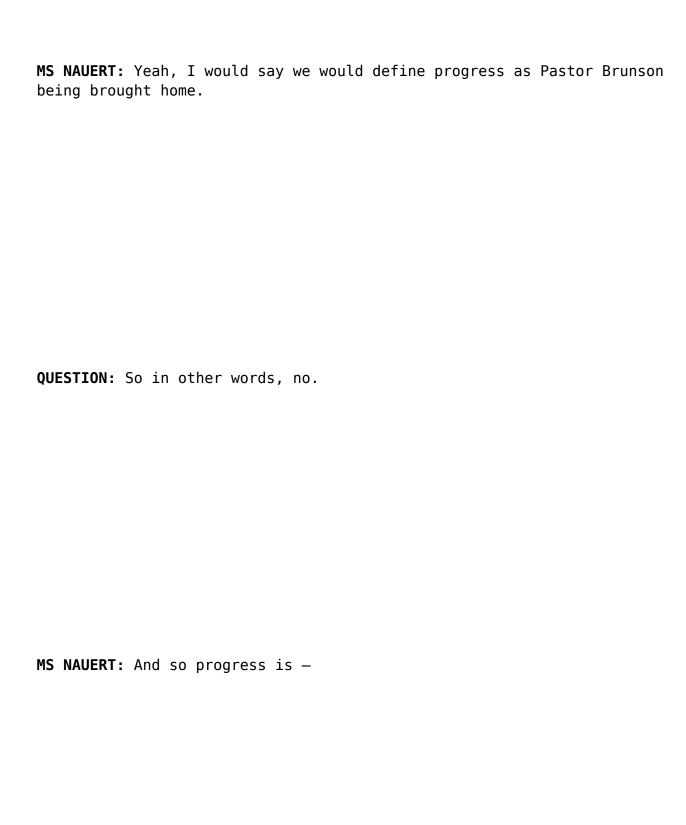
QUESTION: You don't have a position beyond that?



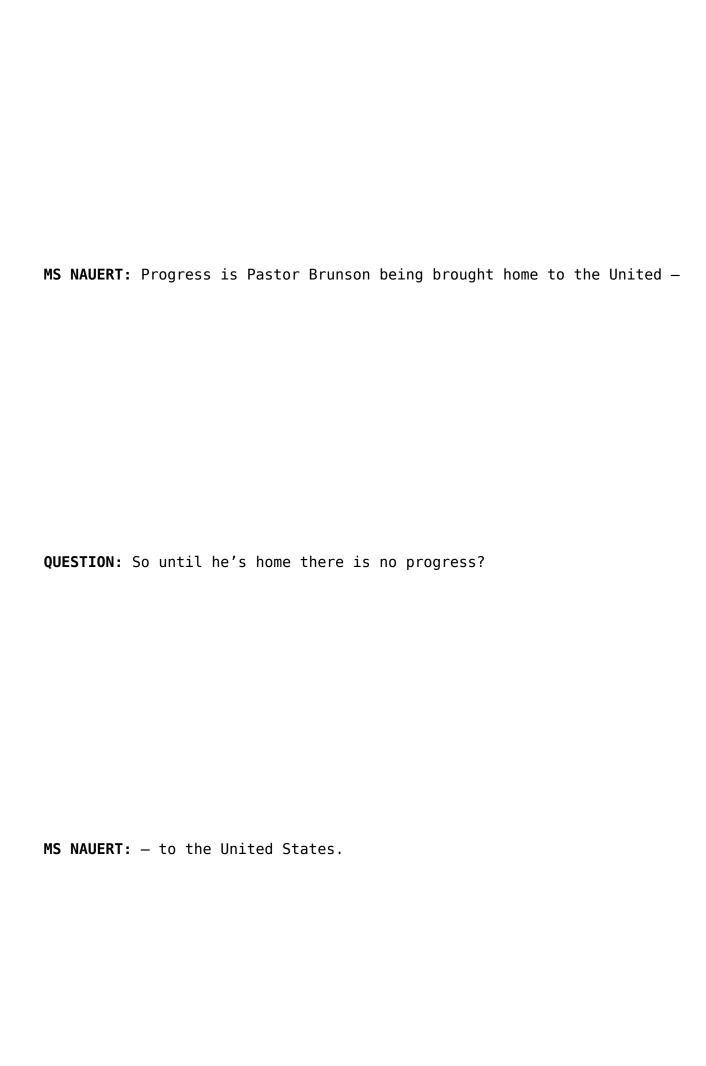
QUESTION: Can you tell us -

MS NAUERT: Go ahead. Hi.

