

**Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)**

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**From:** Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:38 PM  
**To:** Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Post story on Yates - Flynn

I am back at the office if you need anything

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**From:** Carr, Peter (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:29 PM  
**To:** jody.hunt@usdoj.gov; Crowell, James (ODAG) <jcrowell@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) <zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Post story on Yates - Flynn

Am getting swamped with calls on this Washington Post story that just broke claiming that while acting AG, Sally Yates told the administration that Flynn was vulnerable to Russian blackmail.

To my knowledge, no one in OPA was contacted about this story before it was published. We are declining to comment.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-department-warned-white-house-that-flynn-could-be-vulnerable-to-russian-blackmail-officials-say/2017/02/13/fc5dab88-f228-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.319706d8a6dd](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-department-warned-white-house-that-flynn-could-be-vulnerable-to-russian-blackmail-officials-say/2017/02/13/fc5dab88-f228-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?utm_term=.319706d8a6dd)

**Crowell, James (ODAG)**

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**From:** Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:39 PM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA)  
**Cc:** Carr, Peter (OPA); [jody.hunt@usdoj.gov](mailto:jody.hunt@usdoj.gov); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: Post story on Yates - Flynn

We should not comment. She declined the comment in the article.

On Feb 13, 2017, at 9:30 PM, Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

I'm getting lots of calls too. I was not contacted before it ran

Marc Raimondi  
National Security Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
O: (b) (6)  
M: [REDACTED]

On Feb 13, 2017, at 6:28 PM, Carr, Peter (OPA) <[pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Duplicate



**Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)**

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**From:** Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:17 PM  
**To:** Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Post story on Yates - Flynn

FYI

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** Crowell, James (ODAG) <jcrowell@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** jody.hunt@usdoj.gov; Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) <zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Post story on Yates - Flynn

CNN and AP reporting Flynn has resigned

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**From:** Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:40 PM  
**To:** Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** jody.hunt@usdoj.gov; Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) <zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Post story on Yates - Flynn

We will have no comment.

On Feb 13, 2017, at 9:28 PM, Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicate



**Hunt, Jody (OAG)**

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**From:** Hunt, Jody (OAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: Post story on Yates - Flynn

Thank you Wyn.

On Feb 13, 2017, at 11:16 PM, Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <[whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Duplicate



## Carr, Peter (OPA)

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**From:** Carr, Peter (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** Crowell, James (ODAG); Hunt, Jody (OAG)  
**Cc:** Rybicki, David (OAG); Tucker, Rachael (OAG); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)  
**Subject:** RE: POTUS statement re leak investigation

FYI on another story that just popped from the Post. We've declined to comment on this as well.

***Washington Post: Flynn in FBI interview denied discussing sanctions with Russian ambassador***

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/flynn-in-fbi-interview-denied-discussing-sanctions-with-russian-ambassador/2017/02/16/e3e1e16a-f3d5-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401\\_story.html?postshare=791487281136296&tid=ss\\_tw](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/flynn-in-fbi-interview-denied-discussing-sanctions-with-russian-ambassador/2017/02/16/e3e1e16a-f3d5-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?postshare=791487281136296&tid=ss_tw)

Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn denied to FBI agents in an interview last month that he had discussed U.S. sanctions against Russia with that country's ambassador to the United States before President Trump took office, contradicting the contents of intercepted communications collected by intelligence agencies, current and former U.S. officials said.

The Jan. 24 interview potentially puts Flynn in legal jeopardy, as lying to the FBI is a felony, but any decision to prosecute would ultimately lie with the Justice Department. Some officials said bringing a case could prove difficult in part because Flynn may attempt to parse the definition of sanctions.

A spokesman for Flynn said he had no response. The FBI declined to comment.

Flynn spoke to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak following Trump's election, and denied for weeks that the December conversation involved sanctions the Obama administration imposed on Russia in response to its meddling in the U.S. election. In a recent interview with the Daily Caller, Flynn said he didn't discuss "sanctions" but did discuss the Obama administration's expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats, which were part of the sanctions package it announced on Dec. 29.

Trump asked for Flynn's resignation Monday night following reports in The Washington Post that revealed Flynn had misled Vice President Pence in denying the substance of the call and that Justice Department officials had warned the White House that Flynn was a possible target of Russian blackmail, as a result.

Two days after the interview, acting Attorney General Sally Q. Yates informed Donald McGahn, Trump's White House counsel, about the contents of the intercepted phone call. Yates and other officials were concerned that Russia could use the mischaracterization of the call — which Pence had repeated on national television — to blackmail the national security adviser and did not think it was fair to keep Pence in the dark about the discrepancies, according to officials familiar with their thinking.

At a press conference on Thursday, Trump called Flynn a "fine person" and said he had done nothing wrong in engaging with the Russian envoy.

Senior Justice and intelligence officials who have reviewed the phone call thought Flynn's statements to Kislyak were inappropriate, if not illegal, because he suggested that the Kremlin could expect a reprieve from the sanctions.

At the same time, officials knew that seeking to build a case against Flynn for violating an obscure 1799 statute known as the Logan Act — which bars private citizens from interfering in diplomatic disputes — would be legally and political daunting.

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**From:** Crowell, James (ODAG)

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:44 PM

To: Hunt, Jody (OAG) <johunt@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Rybicki, David (OAG) <drybicki@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Tucker, Rachael (OAG) <ratucker@jmd.usdoj.gov>;

Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) <zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: RE: POTUS statement re leak investigation

(b) (5) [REDACTED] We do not comment on investigations – whether they exist or not. We should (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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From: Hunt, Jody (OAG)

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:43 PM

To: Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Rybicki, David (OAG) <drybicki@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Tucker, Rachael (OAG) <ratucker@jmd.usdoj.gov>;

Crowell, James (ODAG) <jcrowell@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)

<zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: POTUS statement re leak investigation

My view is (b) (5) [REDACTED] Thoughts from others welcome.

