## Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Call With Swedish Foreign Minister Wallstrom

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.

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## <u>Press Releases: Department Press</u> <u>Briefing - August 9, 2018</u>

Heather Nauert Spokesperson

Department Press Briefing Washington, DC August 9, 2018

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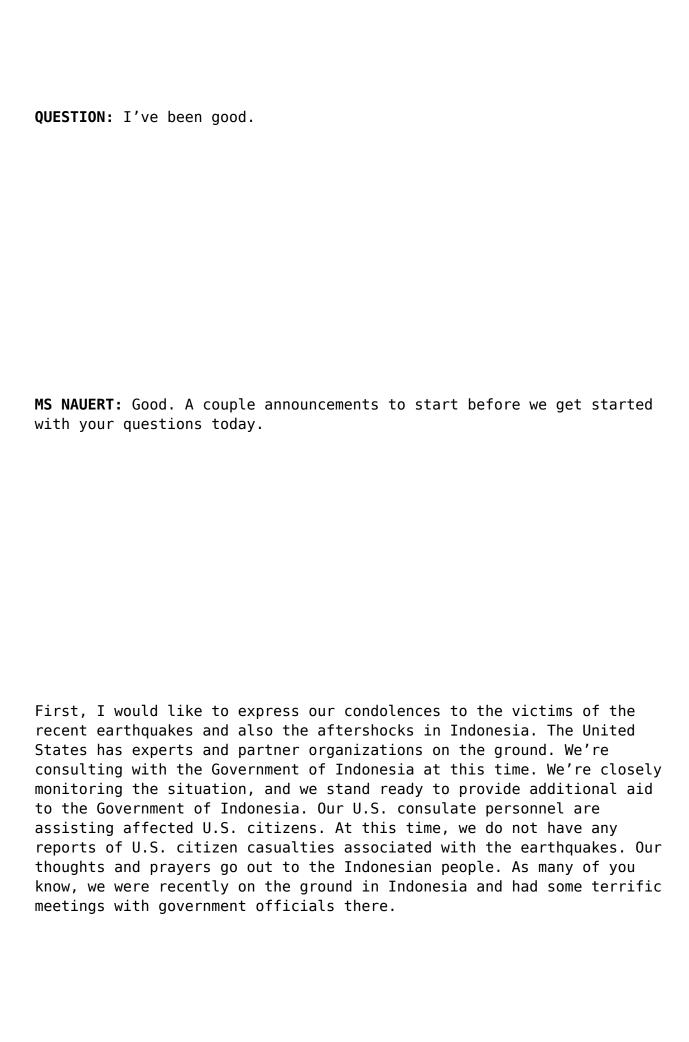
- <u>INDONESIA</u>
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TRANSCRIPT:

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?



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.

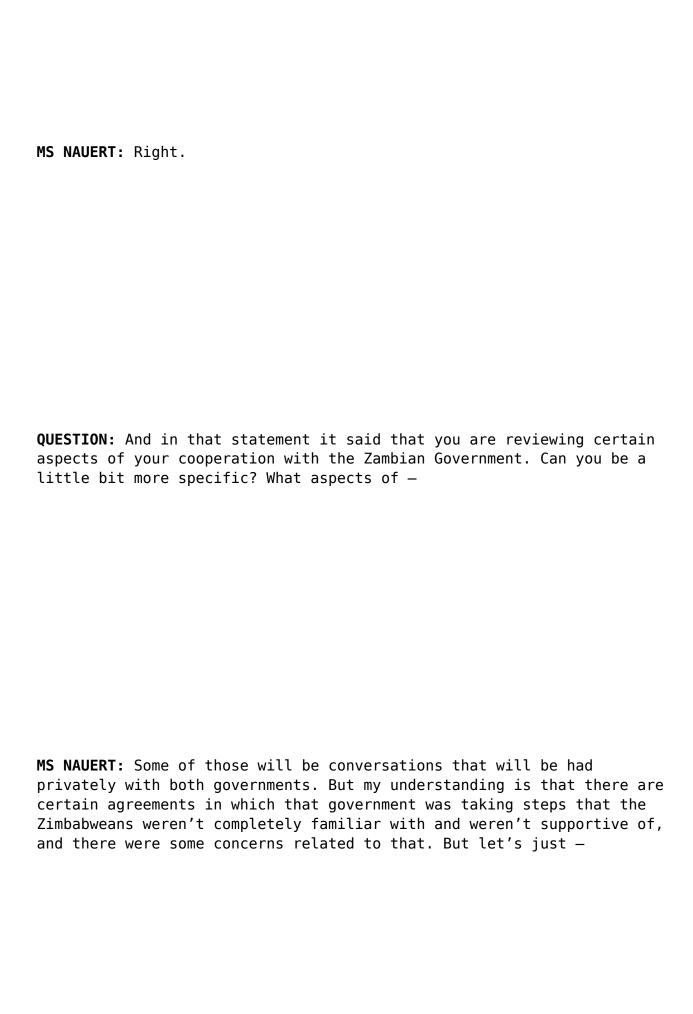
We are delighted that he is coming back to the State Department from the White House. I know you will enjoy working with him. For those of you who have not met him, he is a terrific guy. We've worked closely together for the past year or so. I asked him what his children thought, because he has two young 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.

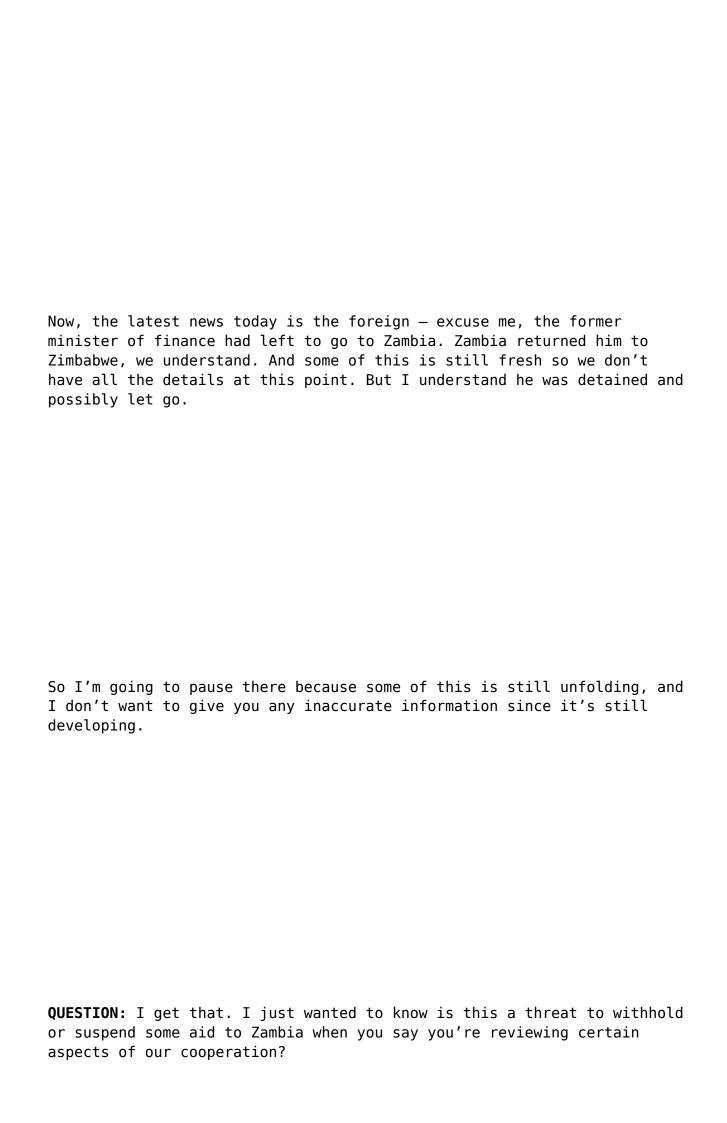
**QUESTION:** Let's — me, yes me. I just wanted to ask you briefly before I ask you about Yemen. I noticed the statement that you guys put out about Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe elections and the Zambian decision to deport the opposition leader.

