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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF:

BRUCE OHR

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

The interview in this matter was held at the Senate
Dirksen Building, Hearing Room 226, commencing at 10:04 a.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2

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5 Chief Investigative Counsel

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7 ARTHUR RADFORD BAKER, ESQ.

8 Senior Investigative Counsel

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11 Committee Chairman

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13 LEE HOLMES, ESQ.

14 Chief Counsel to Chairman Graham

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16 ALEX HASKELL, ESQ.

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19 HEATHER SAWYER, ESQ.

20 Staff Director & Chief Counsel

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24 REBECCA S. HEKMAN, ESQ.

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I N D E X

EXAMINATION BY

COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY:

PAGE

By Mr. Somers: 9, 77, 156

By Chairman Graham: 137

COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY:

By Mr. Haskell: 59, 120, 169

By Ms. Sawyer: 165

E X H I B I T S

OHR EXHIBIT NO.

MARKED

1 - E-mail Correspondence, HPSCI-DOJ 90

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. SOMERS: Good morning. This is a transcribed
3 interview of Bruce Ohr. Chairman Graham requested this
4 interview as part of an investigation by the Senate
5 Judiciary Committee into matters related to the Justice
6 Department's and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's
7 handling of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, including
8 applications for and renewals of the Foreign Intelligence
9 Surveillance Act warrant on Carter Page.

10 Would the witness please state your name and
11 current position at the Justice Department for the record.

12 THE WITNESS: Good morning. Bruce Ohr. I am
13 senior counsel with the Office of International Affairs,
14 Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

15 MR. SOMERS: Thank you.

16 On behalf of Chairman Graham, I want to thank you
17 for appearing today and we appreciate your willingness to
18 appear voluntarily.

19 My name is Zachary Somers. I'm the Majority
20 chief investigative counsel to the Committee. I would now
21 like to ask everyone that's here in the room, other than
22 your personal counsel, to introduce themselves for the
23 record.

24 MR. BAKER: Arthur Baker, senior investigative
25 counsel for the Majority staff and Senator Graham, chairman.

1 MR. HASKELL: Alex Haskell, counsel for the
2 Minority staff and Ranking Member Feinstein.

3 MS. ZDEB: Sara Zdeb, senior counsel for the
4 Minority staff, and we're also expecting Heather Sawyer,
5 Senator Feinstein's chief counsel.

6 MR. HOLMES: I'm Lee Holmes, Chairman Graham's
7 chief counsel.

8 MS. HEKMAN: Rebecca Hekman for Bruce Ohr.

9 MR. FINDLAY: Patrick Findlay, U.S. Department of
10 Justice.

11 MR. BERMAN: Josh Berman, counsel for Bruce Ohr.

12 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], assistant
13 general counsel, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

14 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], senior counsel, U.S.
15 Department of Justice.

16 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], counsel for
17 Department of Justice Legislative Affairs.

18 MR. SOMERS: Thank you.

19 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply
20 in this setting, but there are some guidelines that we
21 follow that I would like to go over.

22 Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The
23 Majority will ask questions for the first hour. Then the
24 Minority will have an opportunity to ask questions for an
25 equal period of time. We will go back and forth in this

1 manner until there are no more questions and the interview
2 is over.

3 Typically, we take a short break at the end of
4 each hour of questioning, but if you would like to take a
5 break apart from that, please let us know.

6 As I noted earlier, you are appearing
7 voluntarily. Accordingly, we anticipate that our questions
8 will receive complete responses. To the extent that you
9 decline to answer our questions or counsel instructs you not
10 to answer, we will consider whether a subpoena is necessary.

11 As you can see, there is an official reporter
12 taking down everything that is said to make a written
13 record. So we ask that you give verbal responses to all
14 questions.

15 Do you understand that?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 MR. SOMERS: So that the reporter can take down a
18 clear record, is it important that we don't talk over one
19 another or interrupt each other, if we can help it.

20 The Committee encourages witnesses who appear for
21 transcribed interviews to freely consult with counsel if
22 they so choose, and you are appearing today with counsel.

23 Would counsel please state his name for the
24 record.

25 MR. BERMAN: Joshua Berman for the Clifford,

1 Chance law firm.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to be here. Thank
3 you for the accommodation with my personal situation last
4 Thursday to allow for us to be here this morning. I want to
5 say thank you for that.

6 MR. SOMERS: No problem.

7 MR. BERMAN: Mr. Ohr is here to be 100 percent
8 fully cooperative.

9 MR. SOMERS: Thank you.

10 We want you to answer our questions in the most
11 complete and truthful manner as possible. So we will take
12 our time. If you have any questions or if you don't
13 understand one of our questions, please let us know.

14 If you honestly don't know the answer to a
15 question or do not remember it, it is best not to guess.
16 Please just give us your best recollection and it is okay to
17 tell us if you learned information from someone else. If
18 there are things you don't know or can't remember, just say
19 so and please inform us who, to the best of your knowledge,
20 might be able to provide a more complete response to our
21 questions.

22 You should also understand, although this
23 interview is not under oath, you are required by law to
24 answers questions of Congress truthfully. Do you understand
25 that?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 MR. SOMERS: This also applies to questions posed
3 by Congressional staff in an interview. Do you understand
4 this?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 MR. SOMERS: Witnesses who knowingly provide
7 false testimony can be subject to criminal prosecution for
8 perjury or for making false statements. Do you understand
9 this?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 MR. SOMERS: Is there any reason you are unable
12 to provide truthful answers to today's questions?

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 MR. SOMERS: Finally, we ask that you not speak
15 about what we discuss in this interview with anyone outside
16 who is not in the room here today in order to preserve the
17 integrity of our investigation.

18 That is the end of my preamble. Do you have any
19 questions before we begin?

20 THE WITNESS: No.

21 MR. SOMERS: It's now 10:08. We'll begin our
22 first round of questioning.

23 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY

24 BY MR. SOMERS:

25 Q. Mr. Ohr, have you had a chance to review all or

1 some of the IG's December 2019 report on the Crossfire
2 Hurricane investigation?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Other than your attorney and counsel for
5 the Department, have you consulted or spoken with anyone in
6 preparation for today's interview?

7 A. No.

8 Q. For the record, what was your position at
9 the Department from, roughly, July 30, 2016 until December
10 of 2017?

11 A. I was the director of OCDETF, the
12 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, and associate
13 deputy attorney general.

14 Q. Just in general, what were your
15 responsibilities for both of those positions?

16 A. Primarily, the oversight of all aspects of
17 the OCDETF program, so all the different things that OCDETF
18 does. It would take a lot to list them all.

19 As a ADAE in the AG's office, I, obviously, reported
20 on OCDETF and also served as a member of the Capital Case
21 Committee and I was, you know, director of the Attorney
22 General's Organized Crime Task Force.

23 Q. Did you have any responsibility for
24 counterintelligence in that position?

25 A. I did not, no.

1 BY MR. BAKER:

2 Q. I think we'll probably get to this in a
3 second, but in any of those jobs that you have just listed,
4 were you involved in any travel, foreign travel, on behalf
5 of the Department of Justice?

6 A. Yes, I was.

7 Q. Would that have involved any -- my
8 term -- police training or facilitating training seminars,
9 meetings, seminars, for foreign law enforcement officials?

10 A. I don't recall if I did any training
11 during that period. I had done so previously, certainly.

12 Q. What would the nature of your official
13 travel with the Department have been?

14 A. Meetings with other foreign law
15 enforcement officials, not necessarily training meetings.
16 That's sort of in general.

17 Q. Just as a rough estimate, in the capacity
18 that you occupied when you were doing travel, how much of
19 your official work time would have been spent doing overseas
20 travel?

21 A. Maybe 10 percent or something. It wasn't
22 that frequent.

23 MR. BAKER: Okay. Thank you.

24 BY MR. SOMERS:

25 Q. So I take it you had some, obviously,

1 responsibility for crime, at least with OCDETF. You didn't
2 have general responsibility within ODAG for the Criminal
3 Division, crime in general; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Was there an associate in ODAG that had
6 sort of the general criminal responsibility?

7 A. Yes, there was.

8 Q. Who was that?

9 A. I don't recall at during that time. I
10 think it changed at times.

11 Q. Do you recall who in the Office of the
12 Deputy Attorney General responsible for national security
13 during this time period?

14 A. Tash Gauhar was responsible for national
15 security at the time I was there.

16 Q. So part of your regular responsibilities
17 in ODAG and with OCDETF, did you have regular contact with
18 the FBI?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. How often was your contact with the FBI?

21 A. It's hard to say, probably a few times a
22 week.

23 Q. And what did that -- what did that contact
24 generally consist of?

25 A. It usually had to do with OCDETF matters,

1 issues with different strike forces, funding for particular
2 investigations. I'm sure there were other things.

3 Q. Was this a combination of in person, on
4 the phone, E-mail, etc.?

5 A. Yeah.

6 BY MR. BAKER:

7 Q. But the primary entity for the FBI that
8 you were in official contact with was their OCDETF
9 counterparts?

10 A. Yes, and their organized crime section.

11 Q. And would that have been OCDETF -- and I
12 think I know where the organized crime section is. Where
13 would OCDETF have in the FBI's organizational chart?

14 A. Most of the folks dealing with OCDETF
15 matters at the FBI were in their what they call
16 Transnational Organized Crime West section as opposed to
17 Transnational Organized Crime East, which handled generally
18 drug enforcement.

19 Q. Is that under their criminal division?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. BAKER: Okay. Thank you.

22 BY MR. SOMERS:

23 Q. Is that what's referred to as the TOC East
24 and West; Transnational Organized Crime was the abbreviation
25 for those?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you said you had more contact with TOC
3 West than East?

4 A. During the time I was at OCDETF, probably
5 more contact with TOC West, but I had contact with both.

6 Q. Was there one person in particular that
7 you had the most contact who was like your counterpart at
8 FBI or was it a diverse group of people?

9 A. Different people. I would talk with
10 different people in those sections.

11 BY MR. BAKER:

12 Q. Is there any one person that you had a,
13 well, friendship relationship with or that you had dealt
14 with the longest that would be your go-to person if you
15 needed to reach out to somebody over there?

16 A. The section chief of TOC East was someone
17 who had been there a long time.

18 Q. And who was that?

19 A. Max Marker.

20 Q. Do you say Matt?

21 A. Max, Maxwell.

22 MR. BAKER: Okay.

23 BY MR. SOMERS:

24 Q. Now, apart from you, did ODAG have a usual
25 contact at the FBI, someone that was kind of their liaison

1 to the FBI?

2 A. I'm sure there were several. Yes.

3 Q. But is there anyone in particular that was
4 like, Hey, if I need to call DOJ, I call this person?

5 Is there a person at ODAG or a particular section at
6 ODAG?

7 A. From ODAG, they often would deal with the
8 director and the deputy director's office. You know,
9 there's all the different matters that came into the office.
10 They would talk to different people.

11 Q. Now, during this time period, did you have
12 contact with anyone in the National Security Branch just in
13 general, not related to Crossfire Hurricane, during the time
14 that you were in ODAG?

15 A. For the most part, no, not that I can
16 remember.

17 Q. When was the last time you spoke or had
18 any contact with Christopher Steele?

19 A. Fall of 2017, I believe. I don't remember
20 the exact date.

21 Q. So he hasn't tried to reach out to you
22 since then about anything?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You've sort of cut off all contact?