On Feb 16, 2017, at 1:52 PM, Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

POTUS just said in his news conference that he called the AG to ask that the department look into the criminal leaks that led to National Security Advisor Flynn's resignation. We're getting swamped with calls asking to 1) confirm the call took place, and 2) confirm whether the department has launched an investigation.

Let me know who would be best to work with on a response.

Thx,  
Peter

(b) (6) [REDACTED] direct  
[REDACTED] cell

**Carr, Peter (OPA)**

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**From:** Carr, Peter (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Jody (OAG); Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Subject:** CNN story on FBI contacts

I wanted to flag this story that just popped at CNN. You'll see a statement there from a spokesman (me) regarding the Mukasey and Holder memos. CNN did not raise the substance of this story with me. Instead, the question to me was a quick one asking for a copy of the Mukasey and Holder memos and whether the AG was planning to issue a similar memo.

FBI refused White House request to knock down recent Trump-Russia stories  
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/23/politics/fbi-refused-white-house-request-to-knock-down-recent-trump-russia-stories/index.html>

**Hunt, Jody (OAG)**

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**From:** Hunt, Jody (OAG)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:05 PM  
**To:** Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Boente, Dana (ODAG); Tucker, Rachael (OAG)  
**Subject:** Re: FBI refused White House request to knock down recent Trump-Russia stories - CNNPolitics.com

I think it is the same as what Peter Carr sent at about 6:30 pm. WH was aware of it.

> On Feb 23, 2017, at 9:52 PM, Crowell, James (ODAG) <jcrowell@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

>

> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/23/politics/fbi-refused-white-house-request-to-knock-down-recent-trump-russia-stories/index.html>



Hunt, Jody (OAG)

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**From:** Hunt, Jody (OAG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:37 PM  
**To:** Sarah Isgur Flores  
**Subject:** RE: wsj

(b) (5)



**From:** Sarah Isgur Flores (b)(6): Sarah Flores personal  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:23 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Jody (CIV) <jody.hunt@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** wsj

By

[CAROL E. LEE](#),

[CHRISTOPHER S. STEWART](#),

[ROB BARRY](#) and

[SHANE HARRIS](#)

Updated March 1, 2017 10:56 p.m. ET

[242 COMMENTS](#)

WASHINGTON—U.S. investigators have examined contacts Attorney General Jeff Sessions had with Russian officials during the time he was advising Donald Trump's presidential campaign, according to people familiar with the matter.

The outcome of the inquiry, and whether it is ongoing, wasn't clear, these people said. The contacts were being examined as part of a wide-ranging U.S. counterintelligence investigation into possible communications between members of Mr. Trump's campaign team and Russian operatives, they said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been leading the investigation, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The White House directed requests for comment to the Justice Department.

During his confirmation hearing for attorney general in January, Mr. Sessions, a Republican senator from Alabama, testified under oath that he had no contact with Russian officials as a campaign surrogate and never discussed the 2016 election with Russian officials.

## TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

But Mr. Sessions spoke with the Russian ambassador to the U.S., Sergei Kislyak, while the Republican National Convention was under way in Cleveland last summer, according to his spokeswoman, Sarah Flores. He also spoke with Mr. Kislyak on another occasion last year, by phone from his Senate office, she said.

Ms. Flores said the contact last July occurred when Mr. Sessions spoke at a Heritage Foundation event attended by Mr. Kislyak in Cleveland, appearing in his capacity as a senator, not a campaign official. She said several ambassadors approached Mr. Sessions after his speech at the Heritage Foundation event, including Mr. Kislyak.

"It was short and informal," she said.

She said the attorney general wasn't aware that his communications have been under investigation.

During his confirmation hearing in January, Mr. Sessions was asked what he would do if any evidence emerged that someone affiliated with the Trump campaign communicated with the Russian government during campaign and said: "I'm not aware of any of those activities."

"I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign and I didn't have—did not have communications with the Russians, and I'm unable to comment on it," he said.

Ms. Flores said Mr. Sessions wasn't required to disclose the contacts because they took place in his capacity as a senator, not a campaign official.

“The attorney general has been very clear that as a senator he had conversations with the Russian ambassador,” Ms. Flores said in a statement. “Last year, the senator had over 25 conversations with foreign ambassadors as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, including the British, Korean, Japanese, Polish, Indian, Chinese, Canadian, Australian, German and Russian ambassadors.”

The focus of the U.S. counterintelligence investigation has been on communications between Trump campaign officials and Russia. The inquiry involving Mr. Sessions is examining his contacts while serving as Mr. Trump’s foreign-policy adviser in the spring and summer of 2016, one person familiar with the matter said.

The investigation is being pursued by the FBI, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and Treasury Department, officials have said. Counterintelligence probes seldom lead to public accusations or criminal charges.

However, the probe, if ongoing, could create a highly unusual and sensitive political dynamic given that the FBI is part of the Justice Department that Mr. Session as attorney general, now leads. Mr. Sessions has only been in office for under a month and the investigation began before he was nominated and approved by the Senate.

Jeff Sessions, then a senator for Alabama, arriving at Trump Tower on Nov. 15. He was sworn in as attorney general in February.

Jeff Sessions, then a senator for Alabama, arriving at Trump Tower on Nov. 15. He was sworn in as attorney general in February. *PHOTO: DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES*

The FBI’s role in the investigation into Mr. Sessions’ conversations left the agency “wringing its hands” about how to proceed, said one person familiar with the matter.

Mr. Trump asked for the resignation of his national security adviser, Mike Flynn, after Mr. Flynn misled Vice President Mike Pence over the nature of a conversation he had in December with Russia’s ambassador to the U.S.

The White House has denied any inappropriate interactions between associates of Mr. Trump and Russian officials. Asked during a news conference in February if anyone advising his campaign had contact with Russia during the campaign, Mr. Trump said “nobody that I know of.”

Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate are investigating Russia’s alleged involvement in the election campaign and possible ties or communication between Russian officials and the Trump

campaign.

Russia has denied interfering in the U.S. election, blaming accusations on American politicians who want to sabotage relations between the two countries.

Some Republicans contend that the Russia investigations are politically motivated and are being pushed by people who were furious that the FBI, led by its director, James Comey, continued to investigate Hillary Clinton's emails late into the 2016 election campaign. These Republicans say that the Russia investigations will prove to be without foundation.

Until this week, Mr. Sessions had resisted calls to remove himself from any role investigating possible ties between Trump associates and Russia. Democrats have said he should do so because of his place advising the Trump campaign.

On Monday, he suggested he would take himself off a case under certain circumstances, though he left out any specifics. Mr. Sessions told reporters he would "recuse myself on anything that I should recuse myself on, that's all I can tell you."

As a senator, Mr. Sessions was a sharp critic of Russia. He supported kicking the country out of the Group of Eight summit and called for sanctions against Moscow for its 2014 invasion of Ukraine.

"I believe a systematic effort should be undertaken so that Russia feels pain for this," Mr. Sessions said at the time.

But his rhetoric softened after he endorsed Mr. Trump, and he advocated better relations with Russia.

Mr. Sessions joined the Trump campaign in February 2016 at a rally in the former senator's home state of Alabama. Within days, Mr. Trump named him chairman of his campaign's national-security advisory committee.

It is unclear whether anyone in Congress knew about the investigation into Mr. Sessions' Russian interactions before Mr. Sessions was confirmed.

The investigation into Mr. Sessions' communications comes amid calls from Democrats and some Republicans for an independent inquiry into the possible cooperation between the Trump campaign and the Russian government to influence the 2016 election, particularly through cyberattacks.

U.S. intelligence agencies already concluded that Russia hacked the Democratic National Committee and the personal email account of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. Emails from both were

the personal email account of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. Emails from both were released on the website WikiLeaks.

At first, Mr. Trump disputed that assessment, but later said: "I think it was Russia, but we also get hacked by other countries."

Justice Department regulations require the attorney general to remove himself from investigations that present a real or perceived conflict of interest. But ultimately, there is no practical mechanism, other than public pressure or an impeachment proceeding, to force the matter.

The disclosures Wednesday spurred questions about whether Mr. Sessions could oversee investigations.

"If there is something there and it goes up the chain of investigation, it is clear to me that Jeff Sessions, who is my dear friend, can not make this decision about Trump," said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.), adding that a special prosecutor might be needed.

The law has changed since wide-ranging probes into the Clinton Administration, when a three-judge panel could appoint an "independent counsel" or a "special prosecutor." Today, the attorney general retains far more control over the scope of a special investigation and its prosecutorial jurisdiction.

Mr. Sessions can also appoint a temporary "special counsel" from outside the Department of Justice to conduct an investigation into a particularly sensitive matter and possibly prosecute related wrongdoing.

—Lisa Schwartz contributed to this article.

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Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

**Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)**

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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** Ramer, Sam (OLA)  
**Subject:** RE: Can we talk about this article ?

(b) (5)

xxxx

Sarah Isgur Flores  
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

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**From:** Ramer, Sam (OLA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:26 AM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Can we talk about this article ?

(b) (5)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-sought-to-block-sally-yates-from-testifying-to-congress-on-russia/2017/03/28/82b73e18-13b4-11e7-9e4f-09aa75d3ec57\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.2dfdad75c697](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-sought-to-block-sally-yates-from-testifying-to-congress-on-russia/2017/03/28/82b73e18-13b4-11e7-9e4f-09aa75d3ec57_story.html?utm_term=.2dfdad75c697)

**Samuel R. Ramer**  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Room 1143 Main Justice Building  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

(b) (6)

## Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA)  
**Subject:** RE: CNBC request for comment

yes

xxx

Sarah Isgur Flores  
Director of Public Affairs  
(b) (6)

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**From:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) [mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:27 AM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) (JMD) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: CNBC request for comment

Are you taking these?>

---

**From:** Press  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:17 AM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: CNBC request for comment

Thank you! Kristen

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**From:** Pramuk, Jacob (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Jacob.Pramuk@NBCUNI.COM]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** [Press@usdoj.gov](mailto:Press@usdoj.gov)  
**Subject:** CNBC request for comment

Hello,

Does the Justice Department have any comment on this Washington Post story that the administration aimed to block Sally Yate from testifying at a House hearing on Russia?

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-sought-to-block-sally-yates-from-testifying-to-congress-on-russia/2017/03/28/82b73e18-13b4-11e7-9e4f-09aa75d3ec57\\_story.html?tid=ss&utm\\_term=.2e7b0eafa9a3](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-sought-to-block-sally-yates-from-testifying-to-congress-on-russia/2017/03/28/82b73e18-13b4-11e7-9e4f-09aa75d3ec57_story.html?tid=ss&utm_term=.2e7b0eafa9a3)

Best,  
Jacob Pramuk



**Prior, Ian (OPA)**

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**From:** Prior, Ian (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 6:06 PM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

Tweet deck

Ian D. Prior  
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

On Apr 20, 2017, at 6:02 PM, Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Can you set up alerts or did you just have a tweet deck up?

