

Mr. Morrison. That's what he represented.

Mr. Goldman. Now, you testified that hearing this information gave you a sinking feeling. Why was that?

Mr. Morrison. Well, I believe if we're on September 7th, the end of the fiscal year is September 30th, these are 1-year dollars, the DOD and the Department of State funds, so we only had so much time. And, in fact, because Congress imposed a 15-day notification requirement on the State Department funds, September 7th, September 30th, that really means September 15th in order to secure a decision from the President to allow the funds to go forward.

Mr. Goldman. Did you tell Ambassador Bolton about this conversation as well?

Mr. Morrison. I did. I did, yes.

Mr. Goldman. And what did he say to you?

Mr. Morrison. He said to tell the lawyers.

Mr. Goldman. And why did he say to tell the lawyers?

Mr. Morrison. He did not explain his direction.

Mr. Goldman. But he's not going to -- he doesn't tell you to go tell the lawyers because you're running up on the 8-day deadline there, right?

Mr. Morrison. Again, I don't know why he directed that, but it seems reasonable, and it was consistent with what I was going to do anyway.

Mr. Goldman. And you weren't going to go tell them because of that concern, right? You were concerned about what you were hearing Ambassador Sondland relay to you, correct?

Mr. Morrison. Correct.

Mr. Goldman. So, just so we're clear, you reported two concerning conversations that you had with Ambassador Sondland to the lawyers in early September

in which you understood from him that the President was withholding security assistance as additional leverage to get Ukraine to publicly announce the specific political investigations that President Trump had discussed on the July 25th call. Is that accurate?

Mr. Morrison. I was concerned about what Ambassador Sondland was saying were requirements, yes.

Mr. Goldman. Right. And you understood, though, that the investigations that Ambassador Sondland was referring to were the two that President Trump referenced on the July 25th call, correct?

Mr. Morrison. By this point, yes.

Mr. Goldman. And during this early September time period, Mr. Morrison, did you have any conversations with Ambassador Volker about any of this?

Mr. Morrison. I believe we had one conversation.

Mr. Goldman. And what do you recall about that conversation?

Mr. Morrison. I believe, on or about September 6th, Ambassador Volker was in town to provide an update on some of his activities and that -- and he provided that update, and then we had a one-on-one conversation about this -- this track, this separate process.

Mr. Goldman. And what do you recall saying to him about the separate process?

Mr. Morrison. I think I was interested in understanding his understanding of events.

Mr. Goldman. Did you explain to him what your understanding of events was?

Mr. Morrison. I think I was primarily on receive mode.

Mr. Goldman. Okay. And Ambassador Volker, what do you -- do you recall this conversation?