

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Distinguished Professor in the Practice of National Government  
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service  
Georgetown University  
37<sup>th</sup> and O Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20057

Dear Senator Hagel:

Yesterday, the *Washington Free Beacon* reported that in a 2007 speech at Rutgers University regarding America's relationship with the Middle East you remarked that "the State Department was becoming an adjunct of the Israeli Foreign Ministry." According to notes posted on the internet by a Republican political consultant and supporter of yours, George Ajjan, you made these remarks during the question and answer period following the speech. A copy of the article is attached for your reference.

Given the importance of U.S. policy towards the Middle East and the Secretary of Defense's direct role in implementing this policy, it is critical that we have a better understanding of your remarks before we vote on your nomination. Did you, in fact, make this statement at the Rutgers event or have you ever made similar comments? If you made these comments or similar comments please explain what you meant. Finally, does such a statement in any way reflect your views about the U.S.-Israel relationship?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator