

world

Clinton's official State calendar missing scores of entries

Names of donors, contributors she met omitted or not recorded

Washington
AP

An Associated Press review of the official calendar Hillary Clinton kept as secretary of state identified at least 75 meetings with longtime political donors, Clinton Foundation contributors and corporate and other outside interests that were not recorded or omitted the names of those she met.

The fuller details of those meetings were included in files the State Department turned over to the AP after it sued the government in federal court.

The missing entries raise new questions about how Clinton and her inner circle handled government records documenting her State Department tenure — in this case, why the official chronology of her four-year term does not closely mirror the other, more detailed records of her daily meetings.

At a time when Clinton's private email system is under scrutiny by an FBI criminal investigation, the calendar omissions reinforce concerns that she sought to eliminate the "risk of the personal being accessible" — as she wrote in an email exchange that she failed to turn over to the government but was subsequently uncovered in a top aide's inbox.

The AP found the omissions by comparing the 1,500-page calendar with separate planning schedules supplied to Clinton by aides in advance of each day's events. The names of at least 114 outsiders who met with Clinton were missing from her calendar, the records show.

No known federal laws were violated and some omissions

could be blamed on Clinton's highly fluid schedule, which sometimes forced late cancellations. But only seven meetings in Clinton's planning schedules were replaced by substitute events on her official calendar. More than 60 other events listed in Clinton's planners were omitted entirely in her calendar, tersely noted or described only as "private meetings" — all without naming those who met with her.

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said Thursday night that the multiple discrepancies between her State Department calendar and her planning schedules "simply reflect a more detailed version in one version as compared to another, all maintained by her staff."

Merrill said that Clinton "has always made an effort to be transparent since entering public life, whether it be the release of over 30 years of tax returns, years of financial disclosure forms, or asking that 55,000 pages of work emails from her time of secretary of state be turned over to the public."

In one key omission, Clinton's State Department calendar dropped the identities of a dozen major Wall Street and business leaders who met with her during a private breakfast at the New York Stock Exchange in September 2009. The meeting occurred minutes before Clinton appeared in public at the exchange to ring the market's ceremonial opening bell.

Despite the omission, Clinton's State Department planning schedules from the same day listed the names of all Clinton's breakfast guests — most of whose firms had lobbied the government and donated to her family's global charity. The event was closed to the press and merited only a brief mention in her calendar, which omitted all her guests' names — among them Blackstone Group Chairman Steven Schwarzman, PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi and then-New York Bank of Mellon CEO Robert Kelly.



Hillary Clinton, U.S. secretary of state at the time, rings the New York Stock Exchange's opening bell with then-NYSE CEO Duncan L. Niederauer in New York in September 2009. AP

Clinton's calendar also repeatedly omitted private dinners and meetings with political donors, policy sessions with groups of corporate

leaders and "drop-bys" with old Clinton campaign hands and advisers. Among those whose names were omitted from her calendar were longtime adviser Sidney Blumenthal, consultant and former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty, former energy lobbyist Joseph Wilson and entertainment magnate and Clinton campaign bundler Haim Saban.

The AP first sought Clinton's calendar and schedules from the State Department in August 2013, but the agency would not acknowledge even that it had

the material. After nearly two years of delay, AP sued the State Department in March 2015. The department agreed in a court filing last August to turn over Clinton's calendar, and provided the documents in November. After noticing discrepancies between Clinton's calendar and some schedules, the AP pressed in court for all of Clinton's planning material. The U.S. has released about one-third of those planners to AP so far.

The State Department censored both sets of documents for national security and other reasons, but those changes

were made after the documents were turned over to the State Department at the end of Clinton's tenure.

The documents obtained by AP do not show who specifically logged entries in Clinton's calendar or who edited the material. Clinton's emails and other records show that she and two close aides, Deputy Chief of Staff Huma Abedin and scheduling assistant Lona J. Valmore, held weekly meetings and emailed almost every day about Clinton's plans. According to the recent inspector general's audit and a court dec-

laration made last December by the State Department's acting executive secretary, Clinton's aides had access to her calendar through a government Microsoft Outlook account. Both Abedin and Valmore were political appointees at the State Department and are now aides in her presidential campaign.

Unlike Clinton's planning schedules, which were sent to Clinton each morning, her calendar was edited after each event, the AP's review showed. Some calendar entries were accompanied by Valmore emails — indicating she may have added those entries. Every meeting entry also included both the planned time of the event and the actual time — showing that Clinton's calendar was being used to document each meeting after it ended.

The State Department said Friday that "extensive records" from Clinton's calendars were preserved. Spokesman John Kirby said he could not speak in more detail about practices during Clinton's tenure because of the AP's ongoing lawsuit.

Kirby said the department is confident it is properly preserving Secretary of State John Kerry's calendars and other historic documents, but he noted that Kerry was not required to include details of private, nonwork-related meetings. Kirby declined to specify the agency's definition of those private sessions, saying only that "there are obviously some moments of his life that have no bearing on his work as secretary of state."

Kirby would not comment on how Clinton and other former secretaries handled their calendars. Five former State Department logistics officials

told AP that some of Clinton's predecessors also omitted some private meetings from their calendars. The former officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss sensitive agency practices, said omitted meetings typically were for medical or other personal reasons as opposed to the meetings Clinton attended with political and charity donors and with corporate executives.