---

**From:** Prior, Ian (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

twitter

Ian D. Prior  
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

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**From:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** Prior, Ian (OPA) <[IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

How did you get this so fast?

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**From:** Prior, Ian (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 5:24 PM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** Prior, Ian (OPA) (JMD) <[ian.prior@usdoj.gov](mailto:ian.prior@usdoj.gov)>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <[tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

Wapo already has itr: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-dept->

[debating-charges-against-wikileaks-members-in-revelations-of-diplomatic-cia-materials/2017/04/20/32b15336-2548-11e7-a1b3-faff0034e2de\\_story.html?tid=ss\\_tw&utm\\_term=.d87247dcd9d6](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2017/04/20/32b15336-2548-11e7-a1b3-faff0034e2de_story.html?tid=ss_tw&utm_term=.d87247dcd9d6)

Ian D. Prior  
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 5:21 PM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** Prior, Ian (OPA) (JMD) <[Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov)>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <[tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

It'd be nice to (b) (5)

On Apr 20, 2017, at 3:20 PM, Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

CNN just called back and said they are soon going with that Assange Has been charged and that the US will seek his arrest.

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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** Prior, Ian (OPA) (JMD) <[Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov)>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <[tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media may soon say that Jullian Assange of Wiki Leaks could be charged by DOJ

Roger thanks

On Apr 20, 2017, at 1:48 PM, Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <[mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Sarah, Not sure who is generating this but both Washington Post and CNN called me today about the possibility of charging Julianne Assange.

Both outlets have significantly different stories but same premise that Assange could be soon charged.

Washington Post is saying it is linked to a the CIA Vault 7 investigation and CNN is saying it is a change in position that was signified by the CIA Director's comments last week saying that WikiLeaks is a non-state hostile intelligence service.

Both are saying that this AG doesn't have the same concerns as the past AG with regards to the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment matters that past AG Holder believed made charging Assange unfavorable.

I notified NSD about the media interest and they want to (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

I called EDVA and Josh Stueve confirmed that the Washington Post had called him Monday but it didn't seem like at the time he had much of a story. He also said that CNN called him today. He said he called the ADAG/USA-EDVA to notify him of the pending news stories and the guidance was (b) (5)

(b) (5)

I wanted to make sure to give you a heads up because if this breaks before he does his media hits he could likely be asked about it.

Let me know if you want to discuss.

**Marc Raimondi**  
National Security Spokesman  
U.S. Department of Justice  
[Marc.raimondi@usdoj.gov](mailto:Marc.raimondi@usdoj.gov)

O: (b) (6)

C:

## Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG)

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**From:** Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2017 12:49 PM  
**To:** Crowell, James (ODAG); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG); Lan, Iris (ODAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Bloomberg requesting comment on WSJ story

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2017 12:48 PM  
**To:** Boente, Dana J. (NSD) <djboente@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Toscas, George (NSD) <gtoscas@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Laufman, David (NSD) <dlaufman@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Bloomberg requesting comment on WSJ story

Flagging...Bloomberg is chasing this story that appeared in the in WSJ friday. We're declining comment.

### **Former Trump Adviser Paul Manafort's Bank Records Sought in Probe (Wall Street Journal)**

Federal investigators looking into Russian election interference requested information; New York investigators also examining his real-estate transactions

By Michael Rothfeld, Mark Maremont and Rebecca Davis O'Brien  
May 12, 2017 9:00 p.m. ET

The Justice Department last month requested banking records of Paul Manafort as part of a widening of probes related to President Donald Trump's former campaign associates and whether they colluded with Russia in interfering with the 2016 election, according to people familiar with the matter.

In mid-April, federal investigators requested Mr. Manafort's banking records from Citizens Financial Group Inc., the people said.

It isn't clear whether Citizens is the only bank that received such a request or whether it came in the form of a subpoena. Federal law generally requires that a bank receive a subpoena to turn over customer records, lawyers not connected to the investigation said.

Citizens gave Mr. Manafort a \$2.7 million loan last year to refinance debt on a Manhattan condominium and borrow additional cash, New York City real-estate records show. The Wall Street Journal couldn't ascertain if the Justice Department request is related to that transaction or whether the bank has turned over Mr. Manafort's records.

Separately, investigators for New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman as well as Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. also have been examining real-estate transactions by Mr. Manafort, who has spent and borrowed tens of millions of dollars in connection with property across the U.S. over the past decade, people familiar with the matter say. The request for Mr. Manafort's banking records and the New York inquiries haven't previously been reported.

Mr. Manafort hasn't been accused of wrongdoing and has said any suggestion that he coordinated with Russia

is unfounded.

Mr. Manafort's spokesman, Jason Maloni, said: "I don't know anything about a subpoena. But if someone is leaking details of a confidential investigation, that is a serious crime."

The inquiries indicate how the examination of Mr. Trump's campaign officials may be heating up.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said it is scrutinizing whether Trump associates coordinated with Russian hackers in interfering with last year's presidential campaign. Those associates include Mr. Manafort, who was Mr. Trump's campaign chairman for a short time, former national security adviser Mike Flynn, and former advisers Roger Stone and Carter Page, according to the Journal and other outlets. A federal grand jury in Northern Virginia has issued subpoenas for records tied to Mr. Flynn, a person familiar with the matter has said.

None of the aides have been charged with any crime. All have denied any wrongdoing. Mr. Trump and his staff have dismissed allegations of Russian collusion and Russia has denied meddling in the election.

Mr. Manafort, a longtime political consultant for Republicans in the U.S. and for politicians overseas, has offered to cooperate with and testify before congressional committees investigating potential Russian influence in the election, Mr. Maloni said.