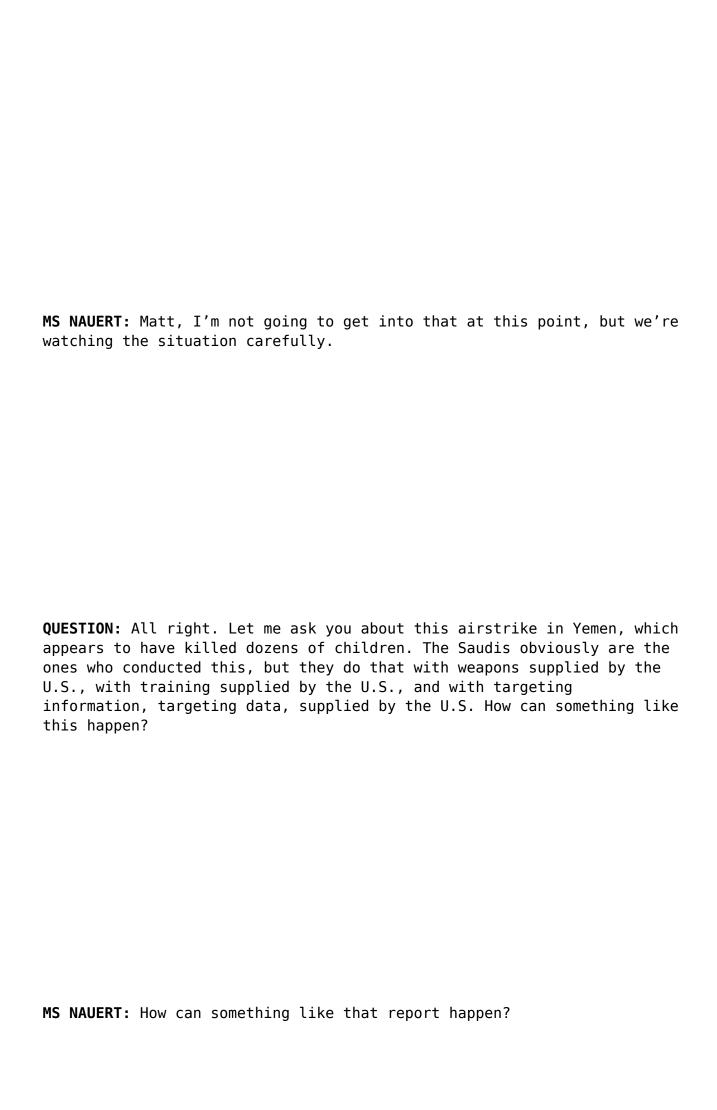


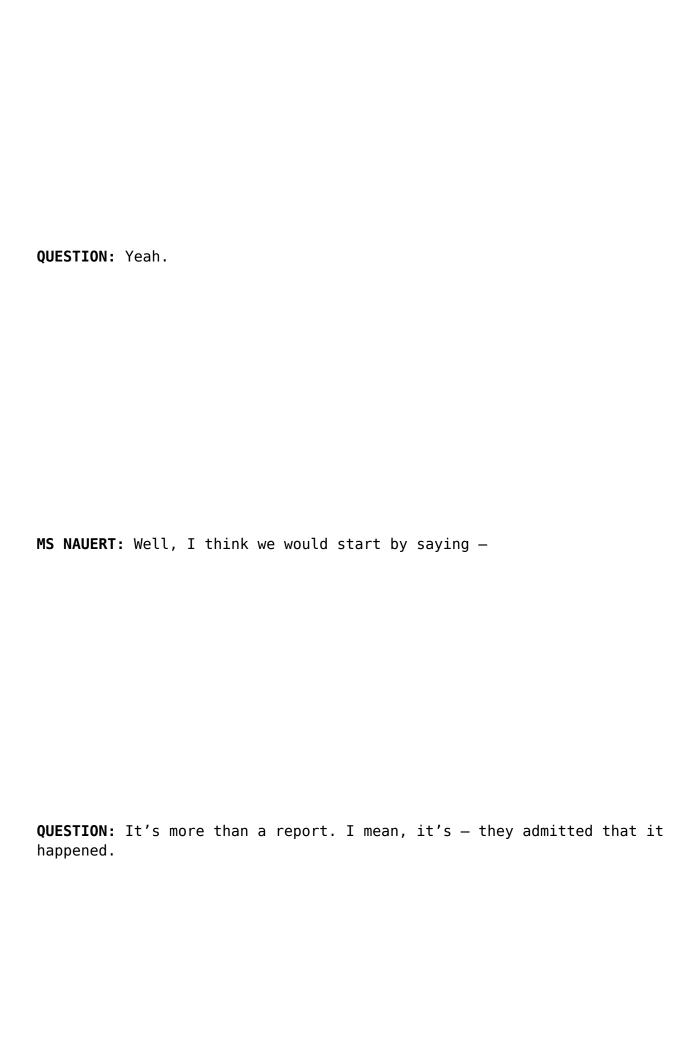
QUESTION: No, I understand, but I was just -

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.





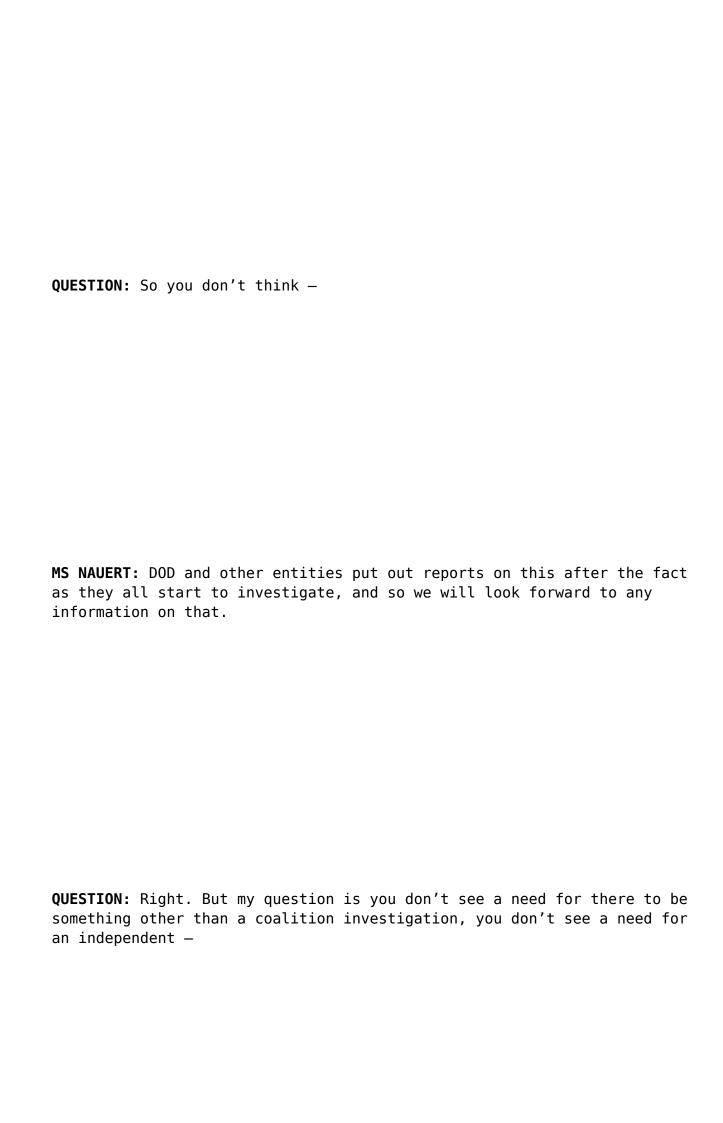


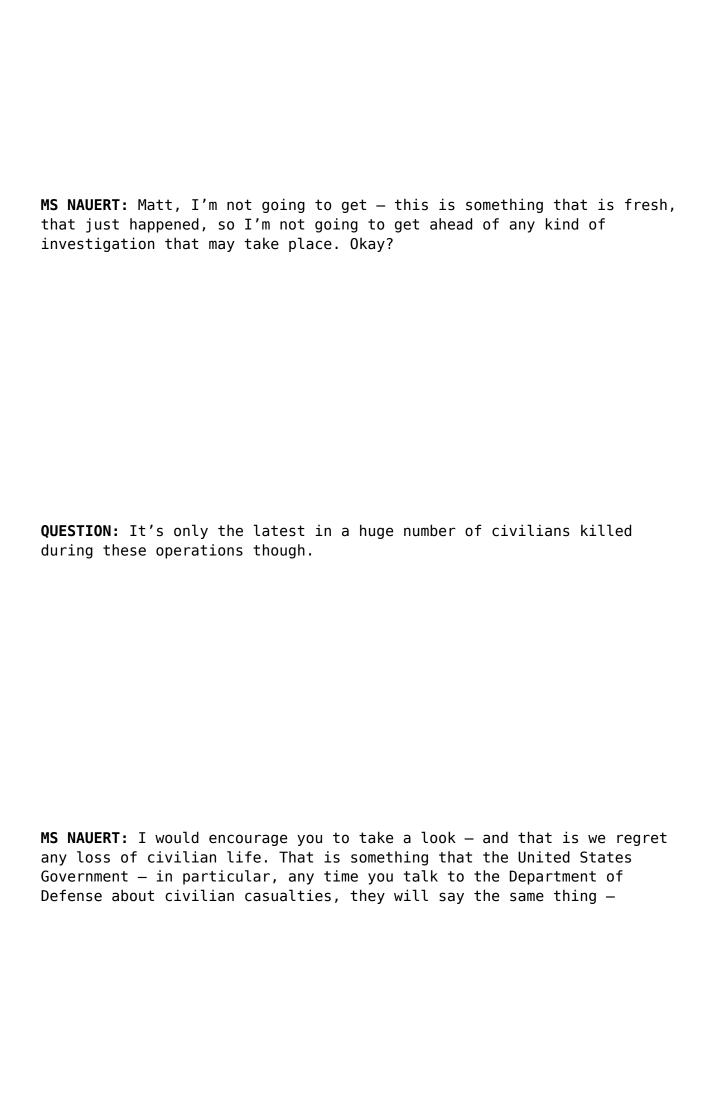
MS NAUERT: Yeah. How can situations like this happen? We don't have the full details about what happened on the ground. We've certainly seen the news reports of what has been reported happened, okay? I can't confirm all the details because we are not there on the ground.

