Statement attributable to a State Department spokesperson:

The Congressman's statement and facts are incorrect. Zooming back to 2012 as a reference point, the Department of State has placed 11 embassies or consulates in suspended operation: 4 in the Biden Administration; 4 in the Trump Administration; and 3 in the 2012-16 timeframe of the Obama Administration. Suspended operation is not a "closure" or a "loss" of an embassy. Of the 3 embassies in the current administration where in-country operations are suspended (Afghanistan, Belarus, Sudan), all 3 embassies operate from an American embassy in a third country in order to continue supporting American citizens and advancing U.S. national security. Additionally, during the Biden administration the Department has also opened or reopened 4 embassies or consulates (Tromso, Norway; Nuku'Alofa, Tonga; Honiara, Solomon Islands; Victoria, Seychelles).

The safety and security of American citizens and American diplomatic personnel are the Secretary and the Department's number one priority. In the Biden Administration, the decision to issue authorized or ordered departure has occurred 29 times. These statuses fluctuate as the situation in a country either improves or degrades. By comparison, in the Trump Administration, authorized or ordered departure occurred 37 times.

It is worth pointing out that the House Republican majority, of which Congressman Donalds is a member, is at this time pursuing a nearly 12% (roughly $7B) cut to the State Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2025, on top of the 5% cut they enacted in Fiscal Year 2024, which as Secretary Blinken told the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign affairs Wednesday, "…challenges our efforts to deliver results that Congress expects and the American people deserve." His full remarks: Secretary Antony J. Blinken Opening Remarks Before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the FY25 Department of State Budget Request - United States Department of State