Anticorruption officials in Ukraine, working with the FBI, are investigating a ledger found in Ukraine, where Mr. Manafort long worked as a consultant for a pro-Russia political party. The ledger lists \$12.7 million in purported cash payments from that party to Mr. Manafort or affiliated entities, according to Ukrainian officials and a person familiar with the matter. Ukrainian officials have said they have no evidence Mr. Manafort actually received the money, and Mr. Manafort previously has questioned the document's authenticity.

In late March, the Journal reported that Mr. Manafort had borrowed \$16 million from a bank run by a former Trump campaign adviser after the election to salvage troubled investments, according to real-estate and court records. Steve Calk, who runs the Federal Savings Bank, a small bank in Chicago, declined to comment on whether his bank had been contacted by federal investigators.

The Journal also reported that since the mid-2000s, around the time Mr. Manafort started working as a political adviser to wealthy pro-Russia politicians in the Ukrainian Party of Regions, he and immediate family members bought at least six properties in New York, Florida and Virginia for more than \$16 million, property records show.

Also in late March, WNYC public radio station reported on Mr. Manafort's use of corporate entities to purchase multimillion-dollar properties without mortgages, some of which he later took loans against. NBC News reported around the same time that a Cyprus bank had investigated accounts associated with Mr. Manafort for possible money laundering, and that he had closed them after questions were raised.

Mr. Manafort, through a spokesman, has said the loans from the former campaign adviser were straightforward and proper. He has said all his real-estate transactions were transparent, including those in which purchases were made through corporate entities that were clearly connected to him. He has said the Cyprus accounts were related to legitimate work there for clients and the accounts were closed due to instability in the banking system. He hasn't been accused of wrongdoing in connection with any of these matters.

In New York, investigators for the Manhattan district attorney's office and the state attorney general's office have begun reviewing public records relating to Mr. Manafort's real-estate and financial transactions, according

to people familiar with the matter. The examinations are at a very early stage, they say.

Mr. Schneiderman's office will likely focus on whether any transactions were used for money-laundering and Mr. Vance's office is likely to focus on whether there are any indications of fraud, people familiar with the matter said. Messrs. Schneiderman and Vance are both Democrats.

Appeared in the May. 13, 2017, print edition as 'Ex-Trump Adviser's Bank Data Sought.'

**Carr, Peter (OPA)**

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**From:** Carr, Peter (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2017 7:37 PM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Cc:** Prior, Ian (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: does doj have a comment on this?

Will do, thx.

On May 15, 2017, at 7:05 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Just decline

On May 15, 2017, at 7:03 PM, Carr, Peter (OPA) <[pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Would you like to handle or have me just decline?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** kelly cohen <[kcohen@washingtonexaminer.com](mailto:kcohen@washingtonexaminer.com)>  
**Date:** May 15, 2017 at 6:55:16 PM EDT  
**To:** Peter Carr <[peter.carr@usdoj.gov](mailto:peter.carr@usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** **does doj have a comment on this?**

hey- does the DOJ have a statement of any kind on this wapo report? [https://www.washingtonpost.com/amphtml/world/national-security/trump-revealed-highly-classified-information-to-russian-foreign-minister-and-ambassador/2017/05/15/530c172a-3960-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/amphtml/world/national-security/trump-revealed-highly-classified-information-to-russian-foreign-minister-and-ambassador/2017/05/15/530c172a-3960-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html)

thanks in advance!

-kelly cohen  
(sent from ?, pardon typos)

## Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6:29 PM  
**To:** Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD)  
**Subject:** RE: NY Times article: Memo says Trump Asked Comey to End Flynn Investigation

No this is not the (b) (6) story

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**From:** Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NY Times article: Memo says Trump Asked Comey to End Flynn Investigation

Is this the story, or are they working on something else that could include (b) (6) name?

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:51 PM  
**To:** Boente, Dana J. (NSD) <djboente@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Toscas, George (NSD) <gtoscas@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Laufman, David (NSD) <dlaufman@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD) <braweinsheimer@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NY Times article: Memo says Trump Asked Comey to End Flynn Investigation

### **Comey Memo Says Trump Asked Him to End Flynn Investigation (New York Times)**

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDTMAY 16, 2017

James B. Comey, the former F.B.I. director, during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing this month. Credit Gabriella Demczuk for The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Trump asked the F.B.I. director, James B. Comey, to shut down the federal investigation into Mr. Trump's former national security adviser, Michael T. Flynn, in an Oval Office meeting in February, according to a memo Mr. Comey wrote shortly after the meeting.

"I hope you can let this go," the president told Mr. Comey, according to the memo.

The existence of Mr. Trump's request is the clearest evidence that the president has tried to directly influence the Justice Department and F.B.I. investigation into links between Mr. Trump's associates and Russia.

Mr. Comey wrote the memo detailing his conversation with the president immediately after the meeting, which took place the day after Mr. Flynn resigned, according to two people who read the memo. The memo was part of a paper trail Mr. Comey created documenting what he perceived as the president's improper efforts to influence a continuing investigation. An F.B.I. agent's contemporaneous notes are widely held up in court as credible evidence of conversations.

Mr. Comey shared the existence of the memo with senior F.B.I. officials and close associates. The New York Times has not viewed a copy of the memo, which is unclassified, but one of Mr. Comey's associates read parts of the memo to a Times reporter.

"I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go," Mr. Trump told Mr. Comey, according to the memo. "He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go."



Mr. Trump told Mr. Comey that Mr. Flynn had done nothing wrong, according to the memo.

Mr. Comey did not say anything to Mr. Trump about curtailing the investigation, only replying: "I agree he is a good guy."