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



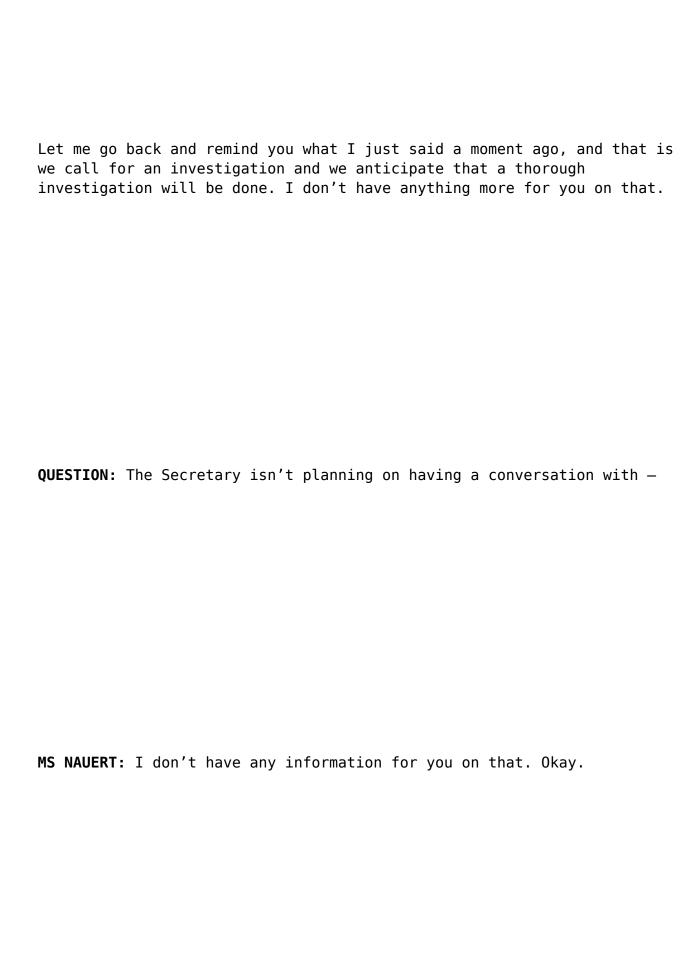


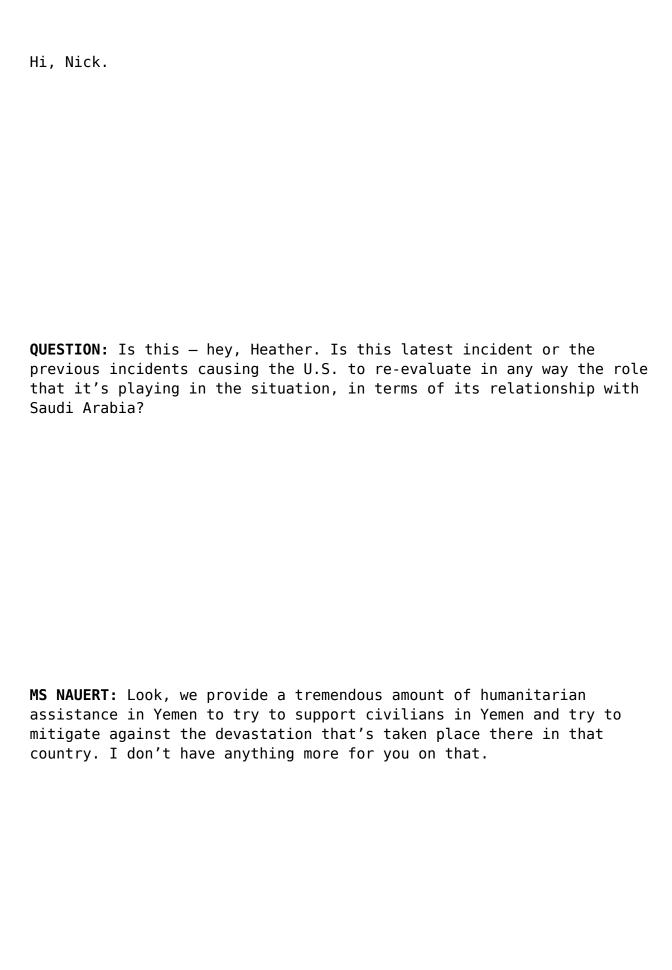


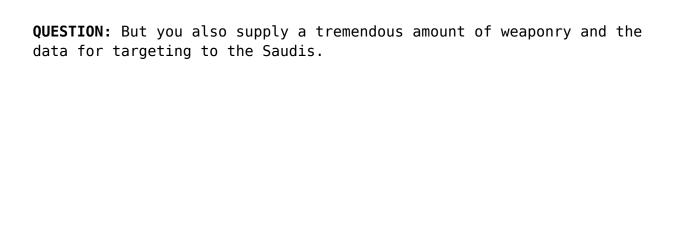
QUESTION: Well -

MS NAUERT: — that — I'm not finished, okay? And they will say the exact same thing, that all parties take very strong responsibility and measures to try to protect against the loss of civilian life. As we have seen — and you all very rarely ask about the issue that has been unfolding and the devastation that has taken place in Yemen — let's look at some of the things that have been happening in Yemen.

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.







MS NAUERT: Well, then — sorry.

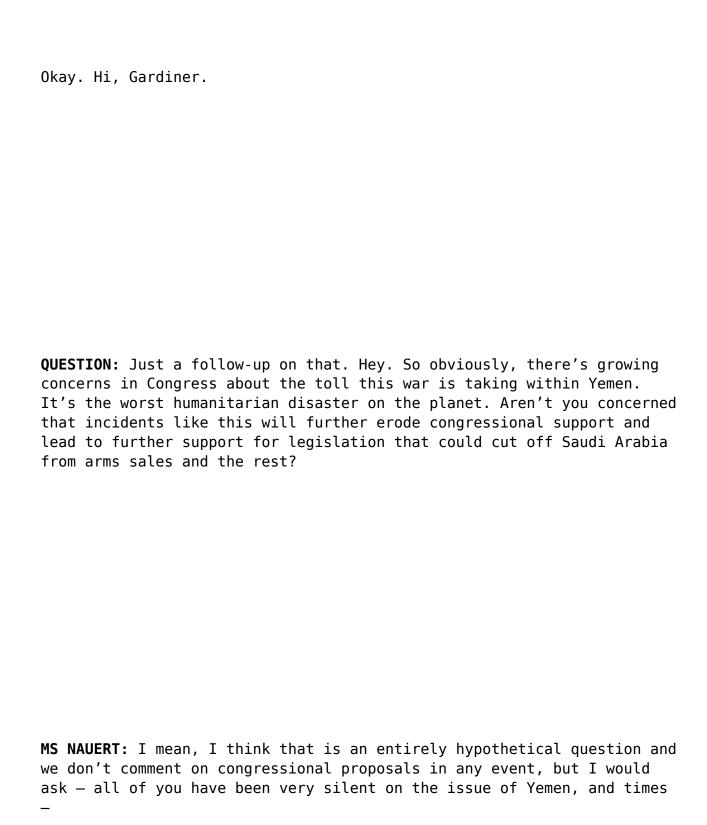
**QUESTION:** Right? No?

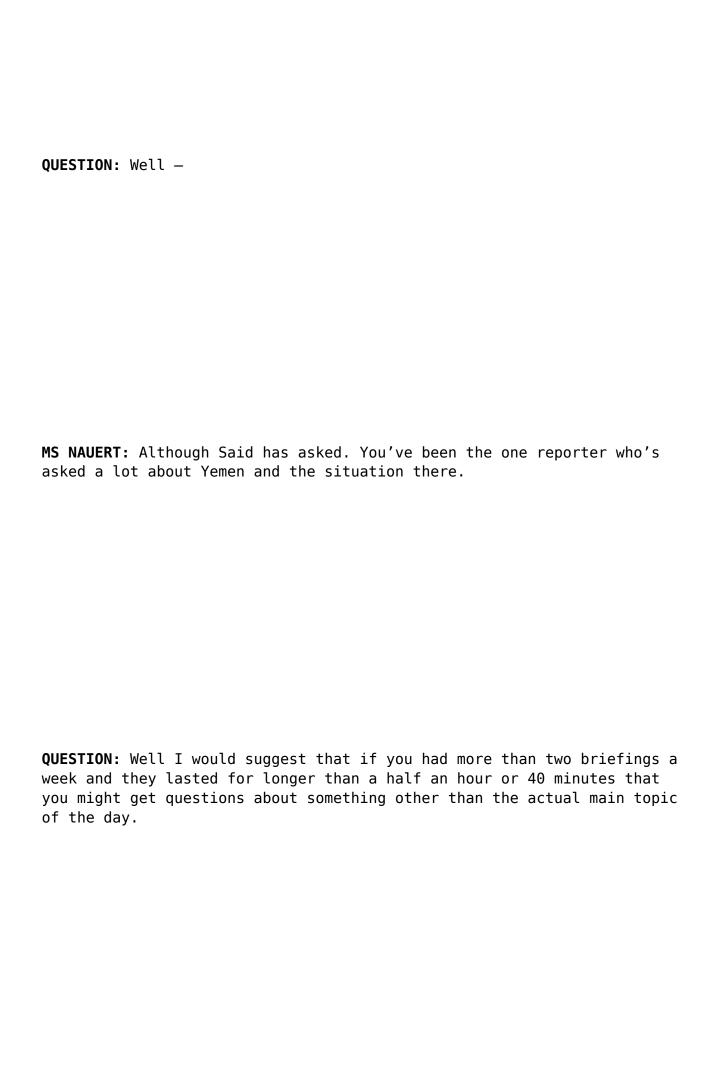
QUESTION: No.

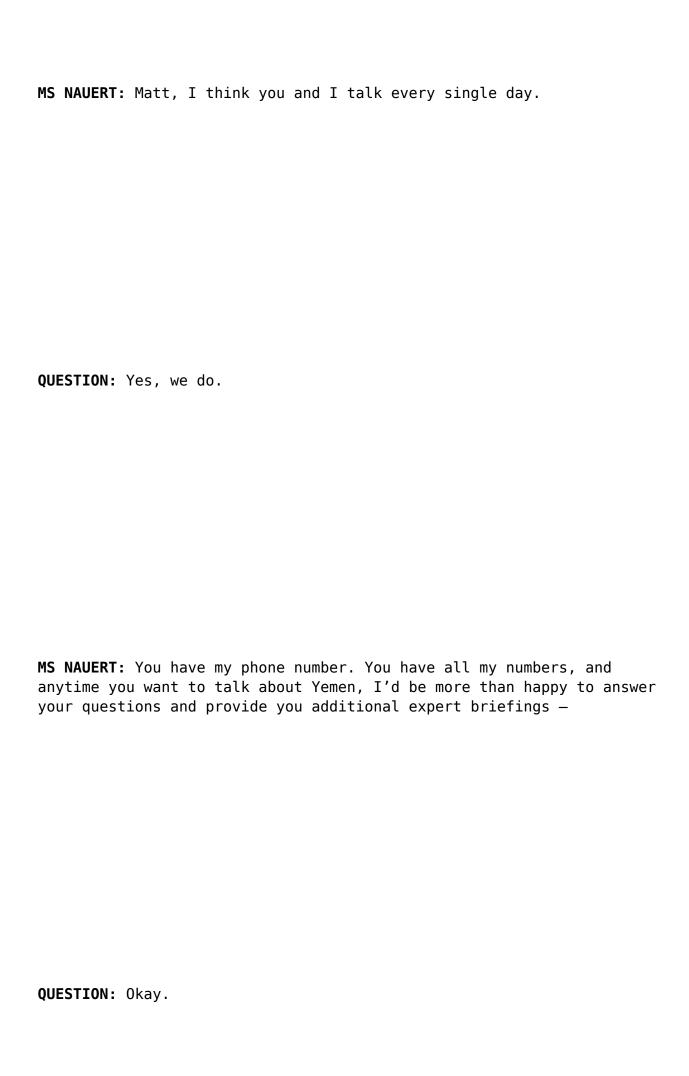
QUESTION: Am I wrong? Is that wrong?