25 A. I haven't heard from him since then.

1 Q. What about anyone from his firm, Orbis?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Same question for Glenn Simpson, when was
4 the last time you --

5 A. For who?

6 Q. Glenn Simpson. When was the last time you
7 had contact with Glenn Simpson?

8 A. Oh, maybe before that, maybe January or
9 February of 2017.

10 Q. So prior to the fall of 2017, it's pretty
11 clear that you reported that you had regular contact with
12 Christopher Steele over a number of years.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How frequent were those contacts?

15 A. For most of the time, it was maybe once a
16 year or so. Obviously, there were more contacts in 2016 and
17 2017.

18 Q. Obviously, we all have ideas. Do you know
19 why it is that Christopher Steele in particular cut off
20 contact with you in the fall of 2017?

21 A. Beyond the obvious ones, I can't
22 speculate.

23 Q. He never told you I'm not talking to you
24 anymore?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Glenn Simpson, prior to him cutting off
2 contact with you in the beginning of 2017, did you have
3 pretty regular contact with him as well?

4 A. No, not so much.

5 Q. How frequent was the contact with him?

6 A. A few times over the preceding 10 years or
7 so.

8 Q. Have you spoken with anyone else or
9 emailed or had any contact with anyone else from Fusion GPS
10 since Glenn Simpson cut off contact with you?

11 A. I have not.

12 Q. Did you have regular contact with anyone
13 at Fusion GPS before Glenn Simpson cut off contact with you?

14 A. No. I mean, my wife worked there as a
15 contractor, but I didn't.

16 Q. Did anyone else from Fusion GPS contact
17 you about Russia election reporting in particular or Russian
18 interference in the 2016 election?

19 A. I don't believe so, no.

20 Q. So just Glenn Simpson?

21 A. I believe so.

22 Q. Have you ever spoken with Daniel Jones?

23 A. No. The name is not familiar.

24 Q. Anyone from the Penn Quarter Group?

25 A. That's not familiar either.

1 Q. I believe they picked up some of the
2 opposition research, shall we say, for the -- against Trump
3 after the DNC dropped and may have had contact with Glenn
4 Simpson.

5 A. Yeah, but I have not.

6 Q. I spoke about this a little bit a second
7 ago: So you had contact with Steele other than Crossfire
8 Hurricane prior to and during the time he was contacting you
9 about -- I shouldn't say Crossfire Hurricane -- about the
10 possible Russian interference in the 2016 election; you had
11 contact with him in other matters. Correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 BY MR. BAKER:

14 Q. Could you explain, just briefly, how you
15 came to know Mr. Steele in the first place, how that
16 relationship came to be --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- initially.

19 A. I met him over 10 years ago. I don't
20 remember the exact year. At that time, he was working for
21 the [REDACTED]. I met him in London as
22 part of a meeting that had been arranged by the assistant
23 legal attache, the FBI's legal attache in London.

24 We talked about Russian organized crime. It was held
25 at the headquarters. There were representatives there from

1 maybe a half-dozen [REDACTED] governmental bodies, and they
2 talked generally about the dangers of Russian organized
3 crime was under-appreciated, and Mr. Steele sort of took the
4 lead on that.

5 Q. Were you or Mr. Steele a presenter at this
6 seminar?

7 A. Well, it was informal. I wouldn't call it
8 a seminar. It was just a meeting, but I would say Mr.
9 Steele probably did most of the talking from the [REDACTED]
10 side.

11 Q. And was there somebody that spoke from the
12 U.S. side?

13 A. I was there. ALAT was there. I'm not
14 sure there was anybody else from the U.S. side. We were
15 mainly listening. We wanted to hear the kind of stuff they
16 were working on.

17 I'm sure we said something about how we appreciated
18 there was Russian organized crime and were concerned about
19 it.

20 Q. You said this about 10 years ago?

21 A. Yeah, maybe more at this point.

22 Q. And this was the first time you made
23 contact with Mr. Steele?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And would you say subsequent to that time,

1 you maintained a friendly relationship with Mr. Steele?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You've mentioned the term "LEGAT" and
4 "ALAF". Just for the record, that's the Legal Attache and
5 the Assistant Legal Attache?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And they are FBI agents?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Who were they at the time that you first
10 met Mr. Steele?

11 A. I do not recall the names.

12 Q. Okay. And you kind of alluded to this,
13 but would it be fair to say to say that after this initial
14 meeting that you did maintain a relationship with Mr.
15 Steele?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And how often immediately following the
18 seminar did you and Mr. Steele speak and communicate?

19 A. I think the next time I saw him was a few
20 months later. There was some kind of a seminar that some
21 British institute or something had put on, and I was there.
22 I recall at least 40, 50 people there. I was there and he
23 happened to be there as well. I didn't know he was going to
24 be there.

25 Q. In addition to the official capacity that

1 you both occupied for different governments, would you say
2 your relationship was a friendship also?

3 A. I would say it was professional, but it
4 was friendly.

5 Q. Did it evolve to a friendship as time went
6 along?

7 A. It's hard to say. I mean, I only saw him
8 once a year or so. So we would exchange friendly greetings,
9 ask about family and stuff like that. I'm not sure I would
10 characterize it as a friendship.

11 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q. Have you reviewed, looked at, read, the
14 set of election reports that are commonly referred to as the
15 Steele dossier?

16 A. Yes, I have.

17 Q. And that sort of general format, has
18 Steele given you documents like that before about other
19 things?

20 A. Occasionally, yes, maybe once or twice.

21 Q. And he gave you other information over the
22 years, obviously?

23 A. [Gestures.]

24 Q. Who at the FBI generally were you giving
25 this information to?

1 related.

2 Q. And this information he was giving you,
3 what was your understanding of why he was gathering it?

4 A. Well, once he left the government, he had
5 a private firm, and my understanding was he would gather
6 this information on behalf of clients of the firm, but that
7 if there was something he thought would be of interest to
8 the DOJ and the FBI, he would give me some of that.

9 BY MR. BAKER:

10 Q. Do you know the name of his firm?

11 A. His firm is, I believe, Orbis.

12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q. Did you ever do anything to vet any of the
14 information Steele gave you?

15 A. I'm sorry?

16 Q. Did you ever do anything to vet any of the
17 information?

18 A. No. I would just pass it along.

19 Q. Did you ever not pass information along
20 that he gave you?

21 A. Probably, if it didn't seem to be
22 important.

23 Q. Did you have any concern -- I mean, you
24 said he was gathering this information on behalf of private
25 clients -- that by giving it to you, he was trying to do it

1 for the benefit of his private clients?

2 A. He almost -- no. For the most part, he
3 didn't -- it didn't seem like information that would help
4 his clients.

5 Q. What type of caveats or description or
6 however you want phrase it -- you'd get a piece of
7 information from Steele. You'd give it to somebody at the
8 FBI. What message did you generally send along with that in
9 terms of like what this is, where it's coming from?

10 A. I'd explain the source of the information,
11 and the people I was dealing with know very well that any
12 source information has to be treated with care and Russian
13 source information particularly.

14 Q. Generally, what you would say if you
15 decided this piece of Steele information is worth giving to
16 somebody at the FBI, you would have some sort of general
17 admonition like that associated with it?

18 A. Yeah. I don't know if I would repeat that
19 every time. I think the people who work on this stuff very
20 well understood.

21 Q. Were the people that you passed this
22 information from Steele on regularly enough prior to the
23 election report, they knew or had some information who
24 Steele was?

25 A. At some point, yes, because the FBI signed

1 up Mr. Steele as a source.

2 Q. Did Glenn Simpson prior to the events of
3 2016 ever provide you with information that you then
4 provided to the FBI?

5 A. I don't recall ever doing so, no.

6 BY MR. BAKER:

7 Q. When you would hand information off to the
8 FBI, in addition to the things that Mr. Somers was asking
9 that you might have sent with it, did you do any kind of
10 analysis or sort of a rough read-through and make any notes
11 to alert the FBI as to what your assessment or initial
12 thoughts on it would be, or would you just hand the
13 materials off as you received them?

14 A. I don't recall doing any threat analysis
15 or anything significant like that, no.

16 Q. You had said something in response to a
17 question Mr. Somers just asked you that, eventually, Mr.
18 Steele was signed up as a source?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What does that mean?

21 A. It means he had a relationship with the
22 FBI where he would provide information to them, and I think
23 they were paying him.

24 Q. And was that a formal relationship?

25 A. I believe so, yes.

1 BY MR. SOMERS:

2 Q. You said they would pay him. That implies
3 that the information he was giving to you, you never
4 provided any form of compensation through the Department to
5 Steele for his reporting?

6 A. I did not.

7 Q. And just to get back to Glenn Simpson just
8 for one moment, you said you had contact with him in some
9 form prior to the election in 2016 that didn't involve him
10 passing information to you, just more social, or what was
11 your contact with Glenn Simpson prior to that?

12 A. I remember meeting him on a couple of
13 occasions. One, he may still have been a reporter with "The
14 Wall Street Journal" at that time. I'm not sure, or had
15 left recently, and I believe he did talk about Russian
16 organized crime matters. I don't recall who else was there,
17 whether there were FBI people there or other DOJ people. I
18 don't remember doing anything with that further beyond that.

19 At one time, I met him again at some kind of a seminar
20 where he spoke and I spoke and we talked, but I don't
21 remember any more than social. Our interaction was more
22 social.

23 Q. So you were surprised the first time he
24 gave you information related to Russia in 2016?

25 A. Well, no, because Chris Steele had

1 indicated that he was meeting with Glenn Simpson and Glenn
2 had more information. So then I heard from Glenn.

3 Q. You mentioned a few times that Steele was
4 signed up as a confidential human source formally at the
5 FBI. Did you introduce Steele to his handling agent?

6 A. Yes. I believe I did.

7 Q. And that's [REDACTED]

8 A. Yes.

9 BY MR. BAKER:

10 Q. How were you made aware that he had, in
11 fact, Mr. Steele had, in fact, been officially signed up as
12 a source? Did that come from the FBI or did it come from
13 Mr. Steele or both?

14 A. Probably from the FBI, but I can't recall.

15 BY MR. SOMERS:

16 Q. So on July 30, 2016, that's when you had
17 that meeting with Steele where he first told you, according
18 to your previous testimony, about this Russia election
19 interference project. So on July 30, 2016, to your
20 knowledge, was [REDACTED] still Steele's Steele handler?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What was your impression of [REDACTED]

23 A. Good agent, professional, and I had a lot
24 of respect for him.

25 Q. Why [REDACTED] in particular did you pass

1 Steele off to or introduce him too?

2 A. I don't remember what his exact position
3 was at the time.

4 [REDACTED]: Can we off the record for a minute?

5 [Discussion held off the record.]

6 THE WITNESS: I don't remember what his exact
7 position was when I first introduced him to Steele, but he
8 was an Agent 14 in organized crime matters. At some point,
9 I believe he became the supervisor of a squad which was
10 responsible for these matters. I don't remember if he was
11 the supervisor at the time of the introduction.

12 BY MR. BAKER:

13 Q. What office was he physically at during
14 this time?

15 A. The New York Field Division.

16 Q. And had he been on an overseas assignment
17 prior to that?

18 A. He did an overseas assignment later, I
19 believe.

20 Q. And what was his position?

21 A. He was one of the assistant legal
22 attaches.

23 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

24 BY MR. SOMERS:

25 Q. Did you have contact with [REDACTED] over the

1 years as well after your introduction of Steele and [REDACTED]

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What did that contact exist of?