In a statement, the White House denied the version of events in the memo.

"While the president has repeatedly expressed his view that General Flynn is a decent man who served and protected our country, the president has never asked Mr. Comey or anyone else to end any investigation, including any investigation involving General Flynn," the statement said. "The president has the utmost respect for our law enforcement agencies, and all investigations. This is not a truthful or accurate portrayal of the conversation between the president and Mr. Comey."

In testimony to the Senate last week, the acting F.B.I. director, Andrew G. McCabe, said, "There has been no effort to impede our investigation to date."

Mr. McCabe was referring to the broad investigation into possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. The investigation into Mr. Flynn is separate.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. declined to comment.

Mr. Comey created similar memos — including some that are classified — about every phone call and meeting he had with the president, the two people said. It is unclear whether Mr. Comey told the Justice Department about the conversation or his memos.

Mr. Trump fired Mr. Comey last week. Trump administration officials have provided multiple, conflicting accounts of the reasoning behind Mr. Comey's dismissal. Mr. Trump said in a television interview that one of the reasons was because he believed "this Russia thing" was a "made-up story."

The Feb. 14 meeting took place just a day after Mr. Flynn was forced out of his job after it was revealed he had lied to Vice President Mike Pence about the nature of phone conversations he had had with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

Despite the conversation between Mr. Trump and Mr. Comey, the investigation of Mr. Flynn has proceeded. In Virginia, a federal grand jury has issued subpoenas in recent weeks for records related to Mr. Flynn. Part of the Flynn investigation is centered on his financial ties to Russia and Turkey.

Mr. Comey had been in the Oval Office that day with other senior national security officials for a terrorism threat briefing. When the meeting ended, Mr. Trump told those present — including Mr. Pence and Attorney General Jeff Sessions — to leave the room except for Mr. Comey.

Alone in the Oval Office, Mr. Trump began the discussion by condemning leaks to the news media, saying that Mr. Comey should consider putting reporters in prison for publishing classified information, according to one of Mr. Comey's associates.

Mr. Trump then turned the discussion to Mr. Flynn.

After writing up a memo that outlined the meeting, Mr. Comey shared it with senior F.B.I. officials. Mr. Comey and his aides perceived Mr. Trump's comments as an effort to influence the investigation, but they decided that

they would try to keep the conversation secret — even from the F.B.I. agents working on the Russia investigation — so the details of the conversation would not affect the investigation.

Mr. Comey was known among his closest advisers to document conversations that he believed would later be called into question, according to two former confidants, who said Mr. Comey was uncomfortable at times with his relationship with Mr. Trump.

Mr. Comey's recollection has been bolstered in the past by F.B.I. notes. In 2007, he told Congress about a now-famous showdown with senior White House officials over the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program. The White House disputed Mr. Comey's account, but the F.B.I. director at the time, Robert S. Mueller III, kept notes that backed up Mr. Comey's story.

The White House has repeatedly crossed lines that other administrations have been reluctant to cross when discussing politically charged criminal investigations. Mr. Trump has disparaged the ongoing F.B.I. investigation as a hoax and called for an investigation into his political rivals. His representatives have taken the unusual step of declaring no need for a special prosecutor to investigate the president's associates.

The Oval Office meeting occurred a little more than two weeks after Mr. Trump summoned Mr. Comey to the White House for a lengthy, one-on-one dinner in the residence. At that dinner, on Jan. 27, Mr. Trump asked Mr. Comey at least two times for a pledge of loyalty — which Mr. Comey declined, according to one of Mr. Comey's associates.

In a Twitter posting on Friday, Mr. Trump said that “James Comey better hope that there are no ‘tapes’ of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!”

After the meeting, Mr. Comey's associates did not believe there was any way to corroborate Mr. Trump's statements. But Mr. Trump's suggestion last week that he was keeping tapes has made them wonder whether there are tapes that back up Mr. Comey's account.

The Jan. 27 dinner came a day after White House officials learned that Mr. Flynn had been interviewed by F.B.I. agents about his phone calls with the Russian ambassador, Sergey I. Kislyak. On Jan. 26, Acting Attorney General Sally Q. Yates told the White House counsel about the interview, and said Mr. Flynn could be subject to blackmail by the Russians because they knew he had lied about the content of the calls.

Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman contributed reporting.

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:38 PM

**To:** Boente, Dana J. (NSD) <[djboente@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:djboente@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Toscas, George (NSD) <[gtoscas@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:gtoscas@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Laufman, David (NSD) <[dlaufman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:dlaufman@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD) <[braweinsheimer@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:braweinsheimer@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG) <[tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov)>

**Subject:** NY Times article: Memo says Trump Asked Comey to End Flynn Investigation

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/16/us/politics/james-comey-trump-flynn-russia-investigation.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=span-ab-top-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>

## Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** Boente, Dana J. (NSD); Toscas, George (NSD); Laufman, David (NSD); Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG); Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD)  
**Subject:** WaPo: Russia probe reaches current White House official, people familiar with the case say

Planning to (b) (5)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russia-probe-reaches-current-white-house-official-people-familiar-with-the-case-say/2017/05/19/7685adba-3c99-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69\\_story.html?hpid=hp\\_hp-banner-main\\_fbiprobe-banner-315pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.b810a79a595a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russia-probe-reaches-current-white-house-official-people-familiar-with-the-case-say/2017/05/19/7685adba-3c99-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-banner-main_fbiprobe-banner-315pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.b810a79a595a)

### **Russia probe reaches current White House official, people familiar with the case say (Washington Post)**

Investigation into Russian ties to White House now focuses on current official

By Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapposky May 19 at 3:02 PM

The law enforcement investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign has identified a current White House official as a significant person of interest, showing that the probe is reaching into the highest levels of government, according to people familiar with the matter.