**QUESTION:** Can you tell us if you made any progress about the situation of Pastor Brunson?



QUESTION: Until he - until he's -

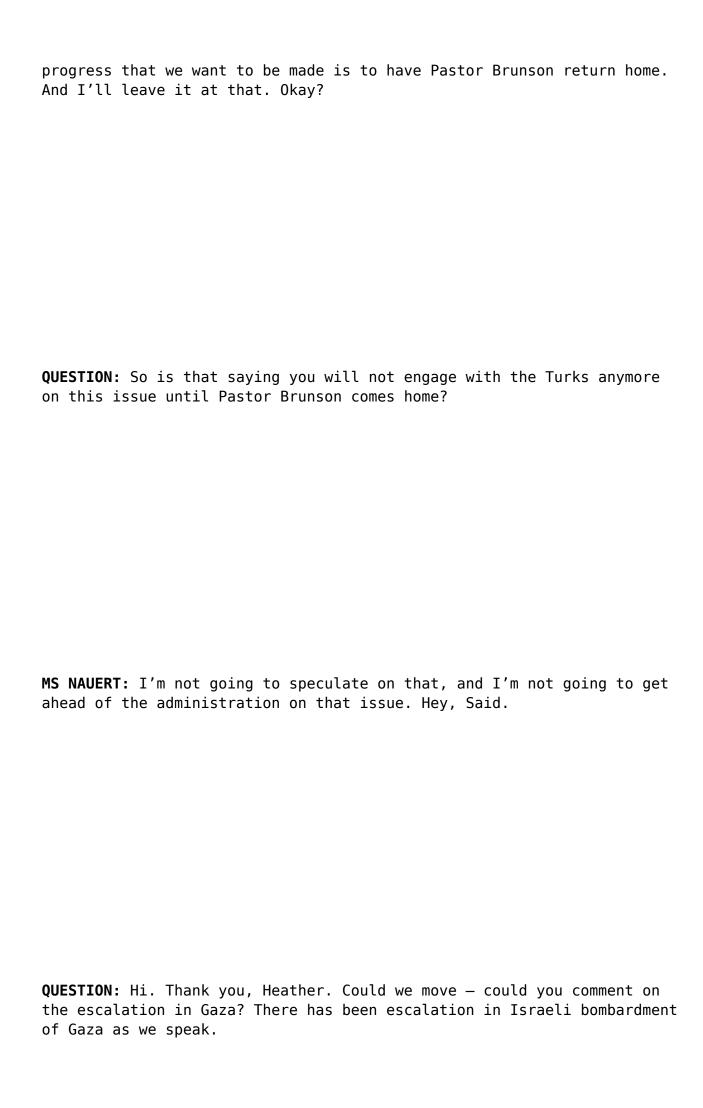


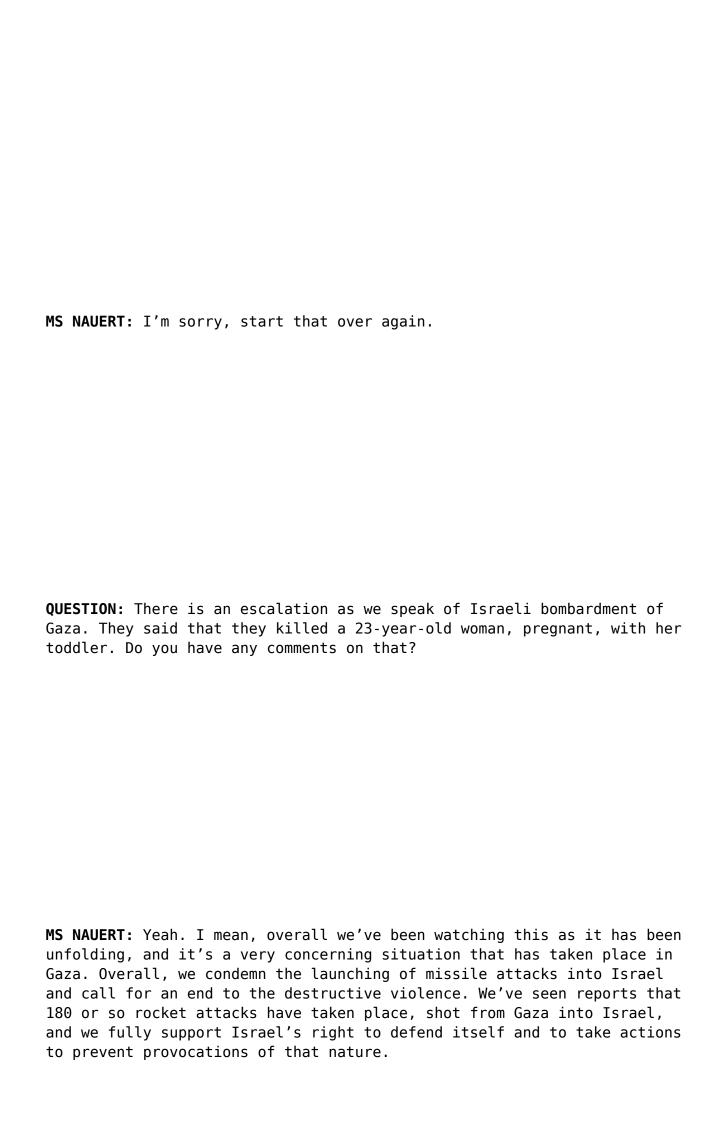


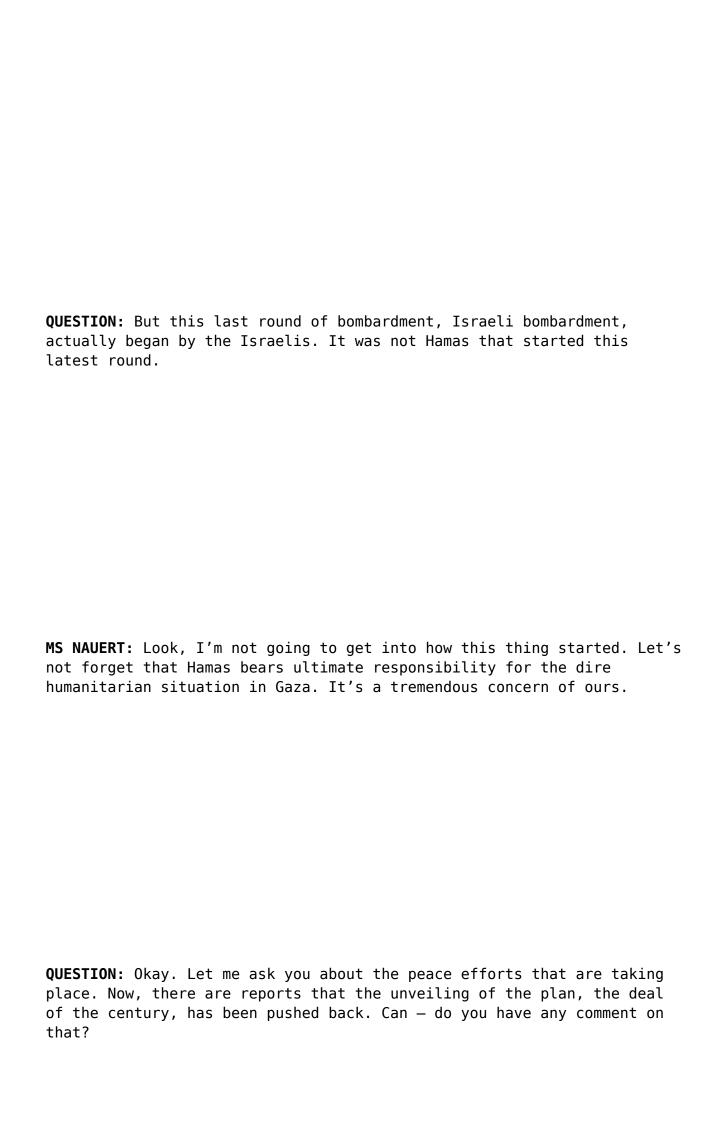
Thanks. Hi.