4 A. Occasional conversations. We did meet up
5 in [REDACTED] one time to talk to different people, including Mr.
6 Steele, and generally talked about what I'm hearing about
7 organized crime and what he's working on.

8 Q. So you had contact with him both related
9 and unrelated to Steele and information Steele was providing
10 to you?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. So when Steele contacts you on July 30th
13 with this election information that he had been gathering,
14 why didn't you tell him, Hey, why aren't you taking this to

15 [REDACTED]

16 A. I believe he told me he had given it to
17 [REDACTED] or at least some of it to [REDACTED]

18 Q. Why did he say he was coming to you?

19 A. He didn't. He just sometimes told me what
20 he was working on and I was not expecting that kind of
21 information.

22 Q. So who was -- was [REDACTED] the first person
23 at the FBI who you contacted after your July 30th meeting?

24 A. I can't recall. It may have been [REDACTED]

25 It may have been Mr. Marker. I'm not sure.

1 Q. What was that name? I'm sorry.

2 A. Max Marker. The person I mentioned
3 earlier.

4 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. I misheard his name
5 earlier.

6 So why did you reach out to either of them after you
7 received the reporting from Steele?

8 A. I can't recall the exact conversation as
9 to why. I'm sure I wanted to check in and make sure they
10 were aware.

11 BY MR. BAKER:

12 Q. Were you still running into Mr. Steele,
13 for lack of a better word, in any overseas travel you were
14 doing for the Department?

15 A. Not aside from that one time, no. I don't
16 recall at that point.

17 BY MR. SOMERS:

18 Q. And I don't know if this will refresh your
19 recollection at all, but according to the IG report, you
20 reached out to [REDACTED] on August 3, 2016. During that
21 conversation, [REDACTED] told -- this is what [REDACTED] told OIG. I
22 don't know if you will recall him telling you, but [REDACTED]
23 told OIG that he advised Ohr that news of the reports had
24 reached an EAD level at FBI Headquarters and that executive
25 management at the New York Field Office was aware of the

1 reports.

2 Do you recall that conversation at all?

3 A. I don't recall the specifics, but that
4 sounds right.

5 Q. So I guess my question is why didn't you
6 leave it at that? The EAD level, what did you take that to
7 mean? Is that Executive Assistant Director?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Why wasn't that a sufficient answer to you
10 in terms of, Okay, the report is in the system?

11 A. I think for while, it was. I don't think
12 I reached out to the FBI until some months later. We
13 reached out to Mr. McCabe, Deputy Director McCabe, some
14 months later.

15 Q. So what happened between the assurances
16 you get from [REDACTED] on August 3rd that it's reached the EAD
17 level and the next time you reach out to the FBI?

18 A. Unfortunately, I can't recall the
19 specifics, but I remember being concerned that the
20 information might be getting siloed within the FBI and that
21 I wasn't sure whether the criminal side and the national
22 security side were discussing the information.

23 Q. Why would you have those concerns?

24 A. I can't remember the specific things I was
25 told, but it must have been from conversations I was having

1 with some people at the FBI, probably Mr. Marker or [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] I can't recall.

3 BY MR. BAKER:

4 Q. Was Mr. Steele frustrated that things
5 seemed to be moving slow within the FBI or that his
6 information didn't seem to be acted on?

7 Was he pinging you, for lack of a better word, to maybe
8 look under the hood to see what the holdup was?

9 A. I don't believe so, no.

10 BY MR. SOMERS:

11 Q. The IG report also indicates on October
12 13, 2016, you received an E-mail from, I guess, the
13 Transnational Organized Crime East section chief. I guess
14 that's Mr. --

15 A. Mr. Marker.

16 Q. Saying that: "Counterintelligence agents
17 had traveled to [REDACTED] and spoken to Handling Agent 1 and said
18 they were examining Steele's allegations."

19 Do you recall that E-mail or a conversation related to
20 that?

21 A. I don't recall that E-mail, no.

22 Q. Do you recall reaching out to the TOC East
23 section chief?

24 A. I mean, I'm sure I spoke with them. I
25 don't recall specifically at this time reaching out to him,

1 but yeah.

2 Q. Okay. So I think you get the reports from
3 Steele on -- not the reports. You didn't actually get
4 anything from Steele on July 30th; is that correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. When did you actually -- did he send you
7 something?

8 A. He never sent me anything. I was given a
9 thumb drive later, maybe in December -- it's in the report,
10 I think -- from Glenn Simpson.

11 Q. So you didn't have the actual reports
12 prior to Glenn Simpson giving them to you?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. So you meet with Steele on July 30th. He
15 contacts you again after that July 30th meeting about this?

16 A. Mr. Steele?

17 Q. Mr. Steele, yes.

18 A. He did at some point. I don't remember
19 exactly when, but yes.

20 Q. The IG report indicates you confirmed that
21 you reached out to [REDACTED] and he gave you the information
22 about the information getting to the EAD level at FBI. The
23 IG report indicates that on October 13th, the TOC East
24 section chief told you that counterintelligence analysts had
25 traveled to [REDACTED], spoke with Handling Agent 1, and they were

1 examining Steele's allegations.

2 BY MR. BAKER:

3 Q. For the record, counterintelligence agents
4 had traveled, not analysts. Right?

5 A. I don't know.

6 BY MR. SOMERS:

7 Q. Then on October 18th, according to the IG
8 report, you reach out to Andy McCabe. Why did you reach out
9 to Andy McCabe?

10 A. As I said before, I was concerned that
11 somehow the information wasn't being fully shared. I don't
12 recall what prompted that or what specifically I heard, but
13 that was my concern.

14 Q. But why Andy McCabe in particular versus
15 somebody else at the FBI versus Bill Priestap?

16 A. I didn't know Mr. Priestap. I did know
17 Mr. McCabe. He and I worked together on Russian organized
18 crime matters over the years. He had been the head of the
19 Russian organized crime squad in New York.

20 So we knew each other from that and, also, his position
21 was -- given his position, he had visibility into whatever
22 the criminal side and the national security side was doing
23 at the FBI.

24 Q. How often did you speak with Mr. McCabe
25 aside -- or prior to October 18th?

1 A. Fairly rarely, certainly as he became
2 deputy director. It may have been a couple of years before
3 that that I had spoken with him. I used to call him when he
4 was the head of Russian organized crime unit.

5 BY MR. BAKER:

6 Q. Your relationship with him went way back
7 when he was a street agent, case agent?

8 A. Yeah. I don't think I worked with him so
9 much when I was an AUSA, but certainly when he took over the
10 Russian organized crime squad, I think I was probably in
11 Washington at this point. So I'm sure I dealt with him from
12 that point forward, maybe earlier, but I can't recall.

13 Q. So he would have been a logical person for
14 you to reach out to at the Bureau if you were trying to get
15 somebody with some rank?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It was a good likelihood he would take a
18 call from you?

19 A. Yes.

20 BY MR. SOMERS:

21 Q. So the IG report indicates, I think, you
22 first called him and asked for a meeting. What did you tell
23 him you wanted to meet about?

24 A. I don't recall exactly. I'm sure I said
25 something about I had information that I wanted to talk with

1 him about, but I don't recall.

2 Q. And he took the meeting with you,
3 according to the IG report, the same day you requested it?

4 A. I don't recall, but I'm sure if it's in
5 there --

6 Q. Do you think it had anything to do with
7 the fact that you were an associate deputy attorney general?

8 A. I would like to think that it was because
9 we worked together for many years.

10 Q. Did you in your meeting with McCabe
11 on -- well, first, in this meeting with McCabe on October
12 18, who else was in that meeting? Was Lisa Page?

13 A. Lisa Page was there. There may have been
14 other people. I don't recall.

15 Q. You don't recall if anyone else was there?

16 A. I don't.

17 Q. What did you tell him like why you were
18 there, why you, Bruce Ohr, associate deputy attorney
19 general, was there at the meeting with him about this
20 material?

21 A. I gave him the whole background, explained
22 who Chris Steele was and how I knew him and that this is the
23 kind of relationship we had and this was the information I
24 received from him.

25 I remember also explaining that my wife worked at

1 Fusion GPS and I had not realized that Chris had anything to
2 do with them prior to the July 30th meeting. So I mentioned
3 that as well and I gave him the information.

4 Q. Did you say, imply in any way, that this
5 was part of your official role at the Department?

6 A. I don't recall discussing that.

7 Q. Do you think he would have assumed that
8 from the circumstances?

9 A. I mean, from our prior relationship, I
10 think he wouldn't be surprised to hear that I had gotten
11 some information, but I don't recall.

12 Q. Okay. So we have [REDACTED] We have the
13 TOC -- I'm sorry. I can't remember his last name.

14 A. Marker.

15 Q. The TOC East section chief.

16 Did you contact anyone else at the FBI between July
17 30th, 2016 and this October 18th meeting with McCabe?

18 A. I don't recall doing so, no.

19 Q. How many times did you meet with McCabe,
20 just the one meeting about this --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- particular subject?

23 BY MR. BAKER:

24 Q. You said Lisa Page was in the room when
25 you went to visit Mr. McCabe. Had you worked with her

1 prior?

2 A. Yes. Before going to the FBI, she had
3 been a trial attorney in my office, organized crime and
4 racketeering section.

5 Q. How long did you -- you were her direct
6 supervisor?

7 A. Well, second-level supervisor, yes.

8 Q. And how long was she there?

9 A. Several years. I don't recall exactly.

10 Q. And then she left there to go to the FBI?

11 A. I think so. I'm not sure.

12 Q. You mentioned that your wife worked at
13 Fusion GPS. Your wife is who?

14 A. She's an analyst, a Russia-related
15 analyst.

16 Q. And she has a particular expertise in
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And her name is?

20 A. Nellie.

21 Q. I think we talked about this a little bit
22 earlier, but Fusion GPS, in your understanding, what kind of
23 work do they do?

24 A. A general understanding, they are a
25 consulting or intel firm. They gather information for

1 clients.

2 Q. So she worked there based on her expertise
3 as a Russian analyst?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you know what particular things she
6 did?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Or did you know?

9 A. No.

10 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

11 BY MR. SOMERS:

12 Q. I think we spoke, obviously, about the FBI
13 side of the house at the Department. Let's go to the
14 Department side of the house at the Department. Who was the
15 first person you reached out to at DOJ about the Steele
16 info?

17 A. I believe it was Bruce Schwartz.

18 Q. And that, according to -- what was his
19 position? He was deputy --

20 A. Deputy assistant attorney general in the
21 Criminal Division.

22 Q. Did he have a particular specialization
23 within the Criminal Division?

24 A. International Affairs.

25 Q. And the IG report indicated that you

1 reached to him on August 4, 2016. Why? Why Bruce Schwartz?

2 A. He's also an expert in all things
3 international. I worked for him for a couple of years
4 directly. I worked with him for many years, and so he's
5 kind of sort of a mentor to me and I would seek his advice
6 on many things strange or weird like this.

7 Q. Did you -- were you expecting him to do
8 anything professionally in his role at the Department with
9 this information or were you just seeking advice from him?

10 A. I don't know that I expected him to do
11 anything specific, but if it needed to be done, I assumed he
12 would.

13 Q. But you were alerting him to the
14 information as part of, in your mind, his job duties?

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 Q. Did you see something criminal in the
17 information that Steele had given you?

18 A. I'm not sure criminal, but, certainly, it
19 had national security implications.

20 Q. If it had national security implications,
21 then why didn't you go to the National Security Division
22 with the information?

23 A. I knew Bruce Schwartz better and I thought
24 it was easier to go to him and he has contacts in the
25 different parts of the Department.