The senior White House adviser under scrutiny by investigators is someone close to the president, according to these people, who would not further identify the official.

The revelation comes as the investigation also appears to be entering a more overtly active phase, with investigators shifting from work that has remained largely hidden from the public to conducting interviews and using a grand jury to issue subpoenas. The intensity of the probe is expected to accelerate in the coming weeks, the people said.

The sources emphasized that investigators remain keenly interested in people who previously wielded influence in the Trump campaign and administration but are no longer part of it, including former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

Flynn resigned in February after disclosures that he had lied to administration officials about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Current administration officials who have acknowledged contacts with Russian officials include President Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, as well as Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

People familiar with the investigation said the intensifying effort does not mean criminal charges are near, or that any such charges will result. Earlier this week, Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein appointed former FBI director Robert S. Mueller III to serve as special counsel and lead the investigation into Russian meddling.

It is unclear exactly how Mueller's leadership will affect the direction of the probe, and he is already bringing in new people to work on the team. Those familiar with the case said its significance had increased before Mueller's appointment.

Although the case began quietly last July as an effort to determine whether any Trump associates coordinated with Russian operatives to meddle in the presidential election campaign, the investigative work now being done by the FBI also includes determining whether any financial crimes were committed by people close to the president. The people familiar with the matter said the probe has sharpened into something more fraught for the White House, the FBI and the Justice Department — particularly because of the public steps investigators know they now need to take, the people said.

When subpoenas are issued or interviews are requested, it is possible the people being asked to talk or provide documents will reveal publicly what they were asked about.

A small group of lawmakers known as the Gang of Eight was notified of the change in tempo and focus in the investigation at a classified briefing Wednesday evening, the people familiar with the matter said. Then-FBI Director James B. Comey publicly confirmed the existence of the investigation in March.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said, "I can't confirm or deny the existence or nonexistence of investigations or targets of investigations." An FBI spokesman declined to comment.

Team Trump's ties to Russian interests VIEW GRAPHIC

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said, "As the president has stated before, a thorough investigation will confirm that there was no collusion between the campaign and any foreign entity."

While there has been a loud public debate in recent days over the question of whether the president might have attempted to obstruct justice in his private dealings with Comey, whom Trump fired last week, people familiar with the matter said investigators on the case are more focused on Russian influence operations and possible financial crimes.

The FBI's investigation seeks to determine whether and to what extent Trump associates were in contact with Kremlin operatives, what business dealings they might have had in Russia, and whether they in any way facilitated the hacking and publishing of emails from the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, during the presidential campaign. Several congressional committees are also investigating, though their probes could not produce criminal charges.

A grand jury in Alexandria, Va., recently issued a subpoena for records related to Flynn's business, the Flynn Intel Group, which was paid more than \$500,000 by a company owned by a Turkish American businessman close to top Turkish officials, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Flynn Intel Group was paid for research on Fethullah Gulen, a cleric who Turkey's current president believes was responsible for a coup attempt last summer. Flynn retroactively registered with the Justice Department in March as a paid foreign agent for Turkish interests.

Separately from the probe now run by Mueller, Flynn is being investigated by the Pentagon's top watchdog for his foreign payments. Flynn also received \$45,000 to appear in 2015 with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a dinner for RT, a Kremlin-controlled media organization.

Flynn discussed U.S. sanctions against Russia with Russia's ambassador to the United States during the month before Trump took office, and he withheld that fact from the vice president. That prompted then-acting attorney general Sally Yates to warn the White House's top lawyer that Flynn might be susceptible to blackmail. Flynn stepped down after The Washington Post reported on the contents of the call.

The president has nonetheless seemed to defend his former adviser. A memo by Comey alleged that Trump asked that the probe into Flynn be shut down.

The White House also has acknowledged that Kushner met with Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the United States, in late November. Kushner also has acknowledged that he met with the head of a Russian development bank, Vnesheconombank, which has been under U.S. sanctions since July 2014. The president's son-in-law initially omitted contacts with foreign leaders from a national security questionnaire, though his lawyer has said publicly he submitted the form prematurely and informed the FBI soon after that he would provide an update.

Vnesheconombank handles development for the state, and in early 2015, a man purporting to be one of its New York-based employees was arrested and accused of being an unregistered spy.

That man — Evgeny Buryakov — ultimately pleaded guilty and was eventually deported. He had been in contact with former Trump adviser Carter Page, though Page has said he shared only “basic immaterial information and publicly available research documents” with the Russian. Page was the subject of a secret warrant last year issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, based on suspicions he might have been acting as an agent of the Russian government, according to people familiar with the matter. Page has denied any wrongdoing, and accused the government of violating his civil rights.

*Ellen Nakashima and Ashley Parker contributed to this report.*

## Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

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**From:** Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)  
**Subject:** FW: WaPo: Russia probe reaches current White House official, people familiar with the case say

Planning to (b) (5)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russia-probe-reaches-current-white-house-official-people-familiar-with-the-case-say/2017/05/19/7685adba-3c99-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69\\_story.html?hpid=hp\\_hp-banner-main\\_fbiprobe-banner-315pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.b810a79a595a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russia-probe-reaches-current-white-house-official-people-familiar-with-the-case-say/2017/05/19/7685adba-3c99-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-banner-main_fbiprobe-banner-315pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.b810a79a595a)

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Flynn discussed U.S. sanctions against Russia with Russia's ambassador to the United States during the month before Trump took office, and he withheld that fact from the vice president. That prompted then-acting attorney general Sally Yates to warn the White House's top lawyer that Flynn might be susceptible to blackmail. Flynn stepped down after The Washington Post reported on the contents of the call.