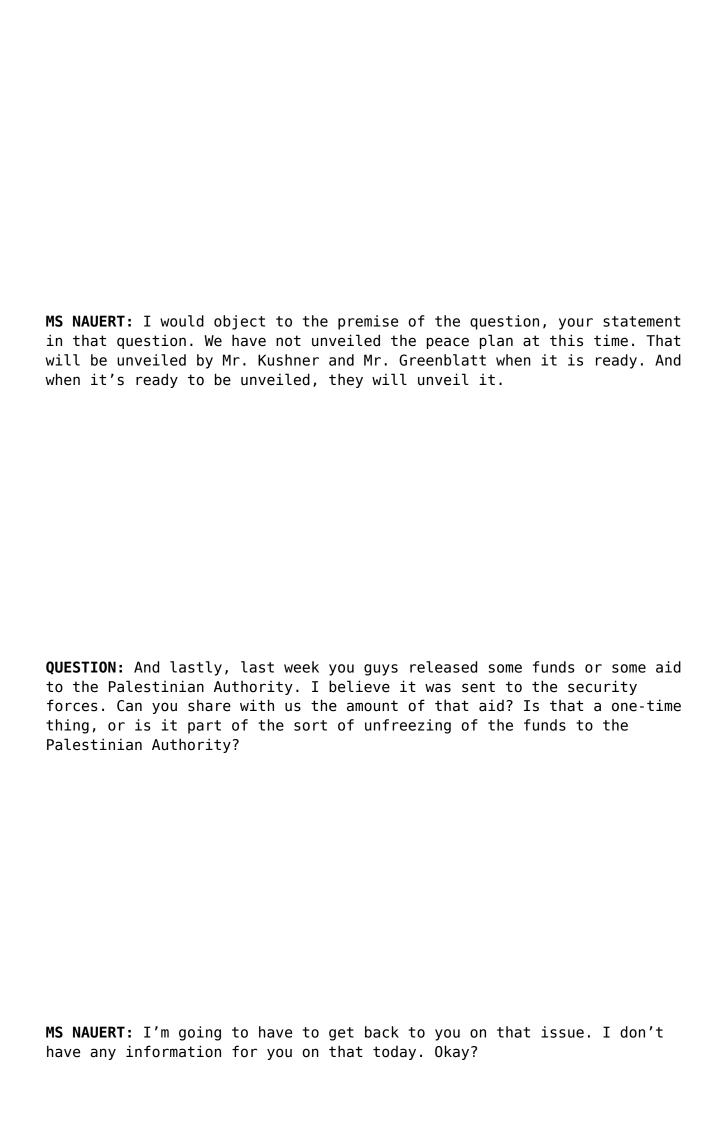
QUESTION: I think progress is kind of coming closer towards an agreement, like you're not — you don't have full North Korean denuclearization but you say that there is progress in working towards that goal. So is there progress in coming to some kind of deal with the Turks or are you still as far apart as you were the day that he was being hospitalized?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, I'm not going to characterize it that way. As you know, we had — we met yesterday. They had wide-ranging meetings at the State Department and with other departments here in Washington. I'd refer you to those other departments that met with the Turkish Government. The