1 Q. What about Tash Gauhar; why didn't you go
2 to Tash with your information?

3 A. I wanted to keep it initially at the
4 lowest possible level and just because it was very raw, and
5 so I didn't feel it was something that I could just bring up
6 to the higher level.

7 Q. She's a career official or she was a
8 career official?

9 A. I believe she is.

10 Q. I'm sorry. I spoke over you. Can you
11 just answer again.

12 A. Yes.

13 BY MR. BAKER:

14 Q. So you sort of alluded that you had a
15 preference for not alerting higher-level people. Did you
16 have the same preference for career people, that you felt
17 more comfortable alerting them to any of your information as
18 opposed to the politicals?

19 A. I wanted to get it to people that are used
20 to handling that kind of raw intel, particular
21 Russian-related raw intel.

22 Q. And would that have been more likely
23 career people?

24 A. Probably, yeah.

25 Q. Who else did you take this information to

1 at the Department?

2 A. Well, I know I discussed this with Mr.
3 Schwartz more than once, and at some of those meetings,
4 there were a couple people that worked with him who were
5 present. Zainab Ahmad was there at least once or twice and
6 Andrew Weissmann was there at least once or twice.

7 Q. And why -- again, the same question. You
8 probably know why I'm asking these questions, but why
9 Weissmann and Ms. Ahmad?

10 Again, it doesn't seem to be their specialization.

11 A. That wasn't -- I didn't reach out to them.
12 They were present when I was speaking with Schwartz.

13 Q. Did you ever discuss taking this
14 information to someone in the Public Integrity Section of
15 the Criminal Division?

16 A. I don't recall, no.

17 Q. Did you ever discuss these meetings
18 with -- we'll just leave it at the meeting with Schwartz
19 where others may have attended, including Weissmann and
20 Ms. Ahmad. Did you ever discuss taking the information to
21 the NSD?

22 A. I don't recall.

23 Q. Did you ever ask for a contact for NSD?

24 A. I don't recall doing so.

25 BY MR. BAKER:

1 Q. What was the reaction from these people
2 that you did visit? Were they interested in your
3 information? Not interested? Indifferent? What was your
4 takeaway from impressions?

5 A. I think my takeaway was they were alarmed,
6 as I was, but, again, cautious, because we didn't know if it
7 was real or not.

8 Q. Did they indicate that they had anything
9 that they were going to do, next steps that they were going
10 to take or guidance to you for next steps?

11 A. There was some discussion about some of
12 the other things that they were either working on or knew
13 about, such as the Manafort investigation, which was already
14 out there, but beyond that, I don't recall.

15 Q. Do you recall any of them saying, Well,
16 you really need to let blank know about this?

17 A. I don't recall.

18 MR. BAKER: Okay.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q. So what did you discuss? About how many
21 meetings are we talking about here?

22 A. I don't recall. Maybe -- I don't
23 recall -- a few times.

24 Q. A few times. What did you discuss at
25 these meetings?

1 A. I think, generally, I would tell them
2 whatever the latest I had heard was from Steele or any
3 information from Simpson. I don't recall the exact timing,
4 and they were talking more among themselves about what was
5 happening with Manafort or others on the criminal side.

6 Q. Did they indicate that the had some
7 responsibility for the investigation of Manafort?

8 A. I believe that was in the money laundering
9 section.

10 Q. And neither of those three are in the
11 money laundering section?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Just quickly switching back to the FBI for
14 a second, Michael Steinbach, you didn't know him?

15 A. I don't know him.

16 Q. Bill Priestap?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Before all of this, Peter Strzok?

19 A. I did not know him before all of this.

20 Q. Jen Boone?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Stephen Laycock?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Jon Moffa?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Then at some point, the IG report
2 indicates that the meeting we just talked about with
3 Schwartz, Weissmann, and Ahmad included at some point Peter
4 Strzok and Lisa Page as well; is that correct?

5 A. I believe there was one meeting. I think
6 it was one meeting where they were there. Yes.

7 Q. And how did they come to have a meeting
8 with your group, your group at the Department and these two
9 individuals at the FBI?

10 A. I'm not sure, but my recollection is Bruce
11 had them invited.

12 Q. What was discussed at this meeting?

13 A. The same thing, this is what I'm hearing,
14 are they pursuing this, are they aware of the Manafort
15 investigation, that sort of thing.

16 Q. Okay. Did they have -- what information
17 were they providing?

18 I'm sorry. By "they", I should be more specific.

19 What information was Strzok and Page, did they provide
20 at this meeting?

21 A. I don't recall the specifics.

22 Q. Did they mention that this in any way
23 related to an investigation that they were aware of?

24 A. I think at least in general terms, they
25 were working on something about this, but I don't think I

1 remember details like that.

2 Q. I was probably pretty vague in my
3 question. I'll never know what I was asking when I go back
4 and look at the transcript when I say "about this".

5 About the Steele reporting, did they -- let me ask my
6 question again.

7 Did they indicate in any way that they had an
8 investigation going that was related to the Steele
9 reporting?

10 A. I don't recall the specifics. As I said,
11 I was aware that were interested in the information. I
12 think I asked at one point whether they had an AUSA and they
13 said no, but I don't know, you know, whether it was focused
14 on Steele information or other information.

15 Q. Why did you ask that question, about
16 whether they had an AUSA?

17 A. I was curious.

18 Q. So did you just -- I know it's a long time
19 ago -- have a general characterization that they were in
20 listening mode or just --

21 A. Probably, although, again, I can't recall
22 the specifics of the conversation.

23 BY MR. BAKER:

24 Q. What would it have meant to you if they
25 would have answered your question about the AUSA that, yes,

1 they had an AUSA?

2 A. You know, if an AUSA is involved, then
3 generally a couple things. One is the investigation is
4 probably further along; and, secondly, you know, prosecutors
5 generally like to hear there's an AUSA involved.

6 Q. So it would have meant, basically, to you
7 that there was something that was a little more down the
8 road than just you giving them some information and them
9 taking notes or listening?

10 A. Yes.

11 BY MR. SOMERS:

12 Q. Do you think they would have told you if
13 there was an AUSA involved? Is it possible there was an
14 AUSA involved and, because the investigation was sensitive,
15 they didn't answer your question?

16 A. I guess that is possible.

17 Q. Did you have some indication there may
18 have been?

19 I think the quote you used, actually, was, least in the
20 IG report, there was a prosecutor involved or some
21 indication that there may have been a prosecutor involved at
22 that point in time. So I'm wondering if maybe they didn't
23 give you information because the case was sensitive.

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. I think you -- so you had that meeting and

1 then you also on November 21, 2016 had a broader meeting
2 with people from FBI, including Strzok, Moffa, [REDACTED], and
3 [REDACTED], and this meeting appears to be the first
4 meeting you had with the FBI that was memorialized in a 302.

5 So I want to get, again, sort of a sense -- I cut you
6 off before at October 18th as being the day that you met
7 with McCabe. So in between meeting with McCabe and Lisa
8 Page on October 18th and this -- it seems to be a large
9 meeting or larger meeting you had on November 21st -- did
10 you have any contact with anyone else at the FBI in this
11 time period?

12 A. I don't recall having, but I can't say for
13 this period of time.

14 Q. On December 10, 2016, switching subjects
15 slightly, I'm just trying to get a sense as to the timing of
16 everything. You met with Glenn Simpson, and during this
17 meeting, according to the IG report, Simpson gave you a
18 thumb drive.

19 On page 282 of the IG report, Simpson told the IG that:
20 "Ohr requested that he provide information regarding
21 Steele's election reporting."

22 Do you remember making a request of Simpson for
23 information?

24 A. I don't recall exactly how that happened.
25 I think I remember Steele telling me that Simpson had more

1 information. I don't remember if I reached out for Simpson
2 or whether he reached for Simpson. I'm sure it was somehow
3 conveyed to Simpson that I was interested in getting more
4 information.

5 Q. And then on December 20th, again, just
6 timeline stuff, you provided [REDACTED] with another thumb
7 drive. This one contained your wife's research that she did
8 for Fusion GPS. This is also on page 282 of the IG report.

9 Why didn't you give [REDACTED] that thumb drive when you
10 met with him on December 10th?

11 A. I was trying to provide information that
12 might be helpful.

13 Q. I think my question is why the multiple
14 meetings within a week to give him information that the IG
15 report, at least according to your wife, said you already
16 had for some time?

17 A. I don't recall. I called and gave
18 information whenever I got it.

19 Q. You weren't in any way trying to meet with
20 [REDACTED] more often --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- to try and -- did you discuss the case?
23 Did you get information from [REDACTED]?

24 You met with [REDACTED], according to the IG report, I
25 believe the first meeting and 12 additional times. During

1 these meetings with [REDACTED], did he provide you with
2 information or were you only providing him with information?

3 A. My recollection is I was providing him
4 with information.

5 BY MR. BAKER:

6 Q. Did you look at the thumb drives at all
7 before you passed them to [REDACTED]?

8 A. No, I did not.

9 Q. Why didn't you look at them?

10 A. There was no particular reason for me to
11 look at them. I was just providing the information.

12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q. So you never asked him, Hey, [REDACTED], how's
14 the case going?

15 A. What I think I did ask [REDACTED] was if
16 that was the dossier, could I get a copy, and he did provide
17 it.

18 BY MR. BAKER:

19 Q. Why did you think it might be the dossier?

20 A. I think something that Steele had said,
21 that he had provided more information to Simpson. So I
22 think I assumed at that point, it was probably the dossier.

23 Q. So it was a conversation you heard or
24 something you were told that made you think it; you didn't
25 look at it?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. Then you asked for a copy and you got a
3 copy of it?

4 A. Yes.

5 BY MR. SOMERS:

6 Q. Did you ever sign chain of custody forms
7 for any thumb drives?

8 A. No.

9 Q. What was your awareness or are you aware
10 that there was a FISA application on Carter Page during this
11 time period?

12 A. No. I don't believe so.

13 Q. You were aware that they were
14 investigating Paul Manafort?

15 A. Yes. There was an investigation on
16 Manafort that preceded all of this.

17 Q. What was your awareness of that
18 investigation?

19 Well, first, where did your awareness come from of
20 that?

21 A. I must have learned it from the FBI, but I
22 don't recall specifics.

23 Q. But you said it predated all of this.
24 What did you mean by that?

25 A. I believe it had to do with the money

1 laundering allegations, but I don't know. I'm pretty sure I
2 knew about that long before any of this happened.

3 Q. So just to kind of rephrase what you said,
4 you were aware that there was an investigation of Manafort
5 that didn't have anything to do with the Trump campaign; it
6 was a separate money laundering investigation?

7 A. I think that's right, yes.

8 BY MR. BAKER:

9 Q. Is this something you would have learned
10 in an official capacity by attending a meeting or a
11 briefing?

12 A. Yes. I think so. I would probably have
13 heard it from agents working on it.

14 I had encountered Manafort's name earlier when I was in
15 Kiev in the fall with President Yanukovych, but I don't
16 remember hearing about an investigation at this point.

17 Q. But you initially hear of the name in the
18 course of your official duties, meetings and briefings and
19 travel or whatever?

20 A. Yes.

21 BY MR. SOMERS:

22 Q. So throughout, you were providing
23 information from Steele to the FBI. Your initial contact is
24 [REDACTED] for these meetings.

25 In January 2017, with Crossfire Hurricane, who did you

1 have contact over that with?

2 [REDACTED]: Off the record.

3 [Discussion held off the record.]