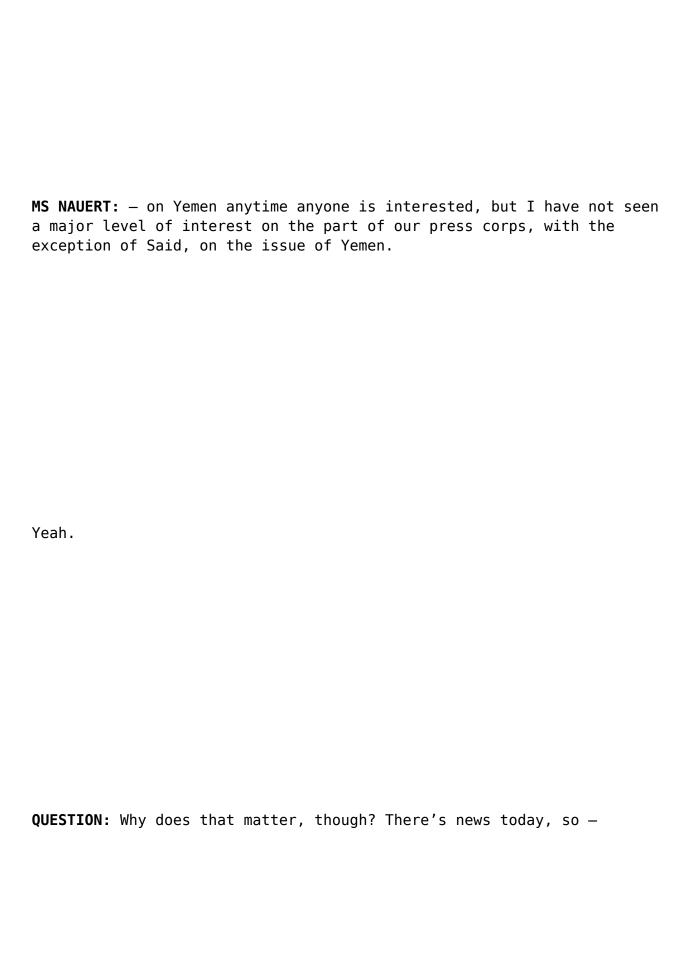
**QUESTION:** That's not wrong.

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.



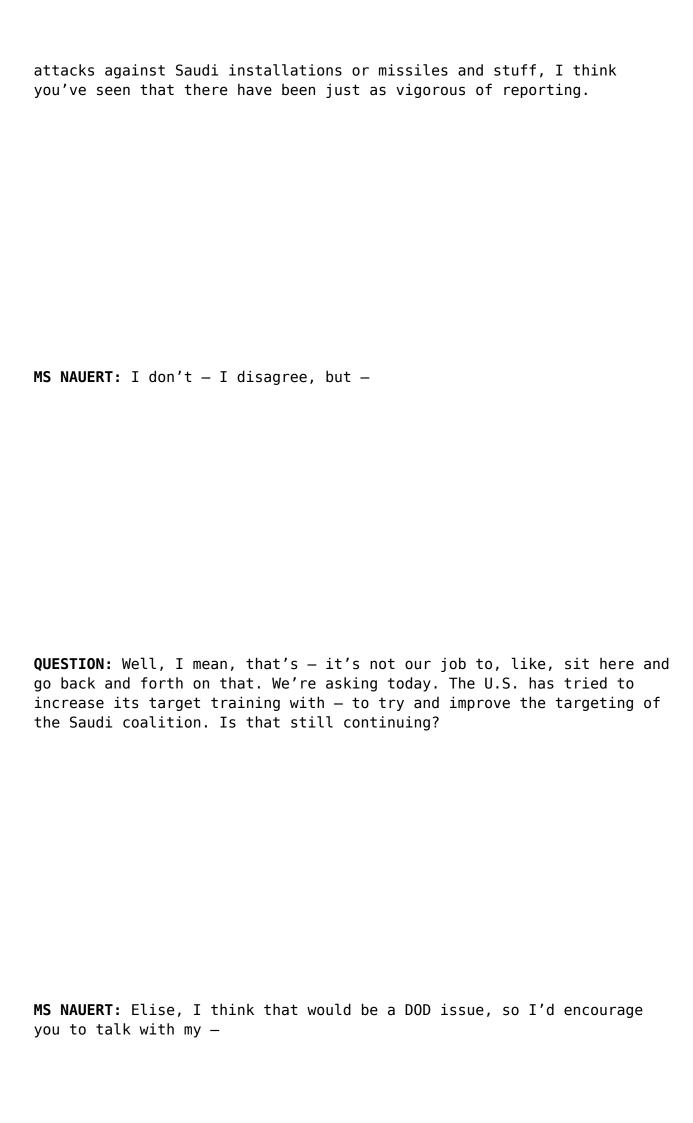


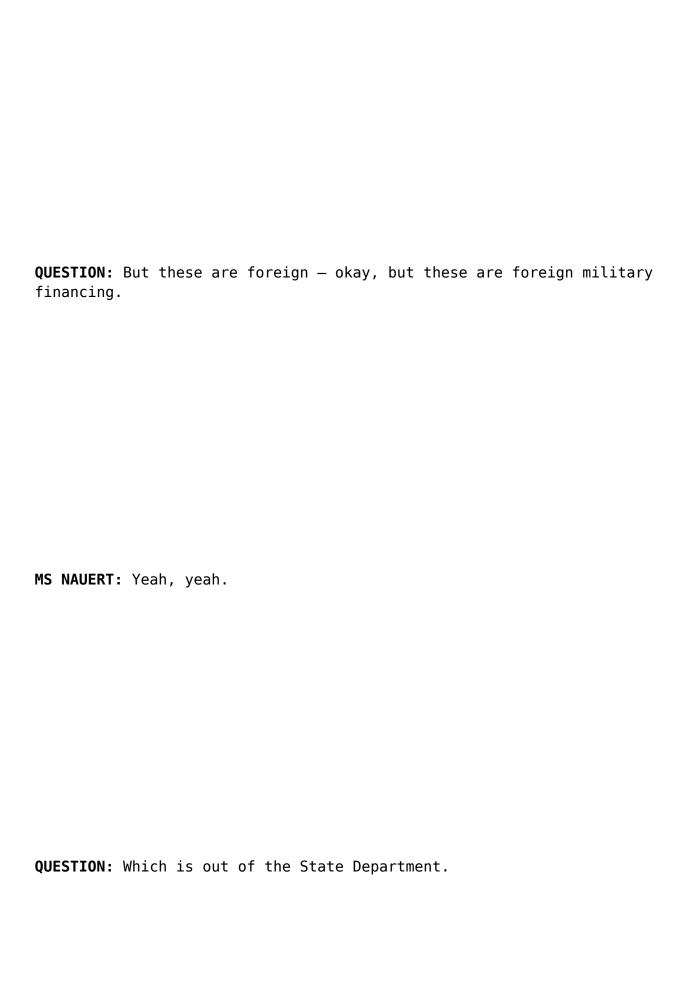


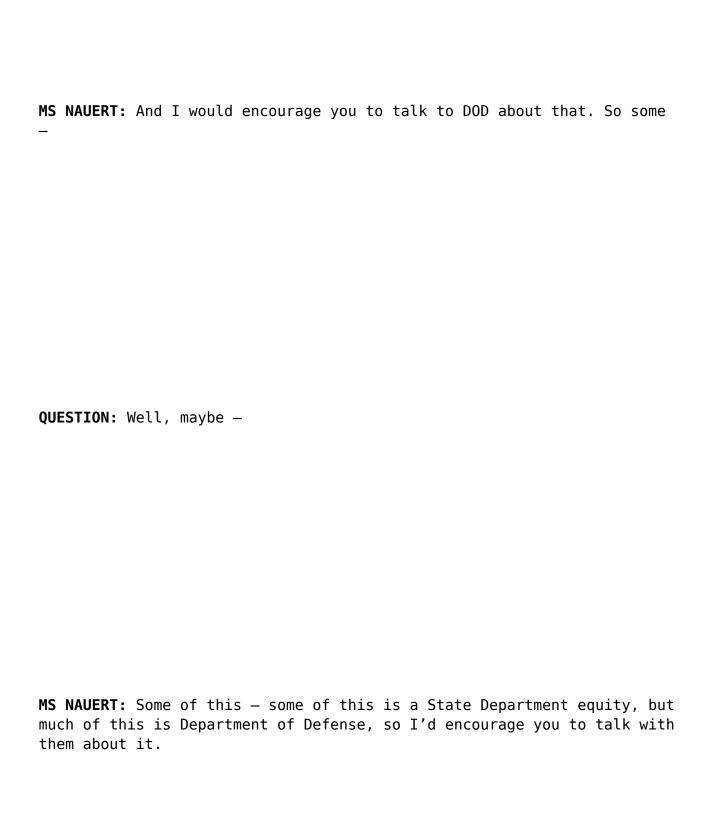


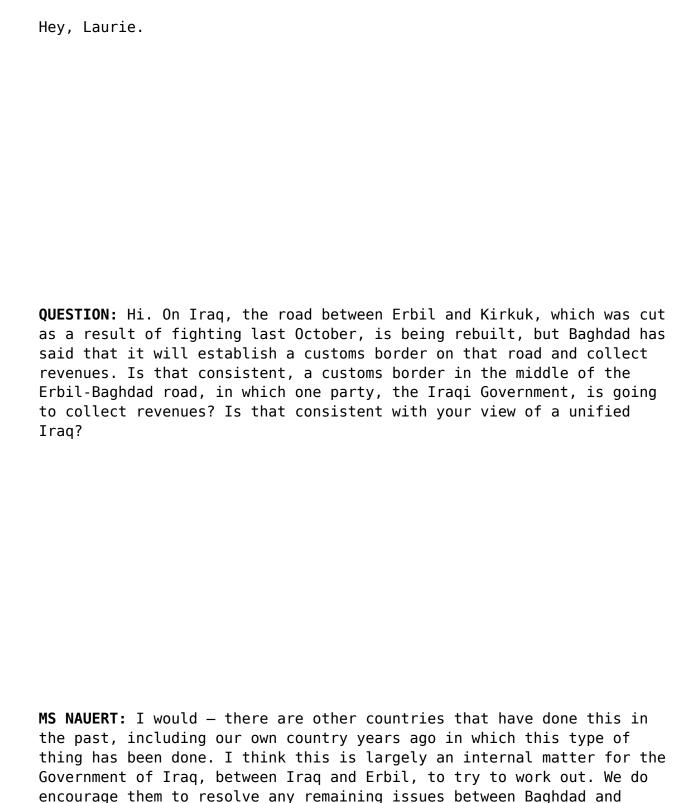
MS NAUERT: Yeah. **QUESTION:** Can you request an expert on Yemen? MS NAUERT: Yeah, certainly, I'd be happy to. Yeah.