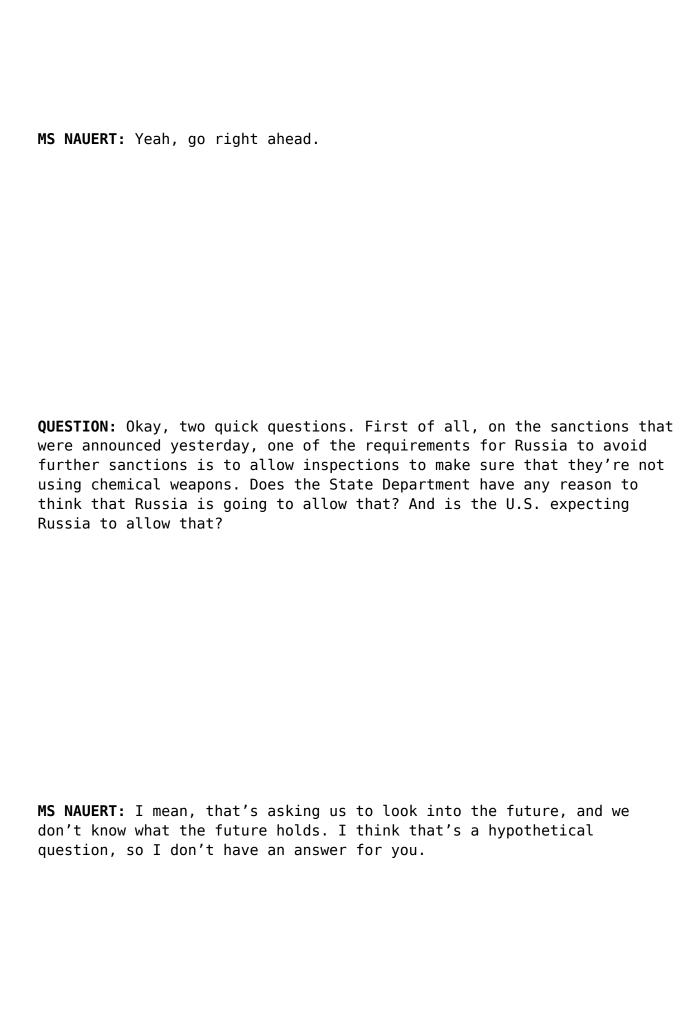


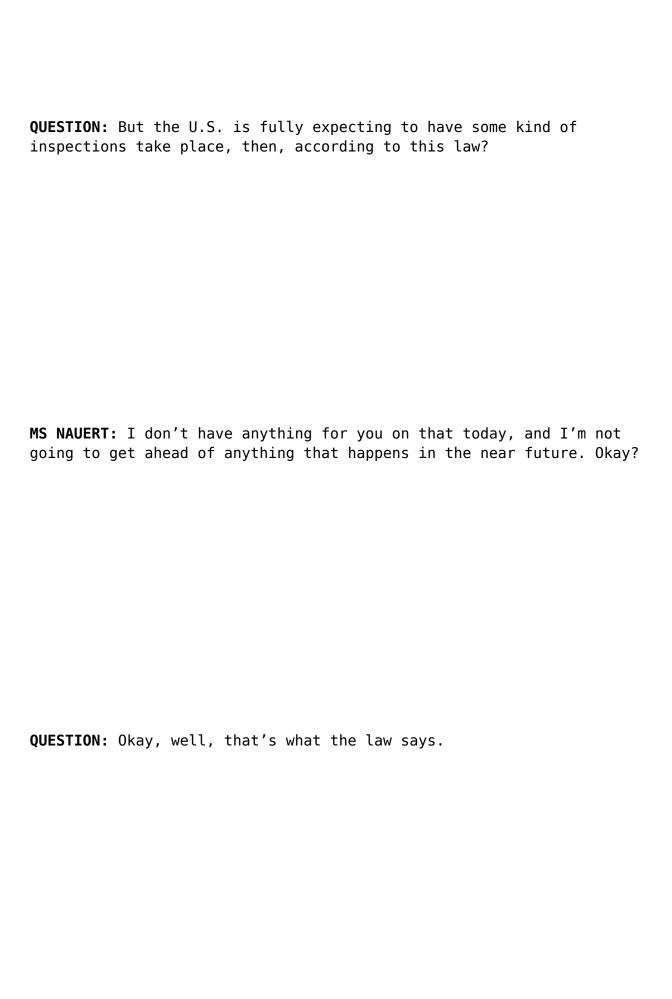


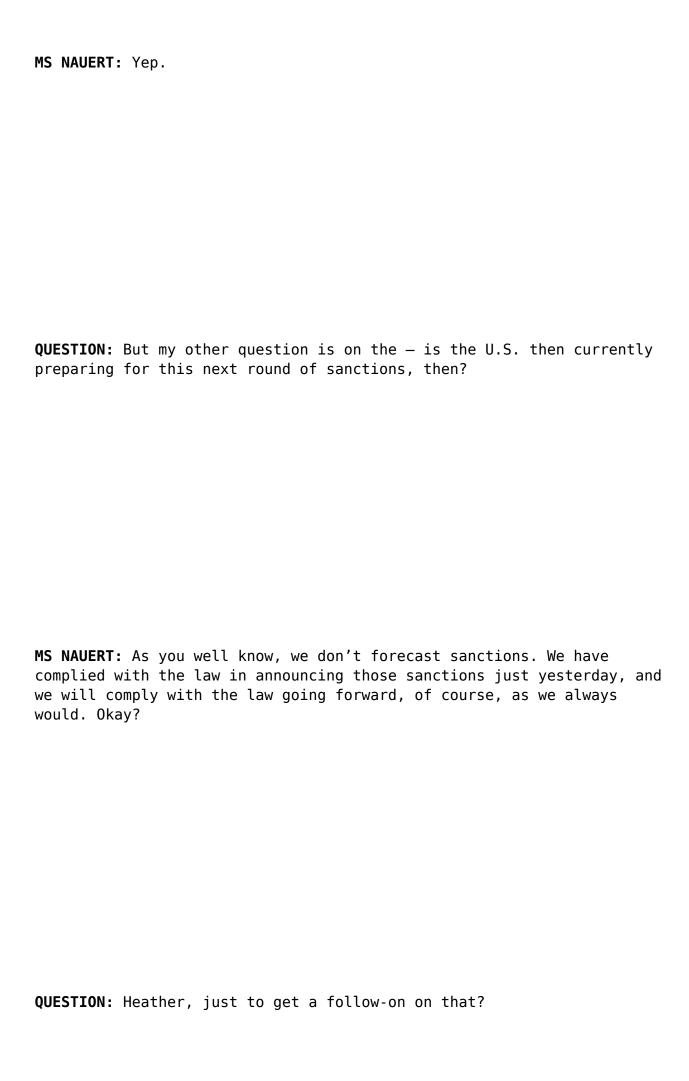
**QUESTION:** Russia?

MS NAUERT: Hi.

**QUESTION:** Russia?







MS NAUERT: Yeah, sure. Hi, Gardiner.

**QUESTION:** So you — in the case of Iran, you have this 12-point plan of what behavior you want the government to implement in order to lift sanctions. You have a whole series of sanctions that are now revolving around Russia having to do with CAATSA, Magnitsky, now weapons. Can you give us some global sense of what these sanctions are trying to achieve from an American foreign policy perspective? What are you looking for from Russia? Why do we have sanctions on them? What's your goal? And when's the — when's the periodicity of these things?

MS NAUERT: Sure. I think I would start by answering that question with this: That we approach every country very differently. Every country that we have a relationship or even countries that we don't have

relationships with are viewed through a separate lens. So what may be appropriate for one country is maybe not necessarily appropriate for another country.