4 THE WITNESS: I don't recall who the next agent
5 was.

6 BY MR. SOMERS:

7 Q. Was it at the same level as [REDACTED]?

8 A. As far as I know.

9 Q. How did that handoff occur? Did he say
10 I'm out of here; this is going to be the new guy to contact?

11 A. Yeah. Again, I don't recall the specific
12 conversation. I think it was pretty matter of fact, here's
13 your new contact.

14 Q. What type of -- we talked about two thumb
15 drives that you provided in December of 2016. What type of
16 information were you providing from Steele to the FBI after
17 those thumb drives?

18 A. Whenever he would call and say something,
19 I would provide whatever it was he said, just tell the
20 agent, Hey, I got the call from him.

21 Q. So in May of 2017, a special counsel was
22 appointed to investigate these allegations. Did you have
23 any particular point of contact in the FBI or -- I'm
24 sorry -- on the special counsel's team the same way you did
25 with the FBI to pass Steele information?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you have a point of contact with
3 special counsel?

4 A. I did not.

5 Q. Were you interviewed by the special
6 counsel's team?

7 A. I was not.

8 Q. What do you think Steele was trying to
9 accomplish with you?

10 He had election reporting. The election happened. Any
11 sense of what his goal, for lack of a better term, was in
12 continuing to provide you information and contacting you
13 after the 2016 election?

14 A. Well, my sense was he just very alarmed by
15 the information, thought it posed a threat to the United
16 States, and wanted to make sure he was getting it to
17 somebody.

18 Q. Did you become aware at some point in time
19 that Steele had been terminated as a confidential human
20 source?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you get that information from Mr.

23 

24 A. I don't recall exactly, but I saw it in
25 the IG's report.

1 Q. Did you -- I'll just read from the IG
2 report here and see if you recall this conversation.

3 According to Handling Agent 1 -- that's [REDACTED] -- "as a
4 courtesy, he told Ohr that he was not engaging with Steele
5 anymore, warned Ohr to be careful in dealing with Steele and
6 said that Steele could not be trusted."

7 Do you recall that?

8 A. I don't recall those words, no.

9 Q. Not those specific words. Do you recall
10 any warning from [REDACTED] about future dealings with Steele?

11 A. No, I don't.

12 Q. The IG report, same page, 278, also said
13 that Ohr apologized to [REDACTED]

14 "Ohr apologized for introducing him to Steele."

15 Do you recall apologizing to [REDACTED]

16 A. I don't recall my specific words, but -- I
17 don't recall specifically, no.

18 BY MR. BAKER:

19 Q. It's been reported and it's in the IG
20 report a couple of times, I believe, that Steele was, quote,
21 desperate that Donald Trump not get elected. What did
22 "desperate", mean?

23 What was it that made him desperate? What was his
24 behavior? What was his attitude? What was his want?

25 A. Yeah. I saw that word in the 302. I

1 don't remember saying that specific word to the Bureau, but
2 I might have.

3 My impression at the time was he was very alarmed at
4 the information that the Russians had some kind of
5 connection or possible hold over Donald Trump and that he
6 was very concerned that if Donald Trump was elected
7 President, then that would mean the Russians had influence.

8 MR. BAKER: Okay.

9 BY MR. SOMERS:

10 Q. Did Steele mention anything to you about
11 his being terminated as a confidential human source?

12 A. I don't recall him saying that, no.

13 Q. So he never mentioned to you that,
14 according to the IG report, he was terminated and he was
15 admonished.

16 "Additionally, the Handling Agent advised that the CHS
17 was not to operate, to obtain any intelligence whatsoever on
18 behalf of the FBI."

19 So Steele never mentioned to you any instruction, Yeah,
20 I'm not supposed to be doing this anymore?

21 A. I don't believe he did, no.

22 BY MR. BAKER:

23 Q. You mentioned earlier that Steele was
24 signed up as a confidential source. Did Steele in
25 conversations you had with him, was it his understanding

1 that he was a confidential source for the FBI?

2 A. I don't recall exactly. I mean, he
3 certainly acknowledged that he had a relationship with the
4 FBI. At some point, I remember him saying that he wanted
5 his company, rather than him, to have the relationship with
6 the FBI, but I don't recall anything, any discussions with
7 him beyond those facts.

8 Q. Did he explain what the distinction would
9 be for him wanting his company rather than himself
10 personally having a relationship with the Bureau?

11 A. I don't recall an explanation.

12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q. Was there any -- you talked to a lot of
14 people in the -- not a lot. You talked to a group of people
15 at the FBI. You talked to a group of people at DOJ. I
16 assume over the years, you talked to other people about
17 Christopher Steele.

18 Did he have any concern about like his identity, that
19 he was a confidential human source? Was there sort of an
20 identity concern that, Hey, this guy is giving me
21 information that I'm giving to the FBI? Did you have any
22 concerns along those lines?

23 A. I don't recall saying anything like that,
24 no.

25 Q. Did you have any -- did take any caution

1 when telling anyone about Steele over the years, not just
2 with regards to this?

3 A. I think I tried to keep it to the few
4 people that needed to know, but yeah.

5 Q. According to the IG report in 2017, your
6 communications with Steele changed from using your DOJ
7 E-mail account to using a commercially-available encrypted
8 communication apps, like What's App, I believe. Do you know
9 why there was a change in the communication method?

10 A. I think he asked for that.

11 Q. But you didn't tell him to stop
12 communicating with your department?

13 A. Correct.

14 BY MR. BAKER:

15 Q. Do you know why he asked for that change?

16 A. I think he was concerned about keeping
17 communications secure.

18 Q. Just a general concern or was something
19 happening that made him specifically concerned that his
20 communications were being intercepted or monitored?

21 A. I think it was more a general concern.

22 BY MR. SOMERS:

23 Q. I think this is the last question for this
24 round.

25 In May of 2017, I think the FBI reached out to you

1 to -- or at least in one of your conversations with the FBI
2 to try and see if Steele would reengage with the FBI. Did
3 you get any explanation from whoever it was you were
4 speaking to you as to why they wanted to reengage with
5 Christopher Steele?

6 A. I don't believe so, no.

7 Q. And he was willing to reengage; is that
8 correct?

9 A. Yes, he was.

10 MR. SOMERS: I think we're --

11 BY MR. BAKER:

12 Q. What was your understanding, real quick,
13 of what "reengage" meant? Was it just to establish a
14 dialogue communication or was it to sign him up again?

15 A. I didn't know.

16 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

17 MR. SOMERS: I think that's our time for this
18 round. We'll turn it over to the Minority.

19 MS. ZDEB: We'll take a quick break, say five
20 minutes.

21 [Recess.]

22 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

23 BY MR. HASKELL:

24 Q. Mr. Ohr, again, I'm Alex Haskell from
25 Senate Feinstein's staff, the Minority staff of the

1 Committee with Sara Zdeb and Heather Sawyer, my colleagues.

2 Thank you for being here today and, of course, for your
3 multiple decades of service at the Department of Justice.

4 As you know, the DOJ Inspector General issued a
5 400-plus page report in December of last year titled "Review
6 of Four FISA Applications and Other Aspects of the FBI's
7 Crossfire Hurricane Investigation". The report detailed the
8 results of the two-year investigation into the same topics
9 we're addressing here today.

10 According to that report, the IG examined more than one
11 million documents and interviewed more than a hundred
12 witnesses, including Christopher Steele and numerous current
13 and former government employees. There's an entire chapter
14 of the IG report, which is 36 pages long, titled "Department
15 Attorney Bruce Ohr's Activities During the Crossfire
16 Hurricane Investigation" that details your involvement in,
17 again, the exact issues you were brought here to discuss
18 again today.

19 Did you cooperate with that IG investigation?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And were you interviewed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. One time? How many times?

24 A. I believe it was three times.

25 Q. Three times, and if you could just give a

1 ballpark number of how many total number hours did you
2 spending interviewing with the IG?

3 A. Probably, eight or nine hours altogether.

4 Q. Did you provide complete and truthful
5 answers to the IG's questions during the course of those
6 three interviews?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And did you or the Justice Department
9 provide the IG with documents related to your involvement
10 with Crossfire Hurricane as part of that investigation?

11 A. I believe the Department did, yes.

12 Q. Okay. Did the IG ever complain that they
13 needed more information from you that they didn't have?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you recall if the IG ever complained
16 that they didn't get documents that they wanted from you or
17 related to you?

18 A. I'm not aware of that.

19 Q. Did you have an opportunity to review the
20 IG report, at least the portions you were involved in,
21 before it was finalized or published or --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- did you review a draft?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And did you provide any comments on that

1 draft?

2 A. I believe we did, yes.

3 Q. Can you please characterize those
4 comments?

5 A. I can't recall the specifics of the
6 comments. I'm sorry.

7 Q. Okay. That's all right.

8 Can you recall whether the IG addressed the comments
9 that you provided in the final draft?

10 A. I believe they did, yes.

11 Q. So, in other words, to the extent you
12 identify errors in the draft that you reviewed, the IG's
13 final report addressed those errors?

14 A. I believe it does.

15 Q. The IG report painstakingly details your
16 contacts with Christopher Steele, Glenn Simpson, and other
17 members of the U.S. Government. Recognizing that different
18 witnesses may have differing recollections or
19 interpretations of certain events, does the IG report
20 accurately reflect the testimony that you provided to the IG
21 about your contacts with Christopher Steele?

22 A. I believe it does, yes.

23 Q. And how about your contacts with Glenn
24 Simpson?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. FBI personnel?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what about DOJ personnel?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What about State Department personnel?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And does the IG report accurately reflect
8 why you passed the information, passed certain information,
9 on to the FBI?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And I understand that there are also 302s
12 that memorialize meetings you had with the FBI.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And that the report also addresses those
15 same meetings that the 302s memorialized?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, the IG's investigation isn't the only
18 information related to these matters that you've been
19 interviewed for. You were interviewed for around eight
20 hours on August 28, 2018 as part of an investigation by the
21 House Judiciary and Oversight Committee; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And as is true today, did you appear and
24 answer questions voluntarily as part of that House
25 investigation?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So House Republicans didn't seek to
3 subpoena or hold you in contempt for failing to cooperate
4 with that investigation?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Have you been interviewed by any other
7 congressional committees about your interactions with
8 Christopher Steele?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And did you provide those committees with
11 truthful and complete answers when asked questions?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And, again, you cooperated voluntarily
14 with all of those, whichever committees those were?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. No subpoenas were issued to require --

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. So in total, several congressional
19 investigations, three interviews with the IG. How many
20 hours or days would you estimate that you've spent providing
21 testimony in connection with this particular matter?

22 A. Several. I don't know.

23 Q. And any way you can be more specific? If
24 you can't, no problem.

25 A. Five or six days maybe.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Our committee, the Judiciary Committee, held a six-hour
3 hearing with Inspector General Horowitz following the
4 release of the 484-page IG report. A number of unproven or
5 disproven allegations were made during that hearing and some
6 of those allegations have been subsequently repeated at
7 other hearings and meetings of this committee. We believe
8 those allegations were investigated and answered by the IG,
9 but I'm going to ask you a series of questions about them
10 because we continue to hear them from people who don't have
11 firsthand knowledge about the Crossfire Hurricane
12 investigation.

13 Now, I understand that your firsthand knowledge of
14 Crossfire Hurricane is very limited, but I ask that you
15 answer these questions based on that limited knowledge.