QUESTION: Wait, so first of all, I think that when there have been

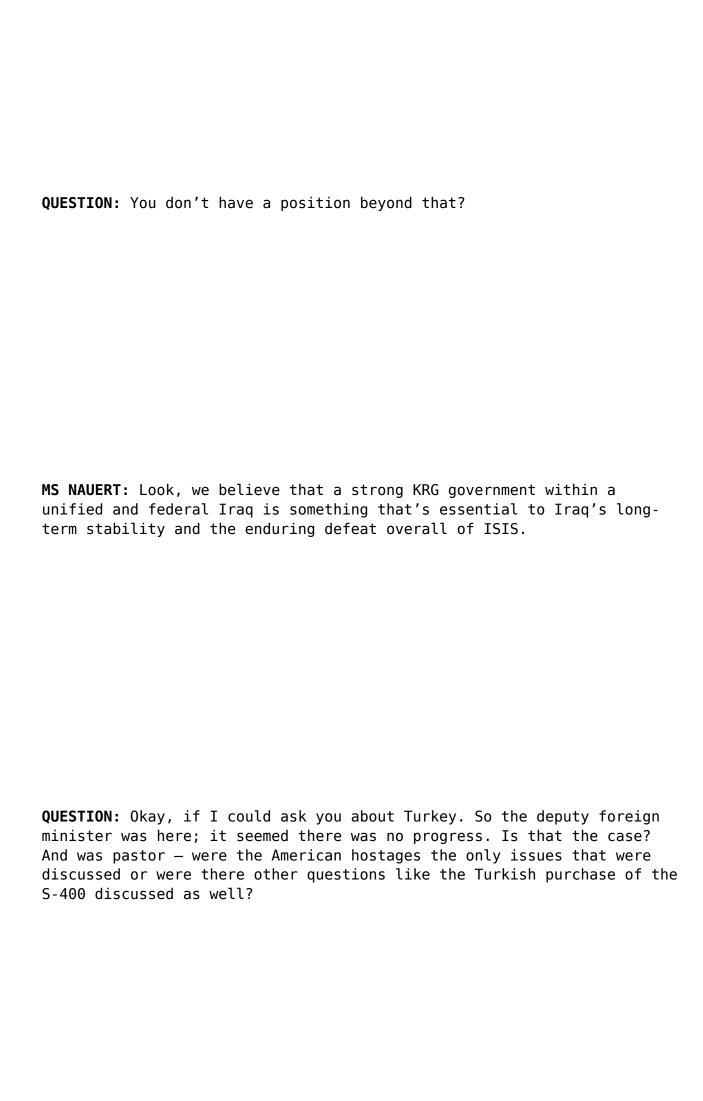








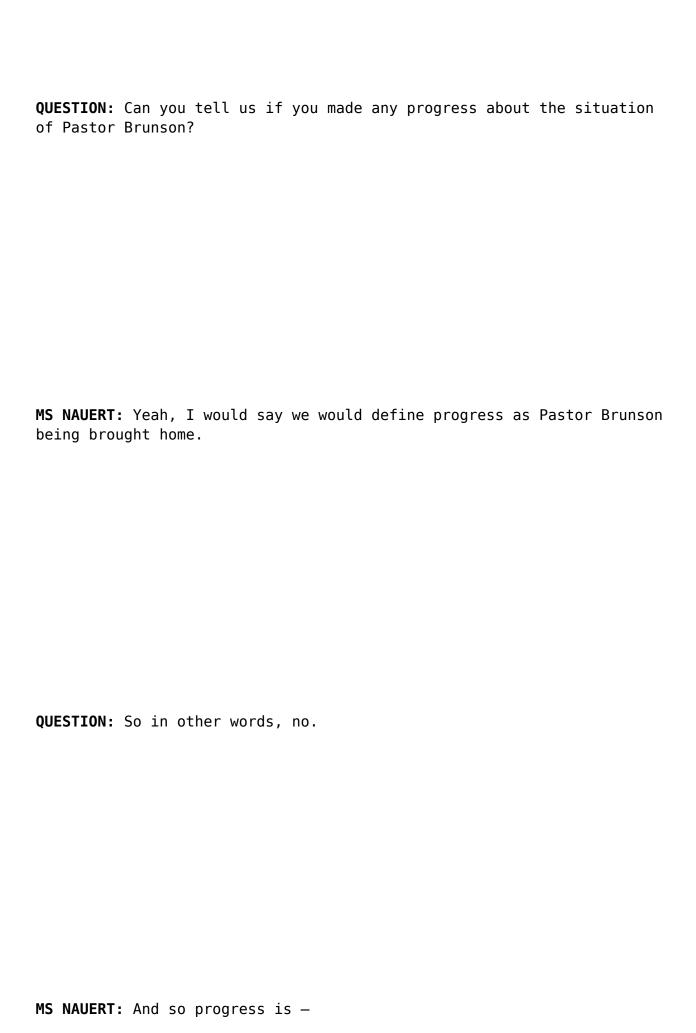
Erbil.



MS NAUERT: Yeah. I mean, obviously you all know that we have a very broad relationship with Turkey and a host of issues that we talk about with the Turkish Government whenever we do meet. Yesterday we had a wide-ranging conversation with Turkish Government officials. We made it clear that Pastor Brunson needs to be returned home. Much of this, though, we're not going to negotiate in public.

QUESTION: Can you tell us -

MS NAUERT: Go ahead. Hi.



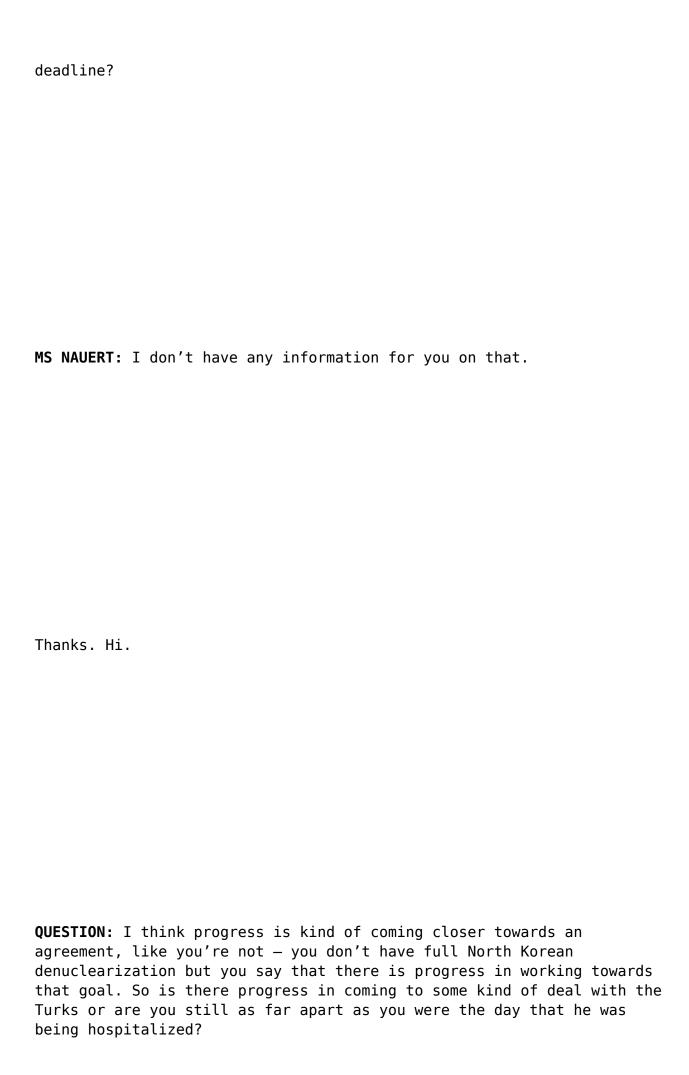


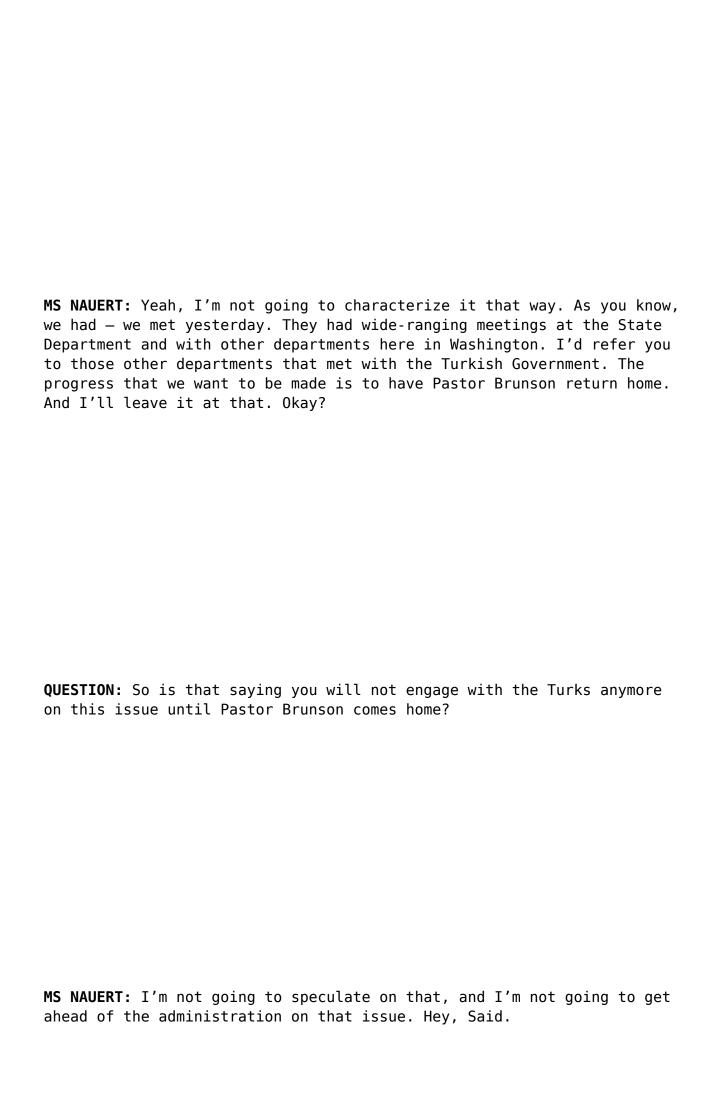
MS NAUERT: — to the United States.