The United States Government has determined that sanctions can be a very effective tool in trying to bring various governments to the table to negotiate with us or try to encourage countries to comply or to return to a better set of behaviors. So this is one tool that we have in a very big toolkit. The State Department works closely with Treasury and OFAC and other entities to implement, study, and enforce sanctions, and that is part of what you've seen yesterday. Let's remember that one of the things that has brought North Korea to the table is sanctions. And we have found sanctions to be very effective in many cases around the world. So the U.S. Government looks at that as an overall tool.

**QUESTION:** Right, so North Korea is a great example. Sanctions — as a result, you want to get rid of their nuclear program. Again, Iran, you've got a list of 12 things. Venezuela, you've got sort of a clear list. I'm trying to understand what your policy is with Russia. You've got a variety — myriad now of sanctions. What's your goal?

MS NAUERT: Well, I think the President has addressed this and so has Secretary Pompeo. We'd like to have a better relationship with the Russian Government, recognizing that we have a lot of areas of mutual concern. It is a major country; we are a major country as well. And so when you have that, you are forced to have to have conversations with other governments. And sanctions is a way that we can try to encourage better behavior on the part of government. Now, I'm speaking in a broadbased sense, but that's one way that we can encourage better behavior. Okay.

**QUESTION:** Same topic?

**QUESTION:** Could I ask a follow-up on that?

QUESTION: (Off-mike)

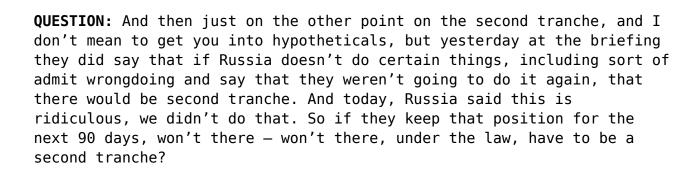
MS NAUERT: Sure. What is your name, miss?

 ${\bf QUESTION:}$  My name's Emily, I'm from Buzzfeed News.

MS NAUERT: Emily, hi.

QUESTION: So if these sanctions are in part meant to encourage better behavior with Russia, Russia today came out and said that these sanctions — sort of as was expected — that these sanctions are not in keeping with the spirit of Helsinki. So — and I understand these sanctions were — they're in keeping with the law, et cetera, but does this — or to put it a different way, is the cooperation that was sort of established at Helsinki — is the U.S. Government still planning on having that with Russia after yesterday's sanctions?

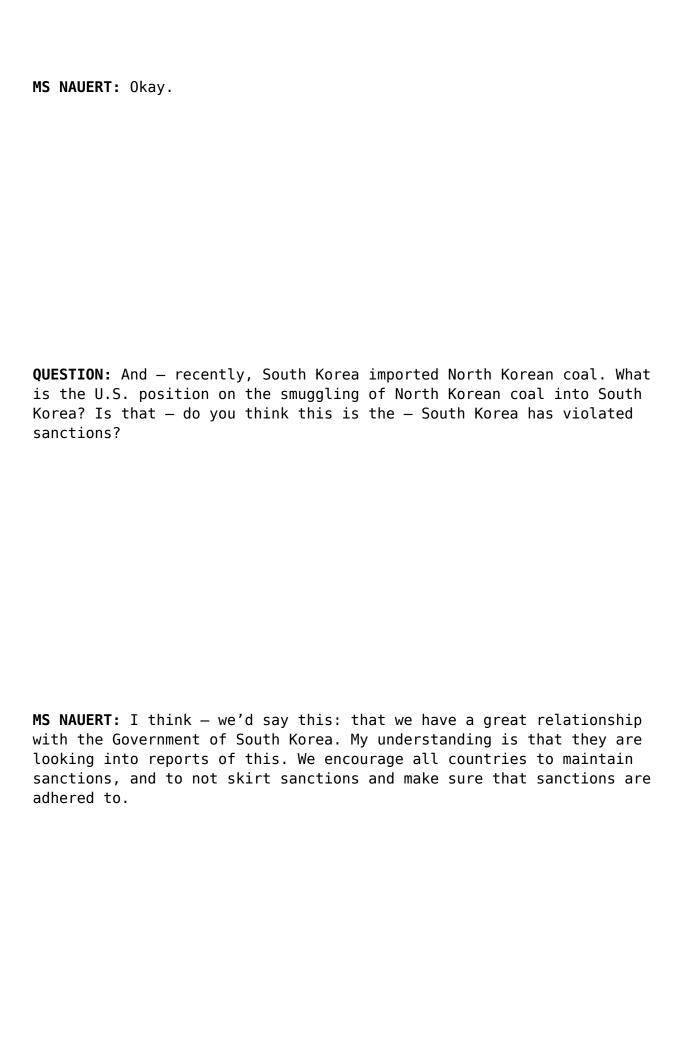
MS NAUERT: We tend to believe that dialogue is always an important issue. I think I had just addressed this with Gardiner, and that is trying to build a better relationship with countries that we need to cooperate with or we need to be able to have relations with, and that would be one example.