16 The IG found that there was no documentary or
17 testimonial evidence of bias impacting the FBI's work in the
18 Crossfire Hurricane investigation, but, nonetheless, there
19 have been allegations that there were tons of evidence of
20 bias, and that's a quote. Did political bias impact any of
21 your actions in connection with the Crossfire Hurricane
22 investigation?

23 A. No.

24 Q. And I should say, more broadly, the
25 investigation into Russian interference?

1 A. That's right. Yes. The answer is still
2 no.

3 Q. You interacted with several members of the
4 FBI in connection with the Russian interference Crossfire
5 Hurricane investigation. Do you have any evidence that
6 political bias impacted any of their work?

7 A. Nothing that I saw, no.

8 Q. President Trump repeatedly has stated that
9 the Crossfire Hurricane investigation and Russia
10 investigation, more broadly, was a witch hunt, including in
11 tweets that accuse you and your wife of illegally conspiring
12 to hurt him politically.

13 Did you conspire to hurt Trump politically?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you have any evidence that the Russian
16 investigation was part of a, quote, deep state effort to
17 take down President Trump?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And there's also been allegations that the
20 purpose of that investigation was to, quote, change or
21 nullify the results of the 2016 election. Have you ever
22 done anything with the intent of changing or nullifying the
23 results of the 2016 election?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you have any evidence that the goal of

1 the Russian investigation was to change or nullify the
2 results of the 2016 election?

3 A. No.

4 Q. I want to turn quickly to some testimony
5 with Mr. Baker and Mr. Somers earlier about Christopher
6 Steele and why he was closed as a source. It was mentioned
7 that one individual had remarked that he could not be
8 trusted.

9 FBI Assistant Director Bill Priestap told the IG that,
10 quote: He decided that Steele had to closed immediately
11 upon learning that Steele had disclosed his interactions
12 with the FBI to a reporter. Peter Strzok reiterated to the
13 IG that it was Steele's disclosure to the reporter that led
14 to his termination as a source."

15 He said, Strzok said, quote: We did not close him
16 because we thought he was a fabricator."

17 And all of that is on page 173 of the IG report. Do
18 you have any evidence to contradict Priestap's and Strzok's
19 statement that Steele was closed as an FBI source because of
20 his disclosure to a reporter?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. In other words, to your knowledge,
23 Steele's closure or the termination of the relationship,
24 whatever exactly the contours of that relationship was with
25 the FBI, that the termination of that had nothing to do with

1 any allegation that he had fabricated evidence; is that
2 correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. In fact, Steele has been a source of
5 useful and important information in the past. Former Acting
6 Attorney General Sally Yates told the IG that Steele was,
7 quote, credible, very knowledgeable of Russia, and not just
8 somebody out of the blue, quote, someone with whom the FBI
9 had worked for many years.

10 That's on page 153. Do you agree with Yates'
11 assessment of Steele?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And Steele's handling agent testified
14 during this investigation that, quote: He had no indication
15 that Steele was anything other than professional and
16 productive."

17 And that's on page 36 of the transcript of that
18 interview.

19 So quote: He had no indication that Steele was
20 anything other than professional and productive.

21 Do agree with that statement?

22 A. Yes.

23 BY MS. ZDEB:

24 Q. One other quick follow up about one the
25 other questions that Mr. Baker asked you regarding Mr.

1 Steele: He asked you about your characterization in one of
2 the 302s that Mr. Steele was, quote, desperate that Trump
3 not be elected.

4 Recognizing that you don't necessarily recall using
5 that specific word, could you elaborate a bit on what you
6 understood Mr. Steele's concerns at that to be?

7 A. I think my impression at the time was he
8 was very alarmed by the information. So if it were true,
9 that would be a serious threat to the American national
10 security, and that was my -- that was what my impression was
11 of his reason.

12 MS. ZDEB: Thank you.

13 BY MS. SAWYER:

14 Q. Before we move off that topic, I just want
15 to drill down a little more on that. Did he ever indicate
16 to you that he was opposed to any Republican being in the
17 White House?

18 A. No. I never heard anything like that, no.

19 Q. Did he ever express to you a strong desire
20 that Hillary Clinton win the election?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So from where you sat, were the concerns
23 he was raising unique to Donald Trump?

24 A. Yes. He had specific information that he
25 had obtained that he was passing on regarding Mr. Trump.

1 Q. I think, as you characterized it earlier,
2 was his concern that Donald Trump in particular might be
3 vulnerable to undue influence from Russia?

4 A. Correct.

5 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

6 MR. HASKELL: I think that's all we have for now.
7 That's all I have for now.

8 BY MS. SAWYER:

9 Q. I just wanted to just clarify a couple of
10 more timing points than anything else.

11 On a few occasions, you were asked by our colleagues
12 about Mr. -- the handling agent's remark that the handling
13 agent believed that news of the report had reached the,
14 quote, EAD level at FBI Headquarters. Do you recall at all
15 the timing of when the handling agent believed those reports
16 had reached the, quote, EAD level?

17 A. I'm afraid I don't.

18 Q. Who would the EAD have been at that point
19 in time?

20 A. I don't know the name of the person. It
21 would have been at Headquarters.

22 Q. Is it possible it was Michael Steinbach?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. And in the IG report at page 100, it says:
25 "On September 19, 2016, the Crossfire Hurricane team

1 received a Steele reporting for the first time when the
2 handling agent E-mails SSA 1, six reports for SSA 1 to
3 upload the sub file."

4 Do you have any information that would contradict or
5 call into question the finding that it was September of 2016
6 when the Crossfire Hurricane team first learned about the
7 Steele reporting?

8 A. I don't have any information on that.

9 Q. During the conversation that you were
10 having with our colleagues as well, there was some
11 conversation about Christopher Steele at times having been
12 paid for some of the source reporting he provided to the
13 FBI. The Committee, and I believe it's also in the
14 Inspector General's report, also has other information
15 confirming that with regard to Mr. Steele's Russian election
16 reporting, he was never paid by the FBI.

17 Is that your understanding as well?

18 A. I don't know. I don't know if he was paid
19 or not.

20 Q. So you wouldn't have any information that
21 would contradict --

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. -- the receive information that we
24 received?

25 A. Correct.

1 MR. HASKELL: I think that's all we have for now.

2 MR. SOMERS: Are you good to keep going?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 MR. SOMERS: It's 11:40. We can go back on the
5 record.

6 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY

7 BY MR. SOMERS:

8 Q. In the previous round, we spoke a little
9 about your meetings with Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Ahmad, and Mr.
10 Weissmann. I'll read you a quote from page 292 of the IG
11 report:

12 "The meetings between Schwartz, Ahmad, and Weissmann
13 focused on the shared concern that MLARS was not moving
14 quickly enough on the Manafort criminal investigation and
15 whether there were steps they could take to move the
16 investigation forward."

17 First, what's MLARS, just for the record?

18 A. Money Laundering Asset Recovery Section.

19 Q. Do you recall what the concerns were with
20 the pace of the Manafort criminal investigation?

21 A. I don't beyond what you just said.

22 Q. Did you have any formal involvement in the
23 Manafort criminal investigation?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Ahmad, or Mr.

1 Weissmann work in the MLARS section?

2 A. I don't believe they did.

3 Q. And your responsibility in ODAG did not
4 include the supervision of MLARS; is that correct?

5 A. Mine did not, no, except maybe with
6 OCDETF.

7 Q. Again, so we talked about these meetings
8 between Schwartz, Ahmad, and Weissmann, and the IG report
9 indicates that some of the meetings -- I think we discussed
10 this last round. Some of the meetings included Page and
11 Strzok and, quote, focused primarily on whether the FBI
12 could assess the cases relevant, if any, to the FBI's Russia
13 interference investigation.

14 For context, the case is the Manafort case. Do you
15 recall discussions about how -- having discussions or being
16 in the meetings where it was discussed how Manafort related
17 to the Russia interference investigation?

18 A. I don't recall the specifics.

19 Q. Do you recall anything?

20 A. Just what you said.

21 Q. Do you know why MLARS was never included
22 in any of these meetings?

23 A. I don't, no.

24 Q. Did you ever ask like, Hey --

25 A. I don't recall.

1 Q. -- should we invite MLARS up?

2 A. I don't recall.

3 Q. Had you ever contacted MLARS?

4 A. Not at this time. I don't believe so.

5 Q. You said there was some overlap between
6 OCDETF, I think, and MLARS a moment ago. There was no one
7 at MLARS you could reach out to to discuss this with
8 directly?

9 A. I didn't have a particular person to call,
10 no.

11 Q. Was there an individual in ODAG that had
12 responsibility over MLARS?

13 A. I don't know if there was a particular
14 person for MLARS. I'm sure there was someone from the
15 Criminal Division. I can't remember who that is right now
16 or who that was.

17 Q. And again, you didn't consult that person?

18 A. No.

19 Q. For what reason?

20 A. I don't recall. I mean beyond what I said
21 earlier.

22 Q. Why did you choose not to inform Sally
23 Yates of your work in this area?

24 A. I wanted to keep this raw intelligence at
25 the level of people who were working with that sort of

1 thing. I didn't see it as part of a case or, you know, it
2 wasn't reliable enough to be considered, in my opinion, as
3 part of a case at that point.

4 It was just raw intel. So I wanted to keep it to the
5 people who would be able to analyze it and work with it.

6 Q. Is that lower-level people?

7 A. In general, yes.

8 Q. Was there any aversion to telling
9 political appointees about this information?

10 A. Only in that they would not be as used to
11 dealing with this kind of information.

12 Q. But not anything to do with the fact that
13 they were politically appointed?

14 A. I mean, there's always some concern about
15 political issues, but in this case, it was just information.

16 Q. Did you recall any conversations with
17 Bruce Schwartz where he may have expressed concerns about
18 sharing information about political?

19 A. He may have, but I don't recall the exact
20 conversation. I saw it was in the report.

21 Q. But that wasn't your concern; that was his
22 concern?

23 If there was a concern, it was not your concern; it was
24 his concern that political not be involved with the
25 investigation; is that an accurate statement?

1 A. It's hard to know, looking back on it now.

2 Q. So you don't recall that you were
3 concerns --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- with politicals?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Do you have any reason to think that Sally
8 Yates would somehow allow political influence or politics to
9 influence an investigation?

10 A. No. I think the leadership of the
11 Department would do its to best to try to be political about
12 things. So, obviously politics, affects some of their work.
13 They do their best not to let it influence.

14 Q. That would apply to Dana Boente as well?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Rob Rosenstein?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. It would apply to him as well?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you also did not Dana Boente?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you provided some information to Rod
23 Rosenstein about your involvement; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Other issues in the IG report

1 discusses -- the IG report indicates that you never sought
2 ethics advice about whether your wife's employment by Fusion
3 GPS presented a conflict of interest; is that correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. You told the IG that you may not have
6 sought ethics advice because you did not want to spread the
7 information around the Department before it was evaluated;
8 is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is the ethics advice not confidential?
11 I'm not familiar with the ethics process at DOJ.

12 A. I believe they try to keep it
13 confidential. I was trying to keep the number of people
14 involved limited.

15 Q. But you said you didn't spread the
16 information around the Department. By that, you did not
17 mean that you were concerned that if you sought ethics
18 advice that the information would get more broadly; is that
19 not what you meant by that?

20 A. I'm not sure exactly. No.

21 Q. You still work at the Department. Do you
22 have concerns now if you went to the Department for ethics
23 advice about something that the information you shared would
24 be spread throughout the Department?

25 A. Well, I think now, I would more likely to

1 go for the advice.

