

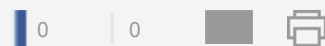
POLITICS

Bill Clinton's foundation cashed in as Sweden lobbied Hillary on sanctions

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Oct. 22, 1999: President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talk during the White House Conference on Philanthropy in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (AP)

Bill Clinton's foundation set up a fundraising arm in Sweden that collected \$26 million in donations at the same time that country was lobbying Hillary Rodham Clinton's State Department to forgo sanctions that threatened its thriving business with Iran, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Washington Times.

The Swedish entity, called the William J. Clinton Foundation Insamlingsstiftelse, was never disclosed to or cleared by State Department ethics officials, even though one of its largest sources of donations was a Swedish government-sanctioned lottery.

As the money flowed to the foundation from Sweden, Mrs. Clinton's team in Washington declined to blacklist any Swedish firms despite warnings from career officials at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm that Sweden was growing its economic ties with Iran and potentially undercutting Western efforts to end Tehran's rogue nuclear program, diplomatic cables show.

"Sweden does not support implementing tighter financial sanctions on Iran" and believes "more stringent financial standards could hurt Swedish exports," one such cable from 2009 alerted Mrs. Clinton's office in Washington.

Separately, U.S. intelligence was reporting that Sweden's second-largest employer, telecommunications giant Ericsson AB,

was pitching cellphone tracking technology to Iran that could be used by the country's security services, officials told The Times.

By the time Mrs. Clinton left office in 2013, the Clinton Foundation Insamlingsstiftelse had collected millions of dollars inside Sweden for his global charitable efforts and Mr. Clinton personally pocketed a record \$750,000 speech fee from Ericsson, one of the firms at the center of the sanctions debate.

Mr. Clinton's Swedish fundraising shell escaped public notice, both because its incorporation papers were filed in Stockholm — some 4,200 miles from America's shores — and the identities of its donors were lumped by Mr. Clinton's team into the disclosure reports of his U.S.-based charity, blurring the lines between what were two separate organizations incorporated under two different countries' laws.

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