Russians. And, at that point, I had nothing to tell them.

I mean, the obvious question was, "Why?" So Mr. Yermak and others were trying to figure out why this was, and they thought maybe, if they were to travel, if Mr. Yermak were to go to Washington to talk to someone here or -- the Defense Minister also contacted me later on. He wanted the same thing.

They thought that there must be some rational reason for this being held up, and they just didn't -- and maybe in Washington they didn't understand how important this assistance was to their fight and to their armed forces. And so maybe they could figure -- so they were just desperate.

And I couldn't tell them. I didn't know and I didn't tell them, because we hadn't -- we hadn't -- there'd been no guidance that I could give them.

THE CHAIRMAN: And was it your suspicion at this point already that the assistance was being withheld potentially because of this help they wanted to get from the Ukrainians first?

AMBASSADOR TAYLOR: You know, Mr. Chairman, same kind of question about how it dawns on you. My next paragraph said it had not occurred to me that the hold on security assistance could be related to the investigations. As of that time, it hadn't. I hadn't put those dots together. I hadn't connected those dots.