2 Q. But you wouldn't have concerns about it
3 being spread throughout the Department if an issue was
4 shared?

5 A. Not particularly. I mean, there's always
6 some risk.

7 Q. Who would you have sought ethics advice
8 from at that time?

9 It doesn't have to be a person. A particular office.

10 A. Yeah. The Office of Professional
11 Responsibility.

12 Q. Would you have had to go to Scott Schools
13 at that point in time to get ethics or was there someone
14 else you could have gone to to get the advice?

15 A. There are probably other people as well.
16 Scott would have been certainly one place to go.

17 Q. What was Scott Schools' position at the
18 time?

19 A. He was kind of the senior career person in
20 ODAG.

21 Q. Was he at the same level that you were?

22 A. Yeah, but he was more senior.

23 Q. He was also, technically, an assistant
24 deputy attorney general?

25 A. Assistant associate deputy attorney

1 general.

2 Q. Scott Schools was also associate deputy
3 attorney general?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Did the fact that he was in the ethics
6 chain in any way affect your decision to seek or not seek
7 ethics advice on your wife's employment by Fusion GPS?

8 A. I don't believe so.

9 Q. I would like to sort of switch agencies
10 once again to outside the Department and switch to the State
11 Department.

12 According to the IG report: "In the morning of
13 November 21, 2016, at the State Department's request, Ohr
14 met with Deputy Assistant Secretary Katherine Kavalec and
15 several other senior State Department officials regarding
16 State Department efforts to investigate Russian influence in
17 foreign elections and how the Department of Justice might
18 assist those efforts. During a break in this, Ohr and
19 Kavalec discussed together Kavalec's interaction with
20 Steele."

21 Do you recall this conversation?

22 A. I recall speaking with Kavalec about
23 Steele. I don't recall that specific conversation.

24 Q. But you recall an initial conversation
25 with her?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. About Steele?

3 A. There was an initial conversation, yes.

4 Q. Stepping back, other than Kavalec, did you
5 discuss Steele or Russian election interference in the 2016
6 election with anyone else at the State Department?

7 A. I don't recall. I don't think so.

8 Q. Victoria Nuland?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Jonathan Winer?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What was the meeting about? Do you recall
13 the gist not the meeting with Kavalec, but more the general
14 meeting -- it says with State Department official regarding
15 State Department efforts to investigate Russian influence in
16 foreign election and how the Department of Justice might
17 assist those efforts.

18 Can you speak more broadly about this meeting?

19 A. I'm happy to tell you my recollection of
20 the meeting. I do believe it was probably classified at the
21 time. So I don't know whether there's a problem. If not, I
22 can certainly --

23 Q. Well, I don't need the specific efforts.
24 I'm just trying to understand if you can say anything more
25 broadly about it.

1 A. I think they were primarily interested in
2 talking with other countries that felt like they were being
3 threatened with election interference from Russian and
4 sharing lessons from our experience.

5 Q. Was there any discussion about Russian
6 interference in the United States election in 2016 at that
7 meeting?

8 A. I don't recall specifically any discussion
9 about that.

10 Q. Do you recall why you were invited to the
11 meeting?

12 A. I generally was the person dealing
13 with -- no, I don't. I don't know.

14 Q. Was there anyone else from DOJ at the
15 meetings?

16 A. I don't recall.

17 Q. I mean, would that seem an obvious topic
18 for you to be the DOJ representative at?

19 A. I mean, I dealt with Russia matters
20 generally, but, you know, I don't know. I don't recall if
21 there were other people there from DOJ or not.

22 Q. You didn't say that -- did you ever
23 express to Kavalec or someone else at the State Department
24 that they have the wrong guy to attend this meeting?

25 A. I don't recall doing that, no.

1 Q. I guess what I'm asking is this would also
2 seem to -- this meeting would seem to fall outside of your
3 portfolio, as you explained it earlier, as either ADAG or
4 OCDETF.

5 A. If I recall, what I talked about at the
6 meeting was more of we support criminal investigation into
7 Russian organized crime activity and that some of the same
8 actors might be involved.

9 Q. Let's go back. We talked more broadly
10 about the bigger meeting. Let's talk about the smaller
11 between you and Kavalec that was -- you said that it was
12 during a break from this larger meeting. Do you remember
13 how she approached you?

14 A. I don't, no.

15 Q. How did she know that you knew Steele?

16 A. I don't recall how that came up.

17 Q. You knew her, Ms. Kavalec, prior to this
18 meeting; is that correct?

19 A. I may have met her once before, but,
20 generally, that was my first meeting with her.

21 Q. You didn't generally have contact with
22 her?

23 A. I don't believe so.

24 Q. Did you confirm to her that you knew
25 Steele in the conversation?

1 A. I believe I did. I don't recall the
2 specifics.

3 Q. Did you tell her Steele was also telling
4 you the same or similar information?

5 A. I don't recall. Again, I don't recall.

6 Q. And, again, I asked you about this
7 earlier: You had no concern talking about Steele with her
8 even though he was a confidential human source?

9 A. No, because it was clear to me she had had
10 conversations with Steele. So I was curious what she had
11 heard.

12 Q. And what did she tell you she heard?

13 A. I don't recall the specifics.

14 Q. Was it similar to what you already heard?
15 Do you recall that?

16 A. I believe generally, yeah.

17 Q. What contacts did you have with her after
18 the initial meeting about either Steele or Russian
19 interference in the 2016 U.S. election?

20 A. I saw her at least a couple of times. So
21 I don't recall exactly how many.

22 Q. Did you correspond with her by E-mail
23 regarding these topics?

24 A. I know we sent E-mails back and forth. I
25 don't know if they were specifically about this topic.

1 Q. Did Kavalec tell you that she had
2 separately reached out to the FBI about Steele and the
3 information he provided?

4 A. I don't recall that.

5 Q. Did you indicate to her that you were also
6 having conversation with FBI about Steele?

7 A. I don't know. I don't recall.

8 Q. According to the IG report on page 279,
9 she, Ms. Kavalec: "She told us that Ohr responded that
10 Steele's information was, quote, kind of crazy, kind of
11 wild, quite a tale. She told us that she provided this
12 information to Ohr believing that he would pass it along to
13 whoever needed it."

14 I guess my first question would be that your take on
15 Christopher Steele's information, that it was kind of crazy,
16 kind of wild, and quite a tale? Does that sound like the
17 feeling you had about it?

18 A. I don't recall the -- I don't recall
19 saying that specifically. I mean, I think it was pretty
20 wild information, but he had provided good information in
21 the past.

22 Q. Did you tell you would pass the
23 information along to the FBI that she had told you?

24 A. I don't recall.

25 BY MR. BAKER:

1 Q. Do you know if there was any follow up
2 with her? Did you circle back and say you did pass it along
3 or did she affirmatively reach out to you to verify that you
4 did, in fact, pass it?

5 A. I know we spoke more than once. I don't
6 remember exactly what we said. So I'm not sure.

7 Q. You don't recall a specific discussion
8 about whether you, in fact, passed it along and who you
9 passed it to?

10 A. I don't recall anything.

11 BY MR. SOMERS:

12 Q. Did you pass -- I'm sorry. If he asked
13 this. Did you pass Kavalec's information to the FBI?

14 A. I believe I did.

15 Q. Who did you pass it to?

16 A. Whoever was the agent that I was talking
17 with at the time.

18 Q. Did she -- do you recall her raising an
19 issue with you about whether Russia had a consulate in
20 Miami?

21 A. I don't recall that.

22 Q. Did she tell you she had done any digging
23 into the Steele information herself?

24 A. I don't recall.

25 Q. Whether she had may have found something

1 inaccurate, do you recall that?

2 A. I don't recall, no.

3 Q. Any discussion about outcomes with her?
4 Do you recall?

5 A. No. I can't -- no. I don't recall.

6 Q. One of the people I asked you about
7 earlier was Jonathan Winer. The 302 of your November 21,
8 2016 meeting with the FBI, it notes that: "Ohr knew that
9 Steele's reporting was going to, among other Jon Winer at
10 State."

11 How did you know that?

12 A. You know, I don't recall now.

13 Q. Do you know Jon Winer?

14 A. A little bit yes.

15 Q. Did you -- what were your contacts
16 with -- what's relationship with Jon Winer?

17 A. I dealt with him a little bit when he was
18 in the government back in the early 2000s and I think I saw
19 him once the hall passing during the Obama Administration,
20 but I don't think we ever spoke about anything substantive.

21 BY MR. BAKER:

22 Q. What was his position at State?

23 A. Back when I knew him in the early 2000s, I
24 think he was a deputy assistant secretary for INL, and I
25 don't know what his position was in 2016.

1 Q. You said INL?

2 A. Yeah. It's the Bureau of International
3 Narcotics and Law Enforcement. I may be getting that wrong.

4 MR. BAKER: Okay. Thank you.

5 BY MR. SOMERS:

6 Q. So during the post-July 30, 2016 through,
7 say, December 2017 time -- well, I guess he left the State
8 Department. Well, let's keep it broad.

9 In December 2017, what was your relationship with Winer
10 in that particular time? Did you have contact with him?

11 A. I don't believe I did.

12 Q. Did you discuss Winer with Steele?

13 A. I think Steele mentioned Winer, but I
14 don't know.

15 Q. Could that be how you, quote, knew that
16 Steele's reporting was going to, among others, Jonathan
17 Winer? Could it have been Steele who told you that?

18 A. It could be, yes.

19 Q. Did Winer ever share information with you
20 about the Trump campaign or Russia in the 2016 election?

21 A. No.

22 Q. In one of your 302s, the May 8, 2017 302,
23 at the end there is a statement, quote: "Jonathan Winer was
24 bringing over a letter separately" and, in parentheses,
25 "NFI".

1 Do you have any recollection of what that letter is?

2 A. I can't recall anything as I sit here, no.

3 Q. There must have been -- you told the FBI.
4 So you must have had some awareness of this at some point in
5 time.

6 Did you communicate with him after he left the State
7 Department in January of 2017?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you ever receive information from
10 Jonathan Winer?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Your November 21, 2016 302, similar to my
13 questions about Winer: Ohr, quote, knew Simpson and others
14 were talking to Victoria Nuland at State."

15 How did you know this?

16 A. I think Steele told me.

17 Q. Simpson and others. Do you recall who the
18 others were?

19 "Ohr knew Simpson and others were talking to Victoria
20 Nuland at State."

21 Do you know the others were?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Could it have been the intelligence
24 community?

25 A. I don't know.

1 BY MR. BAKER:

2 Q. What position did Ms. Nuland occupy at
3 State?

4 A. She was -- I'm not sure. It may have been
5 assistant secretary for their Europe Bureau. I don't
6 recall.

7 BY MR. SOMERS:

8 Q. Could the others have been Steele? Did
9 Steele talk to you about Victoria Nuland?

10 A. I'm sorry?

11 Q. "Ohr knew Simpson and others were talking
12 to Victoria Nuland at State. I'm asking about the others
13 and whether Steele may have mentioned to you that he was
14 speaking to Victoria Nuland at the State Department.

15 A. I think so. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

16 Q. Do you know what they were talking to her
17 about, Simpson and the others?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Presumably, since it's in that 302, it had
20 something to do with elections interference.

21 A. Yeah, but I don't know.

22 Q. Okay. Did you ever communicate with
23 Victoria Nuland?

24 A. No.

25 Q. About anything?

1 A. No.

2 MR. SOMERS: Let's go off the record for a second.

3 [Discussion held off the record.]

