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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room 164, Cannon House Office Building, commencing at 10:03 a.m.

1 information.

2 A Yes. Whenever we get leads through this path, we take them, and it is up
3 to Google to take our action. This is information being provided, which is fed into our
4 processes.

5 Q In your interactions with officials from the U.S. Government, has anybody
6 ever ordered you to take any particular action, to take down an account, a Gmail address,
7 a YouTube channel, anything like that?

8 A I do not recall ever being asked by the U.S. Government to take a specific
9 action.

10 Q Okay. So, not only were you not ordered, you were never even
11 asked -- you don't recall ever being asked.

12 A No. All the interactions I recall were of the form of them providing us
13 information.

14 Q Okay. You did not experience unrelenting pressure from the U.S.
15 Government to take certain content down?

16 A I can't recall ever feeling pressure to take a specific action.

17 Q Okay. Thank you.

18 And Google's policies against inauthentic behavior and the other policies that you
19 personally deal with, those were created without input from the government, correct?

20 A I was not involved in the policy creation process, so I can't speak to how they
21 were made.

22 Q Okay. So you don't create the policies then.

23 A No. I am not part of policy team or policy creation. I may be consulted on
24 the side about the technical enforcement of them, but I'm not a policy person. I'm a
25 technical security expert.

1 Q And so do you -- sorry, as a point of clarification, do you access it by
2 something other than your phone?

3 A I do access by my phone, yes.

4 Q Oh, okay. Sorry, just to understand that previous response, you do have
5 access to some of the messages going back?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you know how far back?

8 A I don't offhand.

9 Q Approximately?

10 A I'd say, consistent with what's in front of me here, most likely.

11 Q Okay.

12 There was a conference you were at in 2021. I'm not going to ask you to recall
13 what you said at the conference, whatever else, but there was a question posed to you
14 about, where is the line between politics and disinformation.

15 There have been some obviously very high-profile public examples of information
16 operations, the role of foreign actors. You, in one of the responses, provided a
17 comment that some of these more high-profile examples lead to individuals at the
18 company to ping your team and ask questions, get more information.

19 To the extent disinformation and information operations have intersected with
20 politics, has that had any impact on your line of work?

21 A So I'm not sure I fully follow. Are you talking about CyberWarCon?

22 Q Yeah.

23 A What are you asking? Has my -- if you are asking --

24 Q I guess my --

25 A -- if you're asking, has the investigations we do been influenced by political

1 realities or that we change the nature of the investigations we do due to politics, the
2 answer is no.

3 We always take our investigations very much on the facts, doing the investigation
4 and taking action according to our policies. And I've never felt any pressure due to
5 political reasons to change our assessment in any form or to pick what we do or don't
6 investigate, if that's where that question is going.

7 Q Okay. And what sort of frameworks are put into place to ensure that's the
8 case?

9 A I'm not sure exactly what you mean. I suppose this is the guidance that we
10 give to the team. This is something that I and others are aware of and we watch out for.
11 We set this as a standard, and it's a, you know, common value and something that we
12 take seriously.

13 Q And with respect to press reports, the reasons that, you know, individuals
14 will ping you and your team, is it your understanding that some of the reason these
15 examples have become more high-profile is because of the intersection with politics?

16 A I think that's -- I'm struggling to answer this question a little bit because the
17 definition of what is politics is very broad and up for debate as well here. So I'm not
18 sure how to answer that.

19 Q The hour is about to expire, so I'll finish with this question.

20 And maybe there is no tie between the two. But there was a presentation at the
21 conference about the line between politics and disinformation. And there's the criteria
22 laid out by Nathaniel in this industry chat with respect to, when it comes to government
23 partners, one of the criteria was apolitical.

24 And so the question would be, independent of you and your team's work, whether
25 when politics becomes involved with how publicized potential information operations