

State Department Purged Emails About Secret Anti-Netanyahu Campaign

Adam Kredo writes in the [disclosed](#) in a massive report on Tuesday that the Obama administration provided U.S. taxpayer dollars to the OneVoice Movement, a liberal group that waged a clandestine campaign to smear and oust Netanyahu from office.

OneVoice, which was awarded \$465,000 in U.S. grants through 2014, has been [revealed](#) early Tuesday that new legislation would ban all State Department officials from using private email accounts and servers, as well as mandate annual reports about the leak of classified information.

A senior State Department official admitted to congressional investigators that he deleted several emails pertaining to the administration's coordination with OneVoice.

"The State Department was unable to produce all documents responsive to the Subcommittee's requests due to its failure to retain complete email records of Michael Ratney, who served as U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem during the award and oversight of the OneVoice grants," the report states.

Investigators "discovered this retention problem because one important email exchange between OneVoice and Mr. Ratney ... was produced to the Subcommittee only by OneVoice," the report continues. "After conducting additional searches, the Department informed the Subcommittee that it was unable to locate any responsive emails from Mr. Ratney's inbox or sent mail."

Ratney was ultimately forced to tell investigators that

"[a]t times I deleted emails with attachments I didn't need in order to maintain my inbox under the storage limit."

While Ratney had the option to archive emails—as required by the department—he did not do this. Ratney claimed he was not aware of the rule, stating he “did not know [he] was required to archive routine emails.”

The deletion of the email chains appears to be a violation of the Federal Records Act, which mandates official records be archived for future disclosure purposes.

One source with intimate knowledge of the situation told the *Free Beacon* that the deletion of these emails is highly suspicious given the seriousness of the claims about the administration's behavior.

“The Obama administration had the money, skills, and personnel to build a gigantic campaign infrastructure that was used to try to defeat the prime minister of an ally,” the source said. “But apparently they didn't have what they needed to store the emails in which they did all of those things. That's certainly a lucky break for the State Department.”

State Department officials did not immediately respond to a request for further information about the investigation and the deletion of emails.