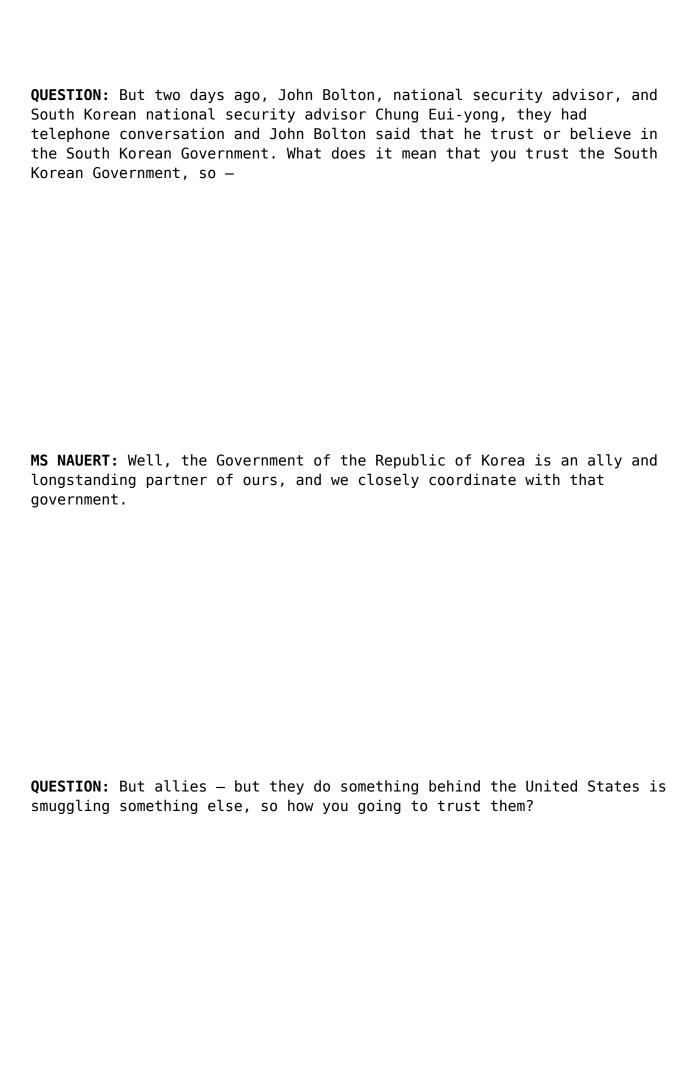


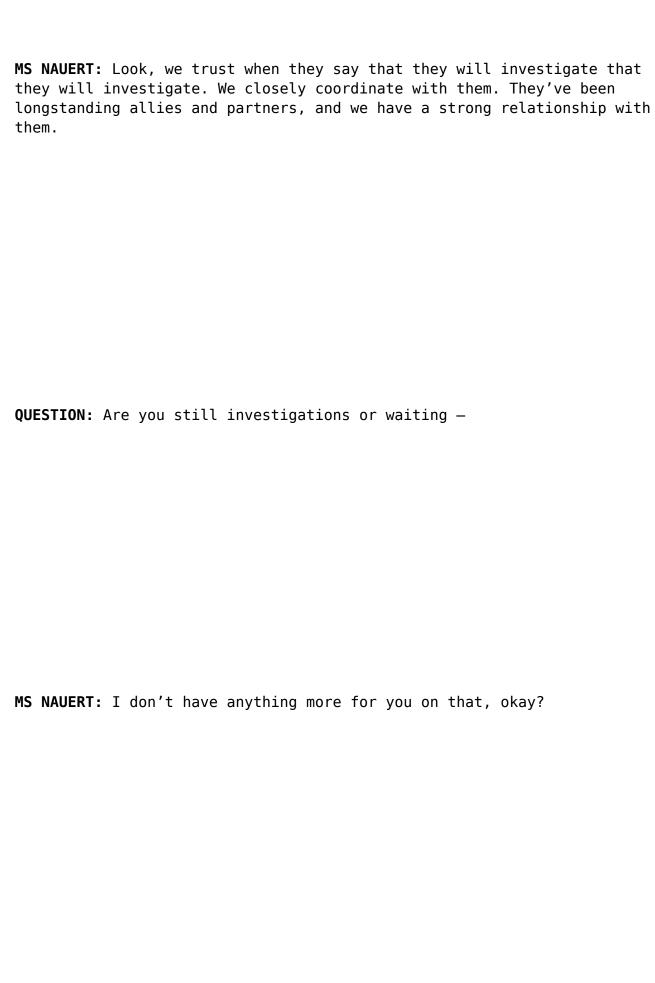
MS NAUERT: And that's why I would go back and say that we will comply with the law. We are well aware of what the law contains; we will comply with the law. But I'm not going to get ahead of what could happen 90 days from now. Okay.

**QUESTION:** The same topic — same topic?

QUESTION: (Off-mike) MS NAUERT: Janne, go right ahead. QUESTION: Thank you, thank you, Heather. On North Korean and South Korean issues.





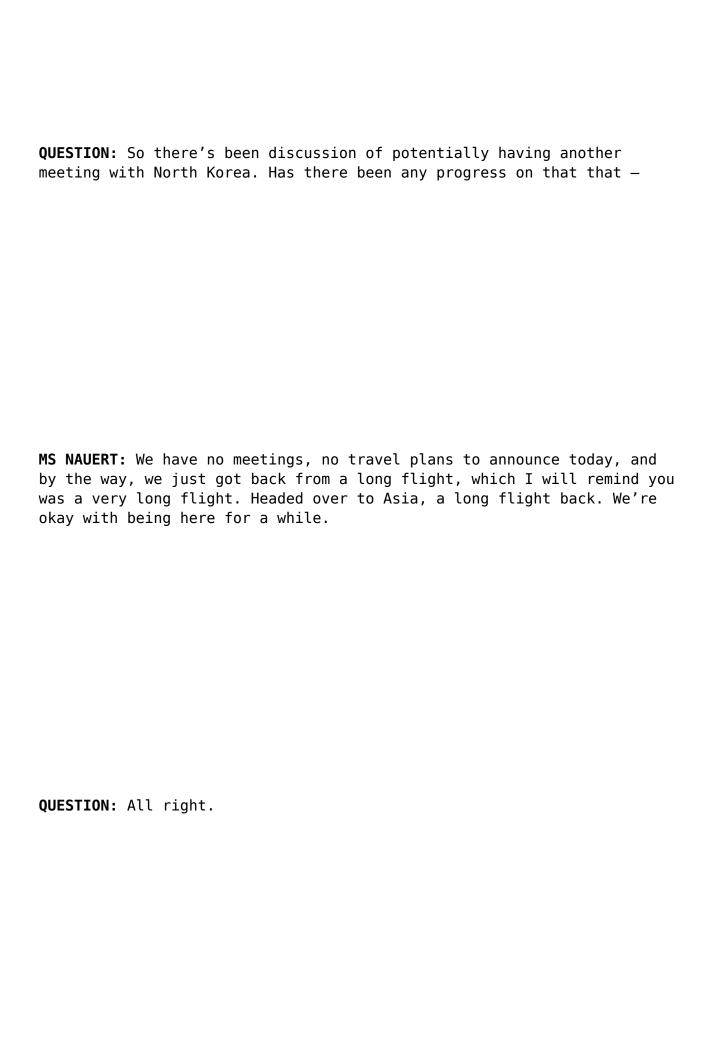


QUESTION: All right, thank you.