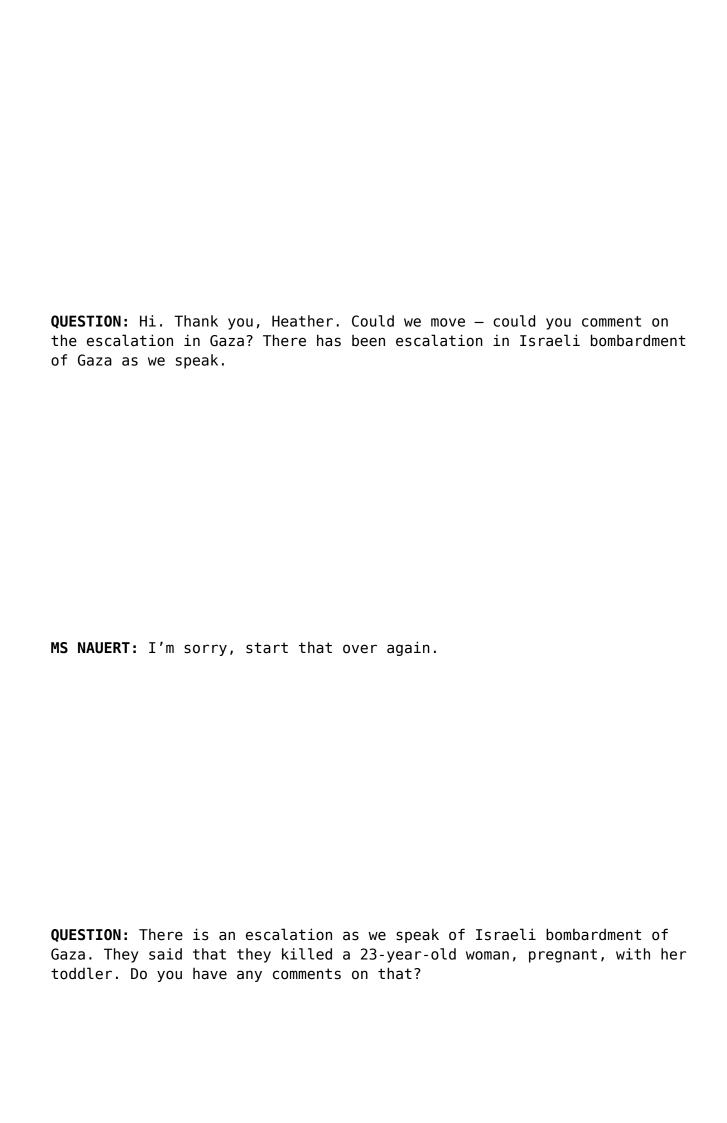
QUESTION: Did you give any -

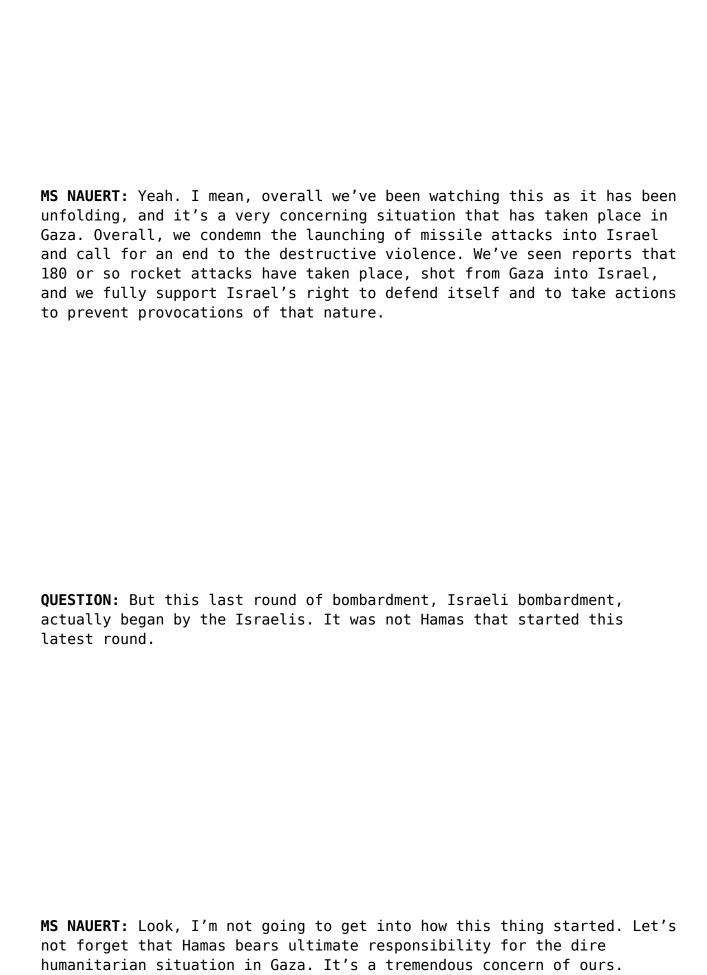
MS NAUERT: Yeah.

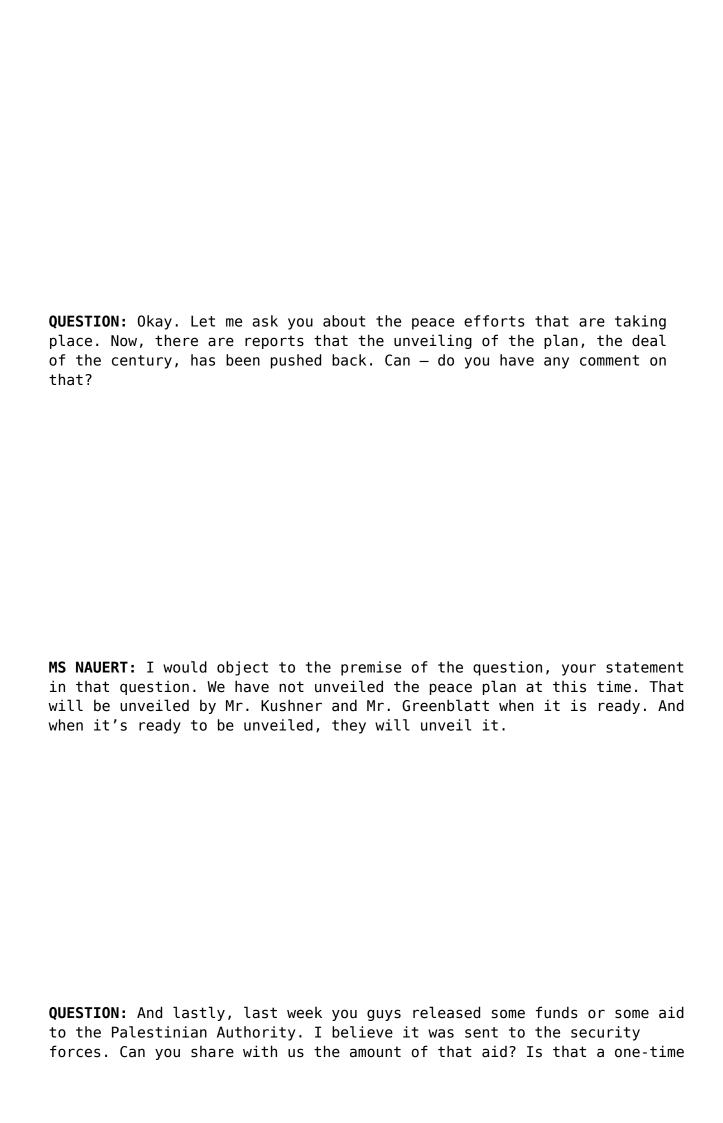
QUESTION: Did you give any deadline? Did you give Turkish officials any









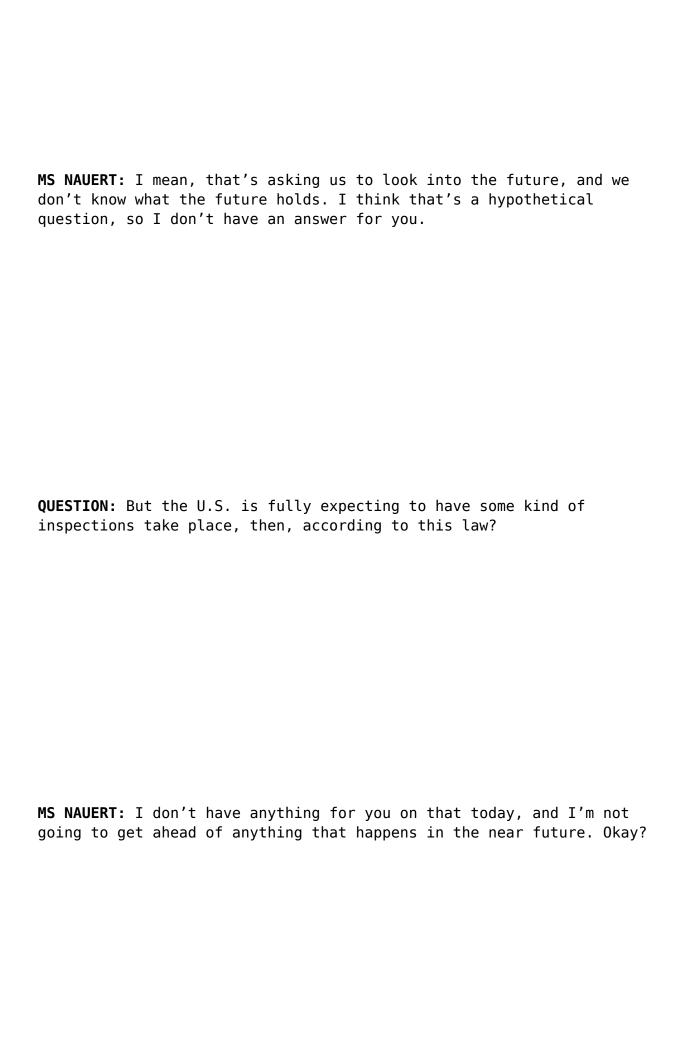


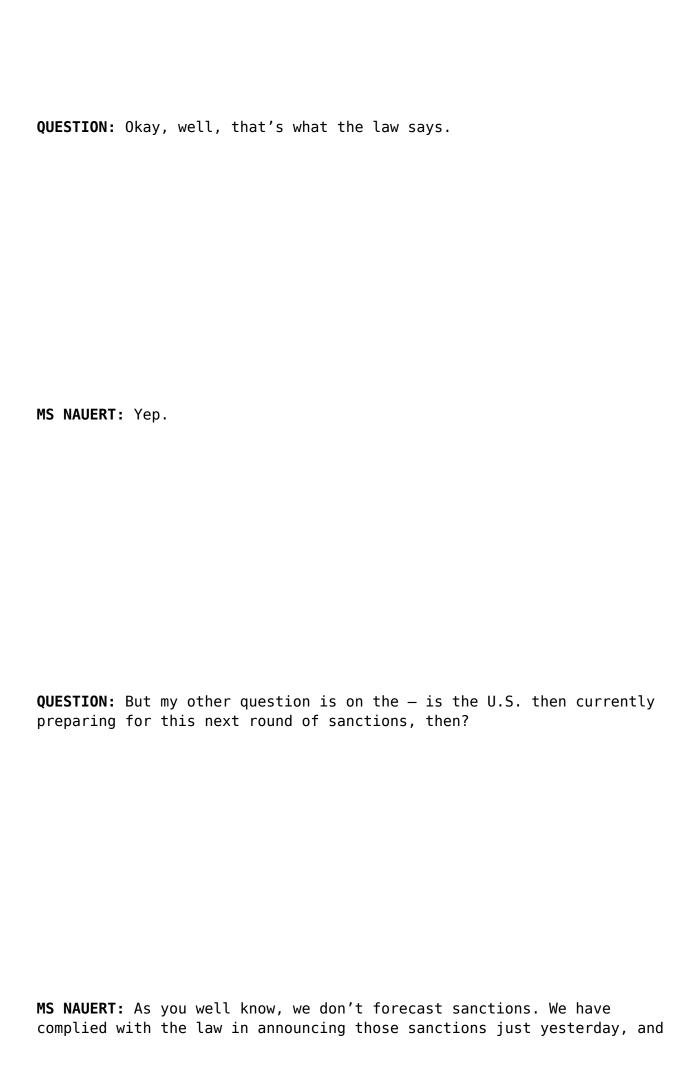


**QUESTION:** Russia?

MS NAUERT: Yeah, go right ahead.

