From: To: Cc: Subject: Date:

[AIN] Final / NYT / Meier / Levinson Thursday, December 12, 2013 7:22:51 PM

## CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Hi Barry,

Deet

I understand you reached out about the AP article. You can use the following from me:

"We have no comment on any purported affiliation between Mr. Levinson and the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government remains committed to bringing him home safely to his family."

Also see the email statement below from the WH-National Security Staff.

	(b)(3)
Media Spokesman	(b)(3)
CIA Office of Public Affairs	(b)(3)

From: NSC Press Office [mailto:NSC-Press-Office-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov] Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 7:05 PM Subject: Comment on Robert Levinson

Dear journalist colleagues: Many of you are asking for response to the Associated Press story that was just published about Robert Levinson. You may use the following, attributable to NSC Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden:

"Without commenting on any purported affiliation between Mr. Levinson and the U.S. government, the White House and others in the U.S. Government strongly urged the AP not to run this story out of concern for Mr. Levinson's life. We regret that the AP would choose to run a story that does nothing to further the cause of bringing him home. The investigation into Mr. Levinson's disappearance continues, and we all remain committed to finding him and bringing him home safely to his family."

Thank you. -NSC Press Office

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