MS NAUERT: Thanks.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS NAUERT: Kylie, go right ahead.

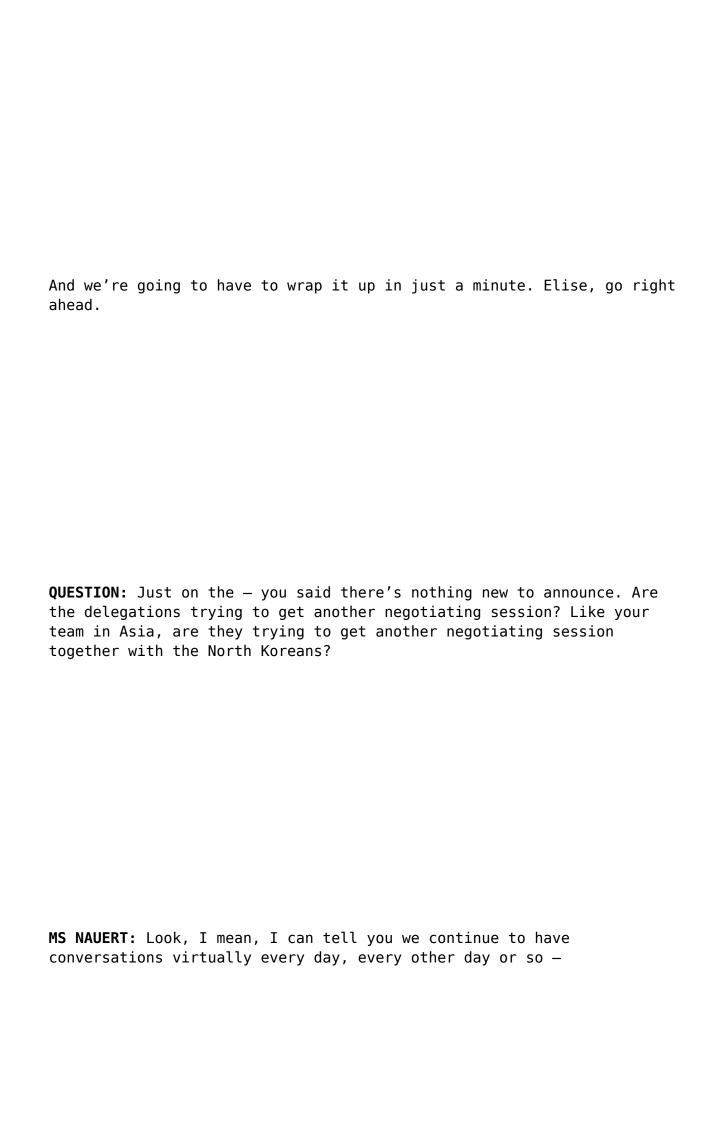


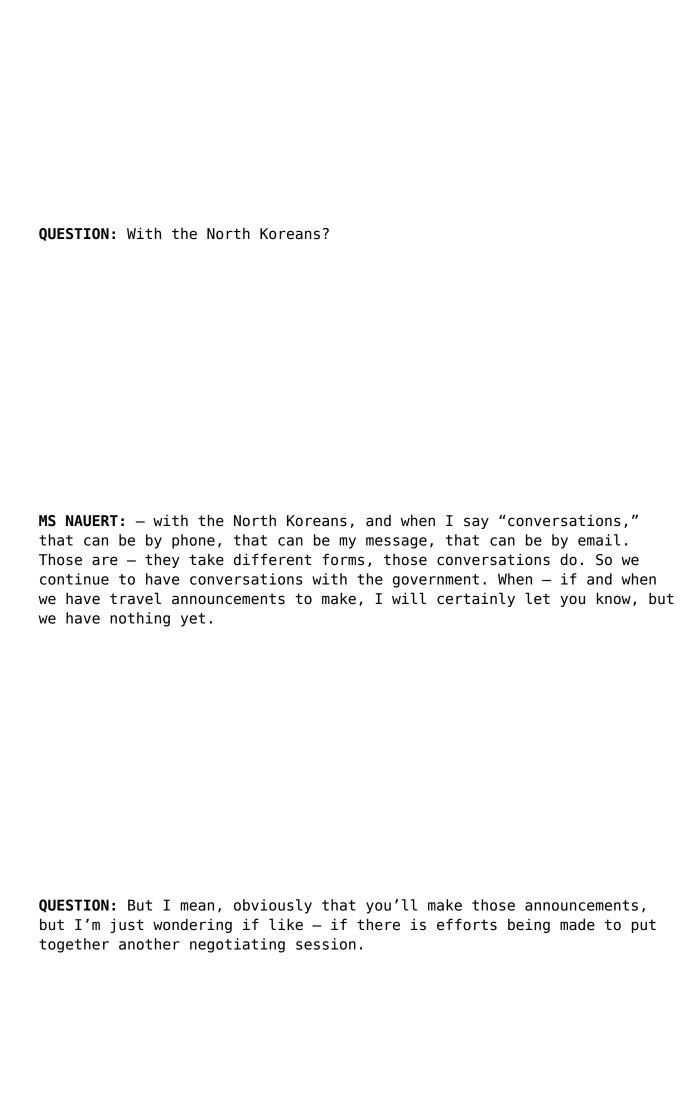


QUESTION: Oh, I'm sorry.