**QUESTION:** Okay, two quick questions. First of all, on the sanctions that were announced yesterday, one of the requirements for Russia to avoid further sanctions is to allow inspections to make sure that they're not using chemical weapons. Does the State Department have any reason to think that Russia is going to allow that? And is the U.S. expecting Russia to allow that?







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?

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.

QUESTION: And then just on the other point on the second tranche, and I don't mean to get you into hypotheticals, but yesterday at the briefing they did say that if Russia doesn't do certain things, including sort of admit wrongdoing and say that they weren't going to do it again, that there would be second tranche. And today, Russia said this is ridiculous, we didn't do that. So if they keep that position for the next 90 days, won't there — won't there, under the law, have to be a second tranche?

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?

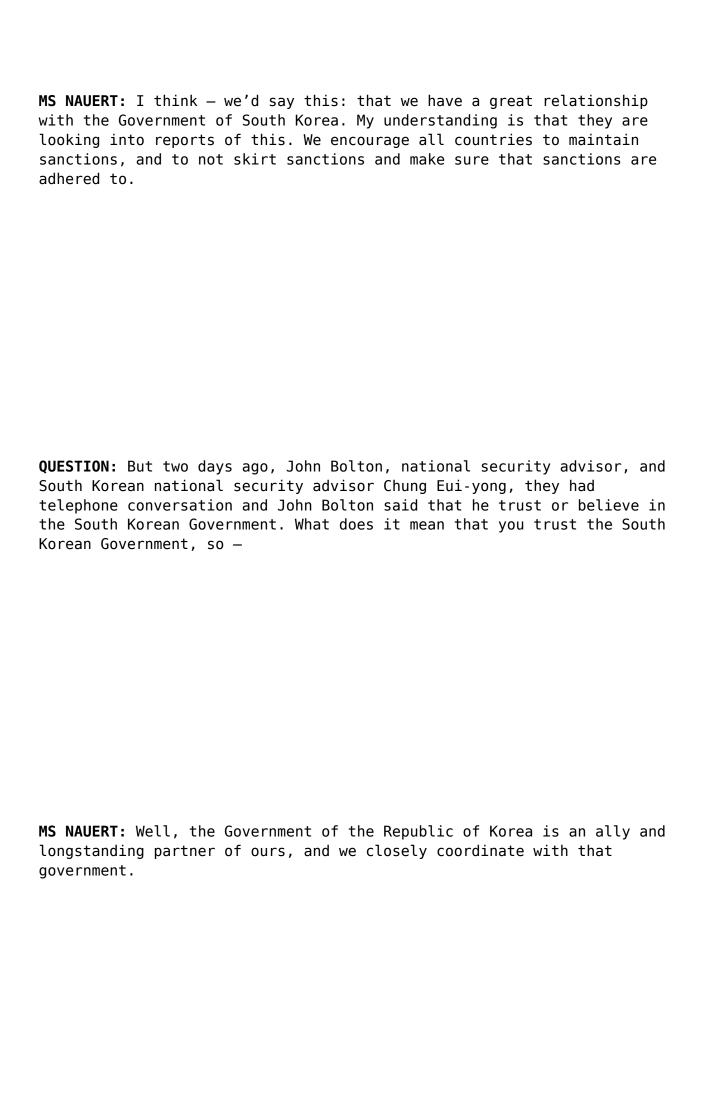
QUESTION: (Off-mike)

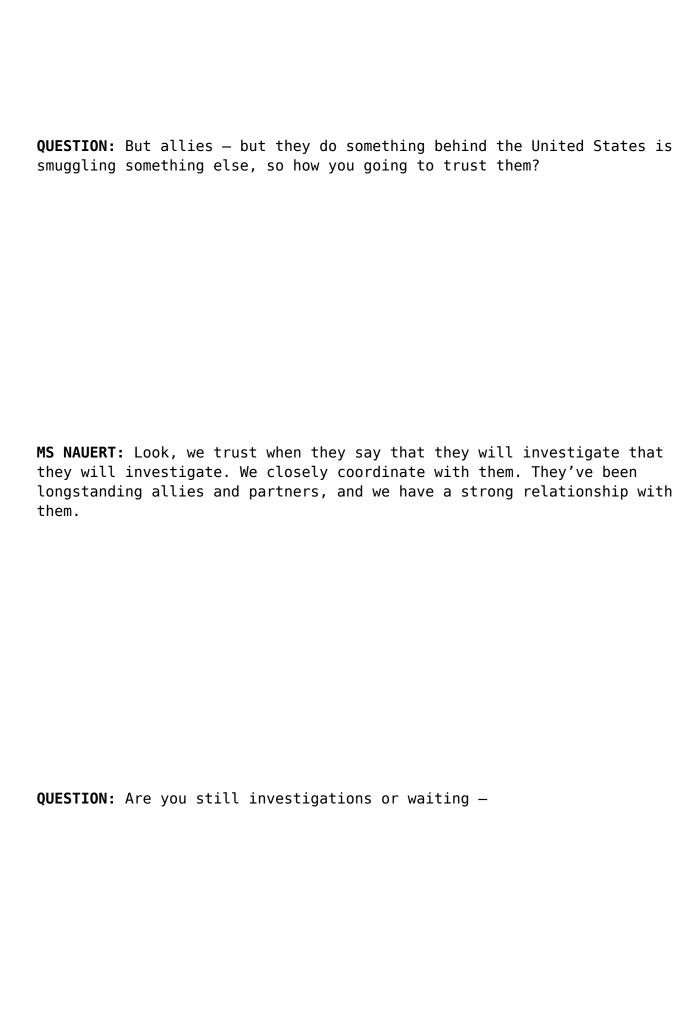
MS NAUERT: Janne, go right ahead.

**QUESTION:** Thank you, thank you, Heather. On North Korean and South Korean issues.

MS NAUERT: Okay.

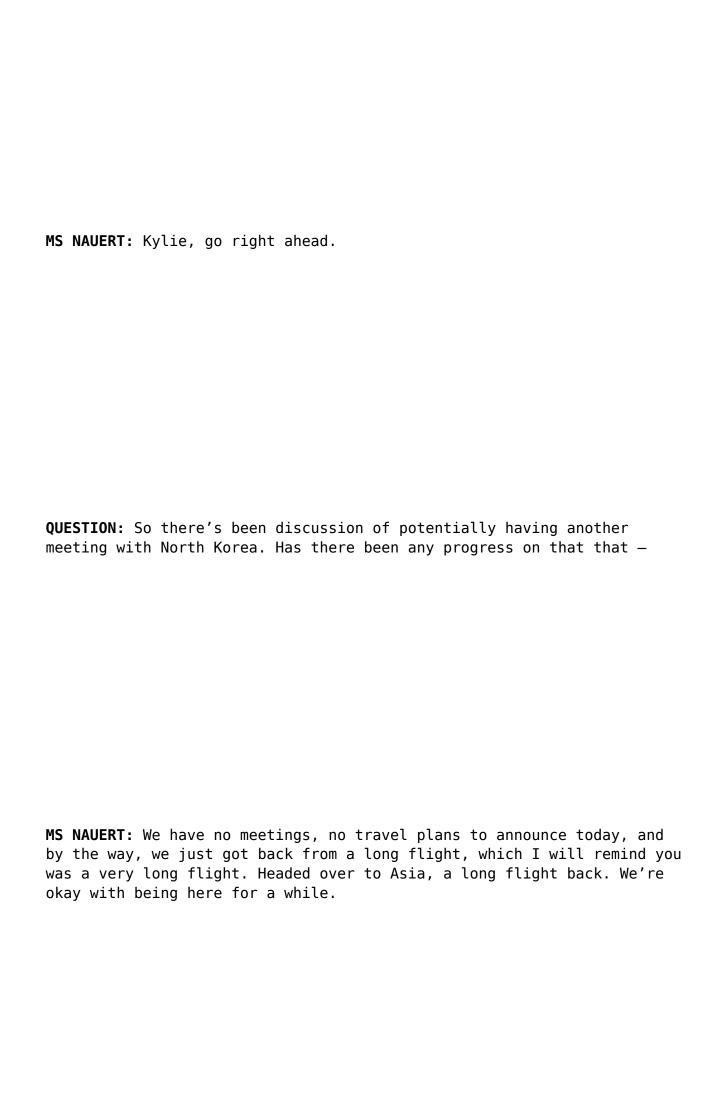
**QUESTION:** And — recently, South Korea imported North Korean coal. What is the U.S. position on the smuggling of North Korean coal into South Korea? Is that — do you think this is the — South Korea has violated sanctions?





