



## Rand Paul asks Victoria Nuland whether guns were being run to Syria from the CIA Annex in Benghazi

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During her confirmation hearings as U.S. Ambassador to NATO on Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, former State Department official Victoria Nuland was asked by Senator Rand Paul whether she had had any conversations with former Secretary of State Clinton about, or whether she, herself, knew the purpose of, the CIA annex in Benghazi. Paul argued, as LaRouchePAC has contended, that weapons were being shipped from Benghazi to the Syrian opposition and that government officials cannot be allowed to hide behind classification to lie to Congress and to carry out a secret war without the declaration of war by the Congress as stipulated in the U.S. Constitution. The transcript of the relevant exchange follows:

PAUL: Have you ever had any conversations with Secretary Clinton concerning the purpose of the CIA annex?

NULAND: I'm not quite sure what you're asking.

PAUL: What was the purpose of the CIA annex in Benghazi?

NULAND: Senator, I would be delighted to talk to you about the relationship between the State Department and the CIA in a separate setting, if that's helpful. I don't...

PAUL: Have you had any conversations with Secretary Clinton concerning the purpose of the CIA annex?

NULAND: Not with regard to the purpose, no. But with regard to the responsibility of government communicators to protect the equities and requirements of all other agencies, yes.

PAUL: Did you ever have a discussion with Secretary Clinton concerning the fact that the function and the activities of CIA annex may have had something to do with the attacks?

NULAND: No, sir.

PAUL: Are you personally aware of what the CIA annex function is? Or was?

NULAND: Sir, I don't believe I've had a full briefing on what the activities were, no.

PAUL: Have you read the New York Times article from two weeks ago that talks about the fact that the CIA has been involved with sending arms to Syria over the last year?

NULAND: I did see that piece. I can't assess its accuracy.

PAUL: Are you aware of the reports that a Turkish ship left Benghazi or Libya in the week proceeding the ambassador's killing, docked in Turkey, interviews have been conducted with the media with the captain, distribution of the arms to Syrian rebels have been recorded and discussed in the media. Are you aware of those reports?

NULAND: I am not, Senator.

PAUL: We've got a lot of questions. We've got a lot of very short answers. How often with your tenure with your typical routine as communications — in charge of communications with the State Department, how often would you have personal contact with Secretary Clinton (inaudible) conversations?

NULAND: When I was briefing which was most days when we were home, I would see her every morning at our senior staff meeting. I would also support her when she had bilateral meetings with foreign visitors, particularly when there were press conferences. Then I traveled with her on her foreign travel.

PAUL: Right. Part of the reason I bring up the CIA annex is that, you know, we're in the process of becoming involved in a new war in Syria and there are many within the administration which you'll be part of who argue for just doing this secretly, without votes, to basically have a covert war. And that's basically what we're having now according to articles in the— concerning CIA activity in Syria is that we'll have a covert war not where Congress votes on declaring war or votes whether or not we should be involved.

The question really here is a big question. Of whether or not, you know, we obey the constitution, which says, the Congress really declares war, the Congress makes these decisions. That unilaterally these decisions are not made without the approval of Congress or the people....

The problem here is there's a certain lawlessness. There's been a big discussion on, you know, leaks from the NSA. People have said, my goodness, these leaks are damaging national security. You know, what's also damaging to national security is when people come and lie to Congress. Now, I'm not saying you did. You've said that it was classified, you can't talk about it. But if members of the administration are going to come to us and say, "Oh, I'm just going to lie because it's classified, and tell you the least untruthful thing," what it does is it really does damage the intelligence community. It damages the reputation of your administration or any administration you will choose. It just — it damages the whole community in a way to say that it's OK to lie to Congress.

That's basically what the opinion is now and what is being told to the public, it is fine to

lie to Congress. If that's true, it really damages the credibility of people who do things. So when I asked the question, which I understand your inability maybe to answer it because it may be classified, there are many of us who believe that it was — it had to do with an arms (inaudible) going out of the CIA annex and that perhaps people were unhappy about arms being taken from one group to another and sent to another, that may have incited the rioting and may have incited the terrorist attack.

But the problem is we can't ever get to the truth because people just say, "Oh, it's secret." That's the problem with running a secret government and running secret wars. We don't get any oversight. We can't have oversight because we don't have any information.

So all I would say is that we need to think these things through. If you look at what the public wants right now, the public's not interested in a new war.

**Links:**

[1] <http://larouhepac.com/node/27204>

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