P.J. Crowley, a State Department spokesman for Clinton at the time, told AP that Clinton's vision of "21st century statecraft" included exchanging views with corporate leaders and promoting public-private partnerships. "That was certainly reflected in her day-to-day schedule, her travel and her global outreach," Crowley said.

The former department officials as well as government records experts said that secretaries of state have wide latitude in keeping their schedules — despite federal laws and agency rules overseeing the archiving of calendars and warning against altering or deleting records. Omissions in Clinton's calendar could undermine the document's historical accuracy, particularly its depictions of Clinton's access to political, corporate and other influencers, experts said.

"It's clear that any outside influence needs to be clearly identified in some way to at least guarantee transparency. That didn't happen," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government reform group. "These discrepancies are striking because of her possible interest at the time in running for the presidency."

Madagascar National Day

An active leader in regional integration

Rosette Rasoamanarivo
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
MADAGASCAR

June 26 sees Madagascar celebrate its 56th Anniversary of Independence. For this memorable occasion, and in my capacity of Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar to Japan, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes of the people and government of Madagascar to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, as well as the government and people of Japan.

I am thankful to The Japan Times for once again providing this great opportunity to share our national day commemoration. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all our Japanese partners and friends for their sustained support and heartfelt congratulatory messages.

On this auspicious occasion, let me congratulate all Malagasy residents and diaspora in Japan while expressing to them my gratitude for their enthusiastic and patriotic contributions for the success of the events of "Madagascar Week 2016," which was hosted by the embassy from June 17 to June 26. The event allowed us to happily mark this year's commemoration under the theme of "Madagascar prosperous, a shared objective," with our growing number of Japanese partners and friends. Special mention is also deserved for the success of the first-ever "Madagascar Festival in Japan," which was held at Arisugawa Park last October, thanks to our strengthened cooperation with Tokyo's Minato Ward.

As is the case every year, this is a good opportunity for me to share with the readers

some of the latest updates on Madagascar and the status of our friendly relationship with Japan.

After the return of constitutional normalcy to Madagascar, I am delighted to say that Madagascar is fully back to assume its role in the concert of nations. Our diplomatic priority efforts in recent years have been focusing on the role that Madagascar should play in the region, first toward effective regional integration and second for ensuring international engagement for peace and stability in accordance with the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace adopted in a 1971 U.N. General Assembly resolution.

Looking back on 2015, Madagascar had the privilege to preside over the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which comprises the island states of the southwest Indian Ocean (Comoros, La Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles). Under Madagascar leadership, IOC member states adopted the designation of Madagascar as the "Granary of the Indian Ocean" to ensure food security in this region. In addition, in terms of maritime security issues under the Regional Maritime Security Program (MASE), an agreement has been endorsed for the establishment of the Regional Center of Fusion of Maritime Information in Antananarivo, Madagascar's capital. Given the geopolitical importance of the Indian Ocean region, this international center in Madagascar will work in cooperation with all east African states.

This year, with the mobilization of all its citizens, Madagascar has the great honor and challenge to successfully host two international summit meetings. These are the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) summit.

During the 19th COMESA summit on the 18th and 19th

of October, delegations comprised of heads of state and government leaders from about 19 nations are expected to gather in Madagascar to hold discussions under the theme of "export support for sustainable development." This will be a good regional platform for public and private policy dialogues aiming at reinforcing regional integration of this large market that has more than \$650 billion in GDP and a population of over 460 million.

During the 16th IOF summit on Nov. 26th and 27th, Madagascar will be hosting delegations of heads of state and government leaders from 80 countries with the discussions focused on the theme of "shared growth and responsible development: the conditions for the stability of the world and Francophone

world." Madagascar would like to introduce at this international meeting crucial issues of common interest to facilitate decision-making that could have a real impact on the people's lives. In regards to this, Madagascar Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Beatrice Atallah said: "On behalf of the history that binds Madagascar and La Francophonie, this summit is a mark of recognition for the efforts of Madagascar. We hope that this event can bring the message of La Francophonie to provide solutions to major challenges of the 21st century, for instance the fight against inequality, environmental protection and sustainable development."

To accompany this effort, a new permanent representative IOF office was officially inaugurated in Antananarivo



Madagascar President Hery Rajaonarimampianina (right) and Secretary-General of the International Organisation of La Francophonie Michaëlle Jean in Antananarivo in March. EMBASSY OF MADAGASCAR

on March 23, attended by IOF Secretary-General H.E. Michaëlle Jean. This new regional office would seek further development of the potential of Francophonie culturally, politically and economically in the wider In-

dian Ocean rim.

In terms of our relationship with Japan, 2016 is a milestone year as Madagascar is fully participating in all the preparations for the success of the TICAD VI summit, which will be held for the first time in Af-



Former Minister of Agriculture and current Minister of Water Roland Ravatomanga (right) and Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister of Agriculture Hidemichi Sato in Tokyo in March. EMBASSY OF MADAGASCAR

rica, in Nairobi on Aug. 27 and 28. After missing the opportunity to participate in the TICAD V summit in 2013, Madagascar has keenly confirmed — during an official visit to Japan from March 8 to 12 of Roland Ravatomanga,

minister in charge of agriculture — that an important Malagasy delegation headed by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Madagascar Hery Rajaonarimampianina will participate in the TICAD VI summit.

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the Republic of Madagascar

on the 56th Anniversary

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