MS NAUERT: I don't have anything more for you on that, okay? QUESTION: All right, thank you. MS NAUERT: Thanks.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)



**QUESTION:** All right.

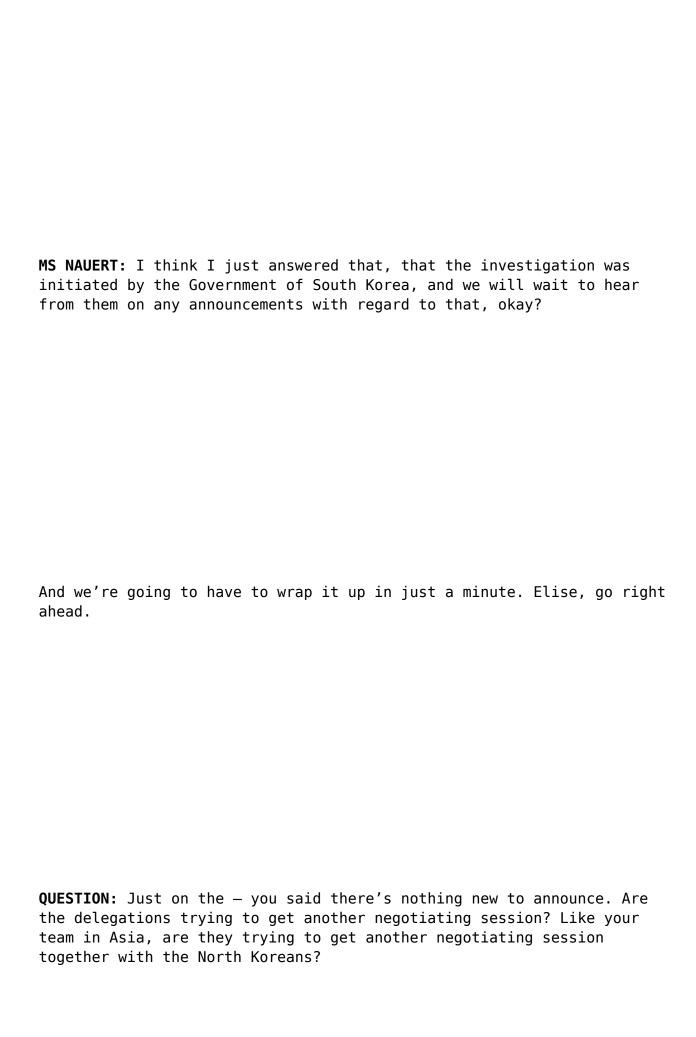
QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS NAUERT: Okay. Hi. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Well wait, can I just follow up real quick on that?

MS NAUERT: Just hold on, hold on. He asked first. Go right ahead. QUESTION: Oh, I'm sorry.

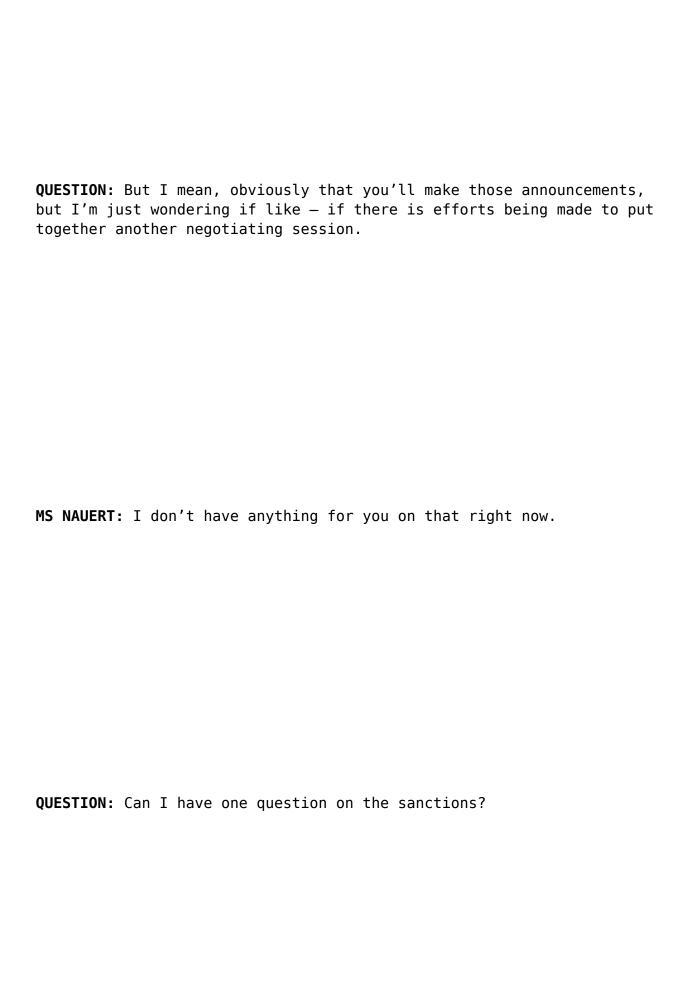
**QUESTION:** Yes. So about the North Korean coal, yeah. And South Korean Government is going to announce the result of investigation about North Korean coal smuggling maybe later today. So now the issue is that — whether the United States is going to apply the second boycott to the Korean companies,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

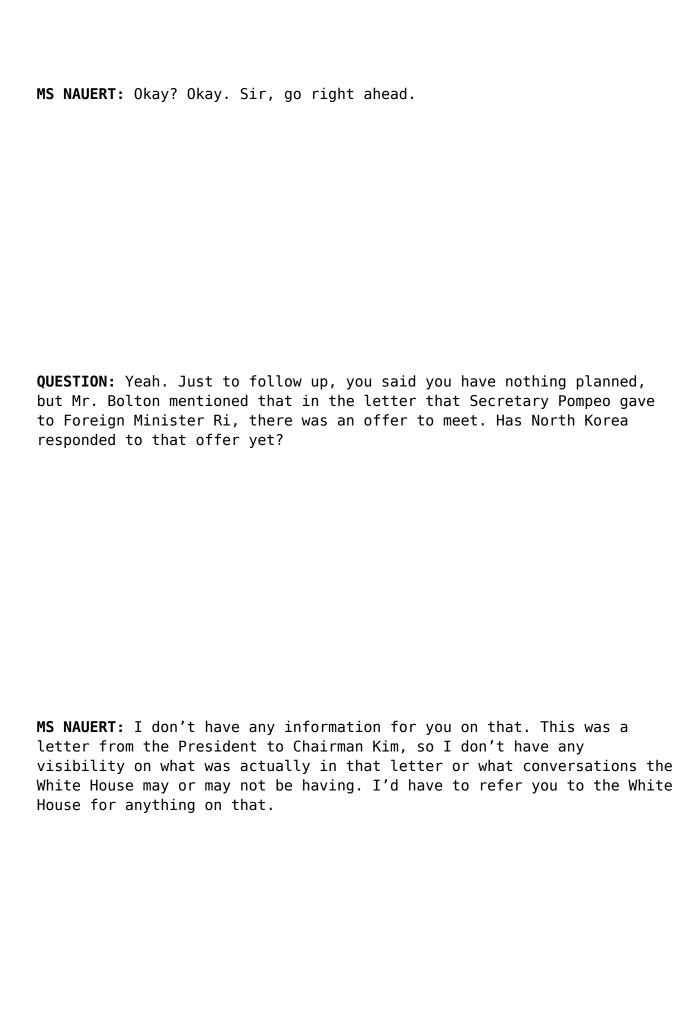


MS NAUERT: Look, I mean, I can tell you we continue to have conversations virtually every day, every other day or so —

**QUESTION:** With the North Koreans?

MS NAUERT: — with the North Koreans, and when I say "conversations," that can be by phone, that can be my message, that can be by email. Those are — they take different forms, those conversations do. So we continue to have conversations with the government. When — if and when we have travel announcements to make, I will certainly let you know, but we have nothing yet.

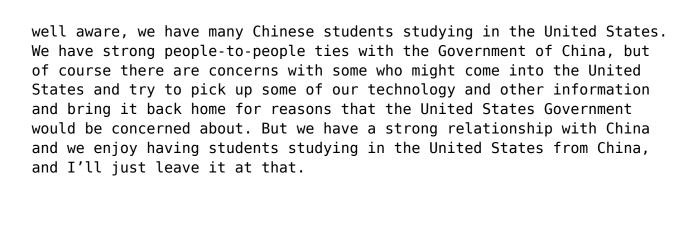




QUESTION: So you can confirm that there was an offer?
MS NAUERT: I can confirm there was a letter. Anything that the White House has said about that or Ambassador Bolton has said about that, I'd refer you back to them on those matters. When I have something to let you know, I certainly would be happy to.
Okay, last question.

**QUESTION:** (Off-mike.) 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



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

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

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## <u>Press Releases: Recent Events in</u> Zimbabwe

Press Statement Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC August 9, 2018

The United States government is gravely concerned by credible reports of numerous detentions, beatings, and other abuses of Zimbabweans over the past week, particularly targeting opposition activists. There should be no role for violence, intimidation, or harassment in the new Zimbabwe.

We are also deeply concerned that Zambia chose to hand over former Minister of Finance Tendai Biti to the Zimbabwean authorities, and in the face of a reported Zambian court order blocking his expulsion from Zambia.

This decision is particularly disheartening given the courage that Zambia showed in sheltering thousands of Zimbabwean freedom fighters from Rhodesian aggression in the days of Zimbabwe's independence struggle. We will be discussing this matter with Zambia's leaders and reviewing certain aspects of our cooperation with the Zambian government.

The Government of Zimbabwe is now responsible for Tendai Biti's safety and welfare. We call on Zimbabwe's leaders to guarantee Mr. Biti's physical safety and ensure his constitutional and human rights are respected, consistent with the rule of law and Zimbabwe's international obligations and commitments. In Washington, the United States has convoked the ambassadors of both Zimbabwe and Zambia to register our gravest concerns.

While Zimbabwe had a historic opportunity to move the country toward a brighter future for all its citizens, an electoral process marred by violence that does not respect constitutional rights and procedures is not a step toward that future.

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## <u>Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's</u> <u>Call With Mexican Foreign Secretary</u> <u>Videgaray</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC August 9, 2018 The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert: □

Yesterday U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke with Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray. The two leaders talked about the importance of reducing irregular migration through Mexico and the region and discussed the need for greater investment in Central America to address security, governance, and economic prosperity challenges. They also discussed the importance of concluding a NAFTA agreement.

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## Press Releases: Ecuador National Day

Press Statement Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC August 9, 2018

On behalf of the Government of the United States, I extend congratulations to the people of Ecuador on the anniversary of the first call to independence on August 10, 1809, which sparked the independence movement in Latin America 209 years ago.

Since we established bilateral relations, our nations have enjoyed deep ties, which are growing stronger every day. Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Ecuador underscores the ongoing progress. Our bonds are made especially evident by the reinvigorated friendship and partnership between our two countries. The United States is committed to working with the Ecuadorian people and their government to expand bilateral trade and investment, strengthen security cooperation, and increase cultural and educational exchanges. We welcome the opportunity to work with President Lenin Moreno and

his administration to build a stronger bilateral relationship in areas of mutual interest.

I congratulate all Ecuadorians on this day that led to your nation's independence.

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