**QUESTION:** Yes. So about the North Korean coal, yeah. And South Korean Government is going to announce the result of investigation about North Korean coal smuggling maybe later today. So now the issue is that — whether the United States is going to apply the second boycott to the Korean companies, which it appears to be violated the sanctions. So I just wonder whether you are going to apply the secondary boycott to the companies.

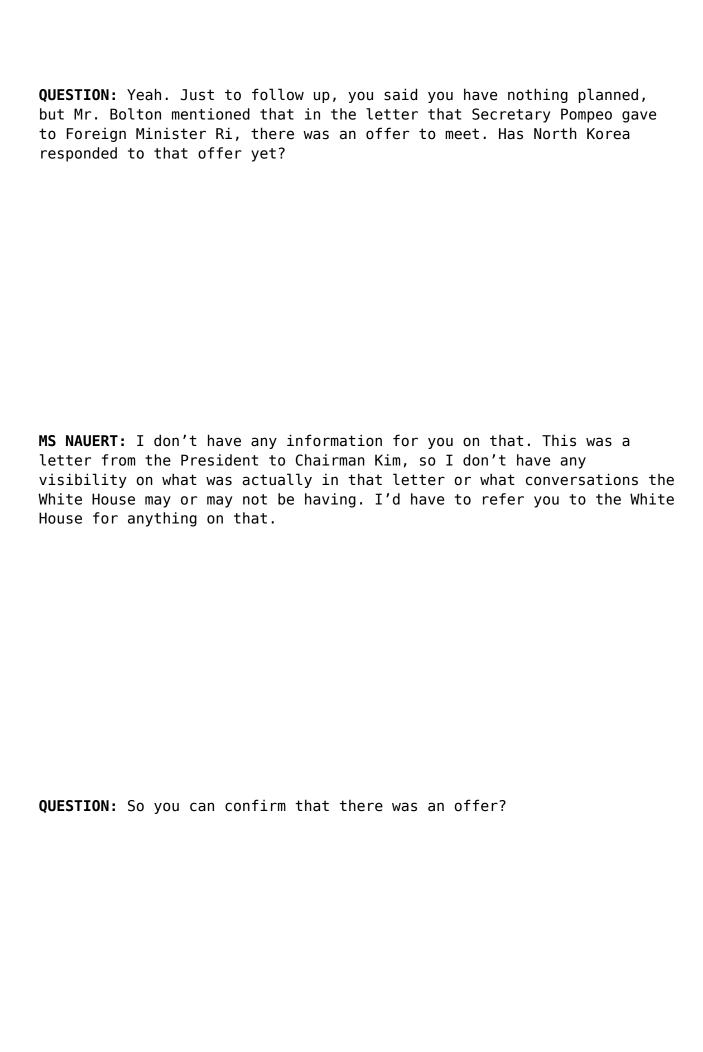
**MS NAUERT:** I think I just answered that, that the investigation was initiated by the Government of South Korea, and we will wait to hear from them on any announcements with regard to that, okay?

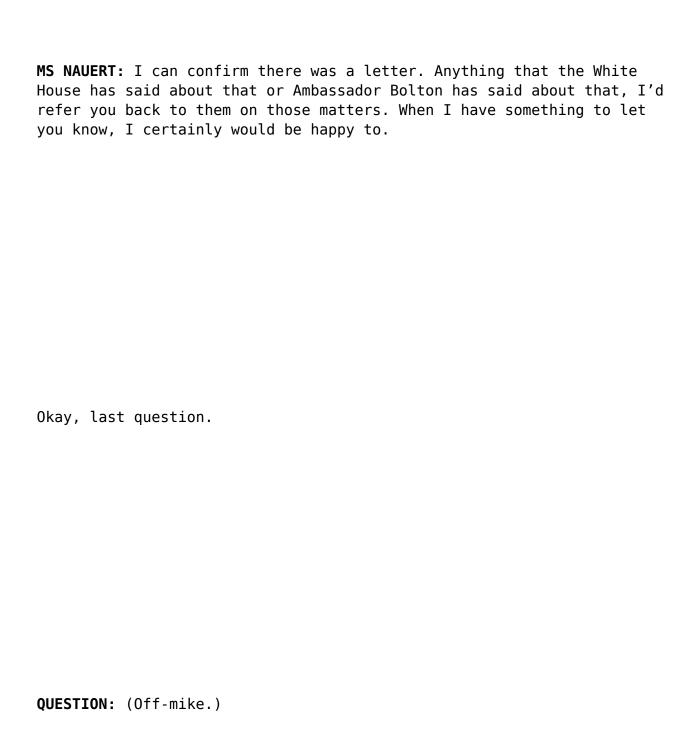




MS NAUERT: I don't have anything for you on that right now. **QUESTION:** Can I have one question on the sanctions?

MS NAUERT: Okay? Okay. Sir, go right ahead.





MS NAUERT: Yeah.

**QUESTION:** Two days ago, President Trump claimed most Chinese students in the United States are spies. I'm not asking you to comment on what he said, but State Department as a agency to issue visa to Chinese students, do you share the view — do you think most Chinese students in the United States are spies?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, I don't have the President's comments in front of me. I have not seen those comments, so I would hesitate to comment on his comments without having read it and had the full context. As you are well aware, we have many Chinese students studying in the United States. We have strong people-to-people ties with the Government of China, but of course there are concerns with some who might come into the United States and try to pick up some of our technology and other information and bring it back home for reasons that the United States Government would be concerned about. But we have a strong relationship with China and we enjoy having students studying in the United States from China, and I'll just leave it at that.

Okay, thanks. We've got to go, guys. We'll see you soon.

(The briefing was concluded at 3:28 p.m.)

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.