

Newman, Melanie (OPA)

From: Newman, Melanie (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Landler, Mark
Subject: Re: NYT Q on Lynch/Clinton meeting

Mark,

I'll call you in a bit. We have not issued a statement on this but I've included below the transcripts from the AG's two press conferences where this was addressed:

Phoenix Presser (Tuesday, June 28):

REPORTER: Sources say that you met last night with former president Bill Clinton. Did the topic of Benghazi come up at all, or can you tell us what was discussed?

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH: No. Actually, while I was landing at the airport, I did see President Clinton at the Phoenix airport as I was leaving, and he spoke to myself and my husband on the plane. Our conversation was a great deal about his grandchildren. It was primary social and about our travels. He mentioned the golf he played in Phoenix, and he mentioned travels he'd had West Virginia. We talked about former Attorney General Janet Reno, for example, whom we both know, but there was no discussion of any matter pending for the department or any matter pending for any other body. There was no discussion of Benghazi, no discussion of the state department emails, by way of example. I would say the current news of the day was the Brexit decision, and what that might mean. And again, the department's not involved in that or implicated in that.

LA Presser (Wednesday, June 29):

REPORTER: Madame Attorney General, so was it appropriate for you to meet with former President Clinton while your agency is in the middle of an investigation of his wife's email server?

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH: Well, I did see the President at the Phoenix Airport the other night as I was landing, he was headed out. He did come over and say hello, and speak to my husband and myself, and talk about his grandchildren and his travels, and things like that. And so that was the extent of that. And no discussions were held into any cases or things like that. And he didn't raise anything – uh – about that.

REPORTER: You don't believe that gives off the appearance of any impropriety while your agency is investigating his wife.

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH: My agency is involved in a matter looking at State Department policies and issues. It's being handled by career investigators and career agents, who always follow facts and the law, and do the same thorough and independent examination in this matter that they've done in all. So that's how that'll be handled.

On Jun 30, 2016, at 2:16 PM, Landler, Mark <landler@nytimes.com> wrote:

On Jun 30, 2016, at 2:10 PM, Landler, Mark <mlandler@nytimes.com> wrote.

Hi Melanie,

I'm a White House correspondent at the NYT, and I've been pressed into service to write about the questions being raised by the Attorney General's meeting with Bill Clinton.

Could you let me know what DoJ and the AG have said specifically about this meeting, and whether she believes it constitutes a conflict of interest, given the ongoing email investigation?

(b) (6)

Thanks & Best,
Mark Landler