The president has nonetheless seemed to defend his former adviser. A memo by Comey alleged that Trump asked that the probe into Flynn be shut down.

The White House also has acknowledged that Kushner met with Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the United States, in late November. Kushner also has acknowledged that he met with the head of a Russian development bank, Vnesheconombank, which has been under U.S. sanctions since July 2014. The president's son-in-law initially omitted contacts with foreign leaders from a national security questionnaire, though his lawyer has said publicly he submitted the form prematurely and informed the FBI soon after that he would provide an update.

Vnesheconombank handles development for the state, and in early 2015, a man purporting to be one of its New York-based employees was arrested and accused of being an unregistered spy.

That man — Evgeny Buryakov — ultimately pleaded guilty and was eventually deported. He had been in contact with former Trump adviser Carter Page, though Page has said he shared only “basic immaterial information and publicly available research documents” with the Russian. Page was the subject of a secret warrant last year issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, based on suspicions he might have been acting as an agent of the Russian government, according to people familiar with the matter. Page has denied any wrongdoing, and accused the government of violating his civil rights.

*Ellen Nakashima and Ashley Parker contributed to this report.*



**Hill, John L. (ODAG)**

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**From:** Hill, John L. (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** Kohl, Ken (USADC)  
**Subject:** Re: Killing C.I.A. Informants, China Crippled U.S. Spying Operations

Thanks for forwarding.

On May 20, 2017, at 5:08 PM, Kohl, Ken (USADC) <[Ken.Kohl](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA> wrote:

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**From:** Maisel, Gregg (USADC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2017 4:21 PM  
**To:** Gillice, Thomas (USADC) <[TGillice](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>, Hill, John (USADC) <[JHills](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>  
**Cc:** Curtis, Deborah (USADC) <[DCURTIS4](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>, Kohl, Ken (USADC) <[KKohl](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Killing C.I.A. Informants, China Crippled U.S. Spying Operations

Interesting article. Mentions Claiborne at the end.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Malis, Jonathan M. (USADC)" <[JMalis](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>  
**Date:** May 20, 2017 at 2:05:09 PM EDT  
**To:** "Maisel, Gregg (USADC)" <[GMaisel](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>, "Kohl, Ken (USADC)" <[KKohl](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>, "Curtis, Deborah (USADC)" <[DCURTIS4](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>, "Ballantine, Jocelyn (USADC)" <[JBallantine](#)(b)(6) per EOUSA>  
**Subject:** Killing C.I.A. Informants, China Crippled U.S. Spying Operations

FYI

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/mobile.nytimes.com/2017/05/20/world/asia/china-cia-spies-espionage.amp.html>

Jonathan M. Malis  
(b) (6)

**Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)**

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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 9:47 PM  
**To:** AMZ  
**Cc:** JLQ  
**Subject:** Re: CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says

Looks good to me. I'll run it up the flagpole over here. Thanks for looking at it!

On May 22, 2017, at 9:32 PM, AMZ <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

(b) (5)



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**From:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** AMZ <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says

**First on CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says**

CNN

Pamela Brown and Shimon Prokupecz

May 22, 2017 – 6:04 PM

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/22/politics/mueller-comey-russia-investigation/index.html>

[VIDEO EMBEDDED]

(CNN) - Robert Mueller -- the former FBI director now overseeing the Department of Justice's investigation into Russia's election-year meddling and contact with the Trump campaign -- has been briefed on the contents of some of the memos that former FBI Director James Comey kept to document his conversations with President Donald Trump, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Additionally, he has already visited FBI headquarters, where he met with the counterintelligence agents who have been working on the case since last July, according to two people familiar with the matter.

In one memo, Comey wrote that Trump asked him to end the FBI probe into former national security adviser Michael Flynn, according to a person familiar with the matter.

One source added that part of Mueller's investigation is expected to focus on obstruction of justice. In that case, Comey would be a witness and Mueller will likely interview him as part of the probe.

Potentially complicating that effort is Comey's acceptance to testify on Capitol Hill after Memorial Day. The source says Comey likely will be limited with what he will be able to say now that the Russia probe is in the hands of Mueller.

"There's no way in the world Mueller wants his witness testifying," the source said. "He wants to question him before anyone else does but before that he'll have to go through tons of documents."

That means there will likely be a lot of negotiating happening in the early stages of the investigation particularly when it comes to congressional inquiries on the same material.

The source says Mueller is likely going to want to talk to people involved in the House and Senate investigations to make sure that he has the lead on everything involved with this investigation.

On Monday, Democratic Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the vice chairman of the Senate intelligence panel, told CNN that he and the committee's chairman, North Carolina Republican Sen. Richard Burr, hoped to meet with Mueller to talk about what Comey can and cannot say in his testimony.

"Our hope is that the chairman and I will be able to sit down and again just kind of get the rules of the road for us going forward with Director Mueller," Warner said.

Also on Monday, Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chair of the House oversight committee, tweeted that he would postpone a planned Wednesday hearing because Comey told him he wants to speak with Mueller before testifying publicly.

**Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)**

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**From:** Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says

Good

On May 23, 2017, at 8:40 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Jim approved last night but it has changed slightly—can you give a quick sign off on the below?

xxx

Sarah Isgur Flores  
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

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**From:** Schools, Scott (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:08 AM  
**To:** Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says

Yes.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 22, 2017, at 10:45 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Do these edits work for you?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** AMZ <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** May 22, 2017 at 9:32:18 PM EDT  
**To:** "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <[siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** JLQ <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNN: Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

