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To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 11, 2019

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 11, 2019

TOP STORIES

Former Ukraine Envoy Scheduled to Testify in Impeachment Probe

The [former ambassador to Ukraine will testify Friday](#) in front of the House of Representatives. The administration stated, however, that it will not cooperate

with an impeachment inquiry, making it unclear whether Maria Yovanovitch would actually testify. Yovanovitch was recalled from her position in May. In March, [Yovanovitch became the target of allegations](#) that she gave a Ukrainian prosecutor a list of people not to prosecute, an allegation the State Department denies. The testimony is the first of several depositions of key figures planned by the House.

Turkish Forces Push Deeper into Syria

[Turkish forces moved deeper into northeastern Syria today](#), the third day of Ankara's offensive against U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters. Casualties continue to mount and thousands of civilians have evacuated. President Trump received backlash for his decision to remove U.S. troops from the border, abandoning Syrian Kurdish forces and allowing Turkey to make a move. Turkey considers Syrian Kurdish fighters to be terrorists linked to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey. The offensive is seen as a counterterrorism operation. Defense Secretary Mark Esper made it clear that the U.S. opposes the incursion.

Lindsey Graham Caught in Prank Call

Senator Lindsey Graham is very in tune with President Trump's negotiations with Turkey, so it was not odd that he received a call from Turkey's Minister of Defense in early August. Except it was not Turkey's Minister of Defense, it was [two Russian men with suspected ties to Russia's intelligence services](#). The two men are known for making prank calls to important officials, including Rep. Adam Schiff. The phone call's substance is newly relevant in light of Senator Graham's push for sanctions on Turkey as punishment for their offensive

against the Kurds in northern Syria. In the phone call, Graham called the Kurds a “threat” to Turkey, contradicting his recent actions. The calls also raise questions on the security of sensitive information with top officials.

The Wildfires in California Continue

An overnight wildfire in southern California has prompted mandatory evacuations, devastating 4,600 acres by 3:00 AM. It is now [one of the eight wildfires actively burning in California](#). The fire began when a trash truck dumped burning garbage onto dry grass. California electricity companies have been shutting off power recently to prevent the start of new wildfires. Currently about 20,000 people in Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, and Kern counties do not have power. Due to strong, dry winds throughout the week, an estimated 2 million people experienced power outages.

House Appropriations Chairwoman Set to Retire

House Appropriations Chairwoman [Nita Lowey announced her retirement](#) on Thursday. Rep. Lowey is the first woman to ever chair the House Appropriations Committee. She has served in Congress for 31 years. Should Democrats retain control of the House, Rep. Marcy Kaptur could succeed Rep. Lowey.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1727

George II of England crowned.

1795

In gratitude for putting down a rebellion in the streets of Paris, France's National Convention appoints Napoleon Bonaparte second in command of the Army of the Interior.

1950

The Federal Communications Commission authorizes the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) to begin commercial color TV broadcasts.

1962

Pope John XXIII opens the 21st Ecumenical Council (Vatican II) with a call for Christian unity. This is the largest gathering of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in history; among delegate-observers are representatives of major Protestant denominations, in itself a sign of sweeping change.

1968

Apollo 7, with three men aboard, is successfully launched from Cape Kennedy.

1975

Saturday Night Live comedy-variety show premieres on NBC, with guest host comedian George Carlin and special guests Janis Ian, Andy Kaufman and Billy

Preston; at this writing (2019) the show is still running.

1984

Astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan, part of the crew of Space Shuttle Challenger, becomes the first American woman to walk in space.

2001

The Polaroid Corporation, which had provided shutterbugs with photo prints in minutes with its "instant cameras" since 1947, files for bankruptcy.

LOOK AHEAD

Monday, October 14

9:30 AM EDT

Event: The Association of the United States Army

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

4:30 PM EDT

Discussion: Defense One

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW

Tuesday, October 15

8:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association

Topic: Homeland Security

Location: National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Homeland Security

Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

9:30 AM EDT

Event: The Association of the United States Army

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

2:00 PM EDT

Event: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: Technology

Location: NASA Headquarters, 300 E St. SW, James Webb Auditorium

6:00 PM EDT

Event: The National Defense Industrial Association's Special Operations/Low
Intensity Conflict Division

Topic: Defense

Location: 2168 Rayburn House Office Building

Wednesday, October 16

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Health and Human Services Department; Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality

Topic: Healthcare Research and Quality

Location: Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli
Road, Bethesda, Md.

8:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The American Security Project

Topic: Defense

Location: ASP, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Lobby Level Conference
Room

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: National League of Cities

Topic: Drones

Location: City-County Leadership Conference Center, 660 N. Capitol Street
NW

9:30 AM EDT

Event: The Association of the United States Army

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

10:00 AM EDT

Meeting: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: NASA Space Resources, Procurement Reform and Spectrum Issues

Location: NASA, 300 E St. SW, Room 2R69

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: E-Cigarettes/Public Health

Location: 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building

10:30 AM EDT

Hearing: House Energy and Commerce Committee

Topic: National Youth Tobacco Epidemic

Location: 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Military Installation Resiliency

Location: 2118 Rayburn House Office Building

Thursday, October 17

8:00 AM EDT

Conference: IDEEA Inc.

Topic: Defense

Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300
Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Have a great weekend!

The Executive Insight Brief is a compilation of articles of interest prepared by the The Roosevelt Group research team. This information is provided for situational awareness. Items are chosen to highlight trends and issues in the news and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of The Roosevelt Group.

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