4 MR. SOMERS: I would like to mark this entire set
5 of documents Exhibit 1 for the court reporter.

6 [Ohr Exhibit No. 1 was
7 marked for identification.]

8 BY MR. SOMERS:

9 Q. If you could, these are Bates numbered at
10 the bottom. They're in order, but I only printed out the
11 documents from the complete set that were of interest to me
12 rather than giving you a large set of documents.

13 Go to page 25.

14 A. Twenty-five.

15 Q. At a little further than halfway down the
16 page, January 31st of 2017 at 5:48 p.m., you respond to
17 Christopher Steele. This is a series of messages, text
18 messages, of some sort between you and Christopher Steele,
19 and it says -- this is from you:

20 "Bruce: Understood. I can certainly give you an FBI
21 contact if it becomes necessary."

22 Do you know why you were at the point in time
23 discussing giving Christopher Steele an FBI contact?

24 A. I don't recall the conversation, but
25 looking at the prior message from Christopher to me, he

1 says: If you end up out though, I really need another,
2 Bureau, question mark, contact point/number who is briefed.
3 We can't allow our guy to be forced to go back home. It
4 would be disastrous all around, though his position right
5 now looks stable. A million thanks.

6 Q. Do you recall who "our guy" is?

7 A. I believe that's his primary source.

8 Q. And I'm not going to ask you to reveal his
9 name, but did you know who his primary source was?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. What was his concern at the time about the
12 primary source?

13 A. I think that the primary source would be
14 forced to go back home. I don't know exactly where home is.

15 Q. Could you go to the next page, Bates 26 on
16 March 16, 2017 at 7:52 p.m.

17 Do you see that text message?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. It says: Hi. Apparently Laura Perkins is
20 the DOJ official responsible for overseeing the Foreign
21 Corrupt Practices Act, slash DPA, Deferred Prosecution
22 Agreement applied to Bilfinger, our non-paying German
23 engineering company client. Best."

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Do you know why Mr. Steele was raising

1 this issue with you?

2 A. I think he had some information about
3 other wrongdoing by Bilfinger.

4 Q. Was he asking you to take any action about
5 Bilfinger on behalf of or to intervene with Laura Perkins on
6 something?

7 A. It looks like he's asking me to call Laura
8 Perkins.

9 Q. Did you call Laura Perkins?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. If you go a little further down the page,
12 did you tell him it wouldn't have been appropriate for you
13 to call Laura Perkins about --

14 A. I wouldn't have.

15 Q. Because it would have been inappropriate?

16 A. I think -- yeah. I would not have felt
17 comfortable doing that.

18 Q. Did you convey that to Steele?

19 A. I don't remember if I did or not.

20 Q. Had you ever gotten a request like this
21 from Steele before or after, to intervene in -- "intervene"
22 is not the right word -- the contact someone at the Justice
23 Department about a client of his?

24 A. I don't recall any other time, no.

25 Q. A little further down the page, at March

1 24, 2017 at 7:15 a.m., skipping into the middle of that
2 text: "Otherwise, we understand an approach from Senate
3 Intelligence Committee to us is imminent. I would like to
4 discuss this and our response with you in the next couple of
5 days, if possible."

6 Do you recall discussing the Senate Intelligence
7 Committee their request with Steele?

8 A. I believe we did. I don't recall the
9 specific one, but I'm sure we did or I believe we did at
10 some point.

11 Q. What did you discuss?

12 A. I think, again, he was worried about his
13 source's safety, is my recollection.

14 Q. Did you provide him with any advice on how
15 to deal with that request?

16 A. No. I don't recall doing so.

17 Q. If you could go -- sorry -- back to Bates
18 25 for a second.

19 Toward the bottom on March 7, 2017 at 4:53 a.m., this
20 is from Steele to you: "Would it be possible to speak later
21 today? We're very concerned about the Grassley letter and
22 its possible implications for us, our operations, and our
23 sources. We need some reassurances. Many thanks."

24 Did you discuss a Grassley oversight letter with
25 Christopher Steele?

1 A. I believe we did.

2 Q. Do you recall -- sorry. You said "we did?"

3 A. I believe I did.

4 Q. Is that you and Steele?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What did you discuss?

7 A. Again, I remember him being concerned
8 about his source becoming exposed.

9 Q. Then this is kind of a general question.
10 I think it occurs in a lot of these texts, but we'll just
11 take this one, for example, the same as I just asked you
12 about Grassley.

13 "We're very concerned about the Grassley letter." Do
14 you know who the "we're" is? Were you talking to anyone
15 else with Steele? Is that how he spoke generally?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. So you were not in contact with anybody
18 else from Orbis?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. If you can you turn to Bates 27, the top
21 of the page, the very first text, March 30, 2017 at 9:07
22 a.m.

23 "Hi, Bruce. Any news? The Senate Intel Committee is
24 leaking like a sieve, which is giving us pause for thought
25 on engagement."

1 Then you respond at 9:15 a.m.: "Bruce: Chris, no news
2 on this end aside from what I'm reading in the papers."

3 Did you make an inquiry of somebody?

4 A. I don't recall making any inquiry, no.

5 Q. Did you ever talk to anybody on the
6 Intelligence Committee about the requests they were making
7 of Christopher Steele?

8 A. No.

9 Q. On the bottom of that page, July 16, 2017,
10 5:47 p.m., it's from Steele to you again and the second
11 sentence there says: "I spoke to my old colleague last week
12 and they assured me they would not stand in the way of our
13 reengagement with the Bureau."

14 Do you know who he was referring to by his old
15 colleague?

16 A. I think he means people in British
17 intelligence.

18 Q. Do you have any sense of why they would
19 stand in the way of his reengagement with the Bureau? Was
20 that a concern then?

21 A. My understanding was he needed to check
22 with them before talking with the Bureau because it was a
23 former employee.

24 Q. Do you know if he checked with them before
25 he spoke with the Bureau in the -- this text message is sent

1 in the summer of 2017. So in the summer of 2016, did you
2 ever have any conversation with him about whether he engaged
3 with his old colleagues to see if it was okay to talk with
4 either you or the FBI?

5 A. I don't recall any conversations along
6 those lines.

7 Q. The next is -- your response to this is
8 the next text on that page at 5:49 p.m.: "Bruce: Hi,
9 Chris. It's good to hear from you. Hope all is well. I
10 will pass this along to my colleagues."

11 Who did you pass that along to?

12 A. The FBI.

13 Q. So would that be -- do you know who at the
14 FBI?

15 A. Either [REDACTED] or his successor.

16 BY MR. BAKER:

17 Q. Do you know the successor's name?

18 A. I don't recall it as I sit here.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q. Do you recall if they're at Headquarters
21 or a field office?

22 A. I don't.

23 Q. Where did you meet with -- first, where
24 did meet with [REDACTED] when you met with him, generally?

25 A. I believe I generally met with [REDACTED]

1 at Headquarters.

2 Q. And then he had two successors, I believe
3 is indicated in the IG report. Did you meet with them at
4 Headquarters as well?

5 A. At some point, I met with -- started
6 meeting with one of them in the Washington Field Office, but
7 I don't recall exactly when that transition occurred.

8 Q. Did you ever meet with them at Main
9 Justice?

10 Your offices is at Main Justice. Correct?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Your office is at Main Justice?

13 A. Right. I was at Main Justice.

14 Q. I gave you that question in reverse order.
15 Did you ever meet with him at Main Justice?

16 A. I don't believe.

17 BY MR. BAKER:

18 Q. How would a handoff have been done?
19 [REDACTED] is leaving. Did he set up an introduction with
20 whoever was taking his place with you?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 BY MR. SOMERS:

23 Q. We're were still on Bates 28, the next
24 text there. This is August 6, 2018 at 12:28 p.m.

25 "Hi, Bruce. Hope you're well and getting some holiday

1 with the family. Whenever convenient, I would like to chat.
2 There's a lot going on and we are frustrated at how long
3 this reengagement with the Bureau and Mueller is taking.
4 Anything you could do to accelerate the process would be
5 much appreciated."

6 What was he expecting you to do to accelerate the
7 process with the Bureau and with Mueller?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Did you ever engage with the special
10 counsel on behalf of Christopher Steele?

11 A. Not that I was aware of. I just kept
12 going to the same agent they told me to talk to.

13 Q. Did you ever go back to the FBI and
14 express Steele's frustration about not being reengaged?

15 A. I'm sure I passed this along to whoever
16 the agent was I was talking to.

17 Q. Did they ever give any explanation as to
18 why things were going slow or whether they were able to deal
19 with it?

20 A. I don't recall any explanation.

21 Q. The next last sentence of that text
22 message says: "There are some new, perishable, operational
23 opportunities which we do not want to miss out on."

24 Do you know anything about that?

25 A. I don't know if it was this occasion, but

1 it may have been this occasion. He had some other people, I
2 think, who he thought might be able to provide information
3 to the FBI.

4 Q. Regarding?

5 A. Some Russian interference in general.

6 Q. But you don't know whether those
7 opportunities were ever taken? Did you ever facilitate it?

8 A. Well, I passed this information back to
9 the FBI. I don't recall what they did with it.

10 Q. Did you ever facilitate the FBI meeting
11 with anybody else related to this Russia interference
12 investigation?

13 A. I mentioned Kathleen Kavalec to them.

14 Q. But no -- Steele didn't give you -- did
15 Steele ever give you anyone else's name and then you
16 provided that name, slash, person to the FBI to give further
17 reporting to FBI?

18 A. I don't recall anything like that
19 happening.

20 Q. Would you turn to Bates 29, the next page
21 there, November 18, 2017 at 4:22 p.m. It's kind of towards
22 the bottom of the page, the long text there.

23 This is again from Steele to you. I'm going to skip to
24 the third sentence: "I am presuming you've heard nothing
25 from your SC colleagues on the issues you kindly put to them

1 from me. We have heard nothing from them either."

2 Would you agree with me that SC is probably Special
3 Counsel?

4 A. I think that's who he's referring to.

5 Q. Is that who you understood him to be
6 referring to?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It says: "On the issues that you kindly
9 put to them from me."

10 What issues did you put to the special counsel
11 colleagues?

12 A. Whatever the other things he mentioned, I
13 guess as reported to the agents that I was dealing with.

14 Q. Did you ever talk to Andrew Weissman, not
15 the meeting we talked about earlier, but Andrew Weissman
16 once he was on the special counsel team, did you ever talk
17 with him about Christopher Steele?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Same question for Ms. Ahmad.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you know -- I mean, other than them,
22 did you know anyone else on the special counsel's team?

23 A. I was acquainted with one of the agents.

24 Q. And that agent was not the same person
25 that was your handler --

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. -- for passing off Steele information?

3 A. Correct.

4 BY MR. BAKER:

5 Q. What was the agent's name?

6 A. [REDACTED].

7 BY MR. SOMERS:

8 Q. Had you ever spoken to him about --

9 A. I spoke with him, but I did not pass on
10 information.

11 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't hear your response.

12 A. I spoke with [REDACTED] at one point,
13 but I did not -- it was purely social. I did not pass on
14 any information.

15 Q. So nothing about Russian interference?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. They weren't Russian interference
18 conversations?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. At the bottom of that page 29 and it
21 continues onto 30, it says -- you response to Chris. This
22 is November 18, 2017 5:22 p.m.

23 "I understand the difficulties and uncertainty you are
24 experiencing. I haven't heard anything back, but I'll reach
25 out again and ask for an update."

1 Who would you have reached out to again?

2 A. The same agent.

3 Q. If you could turn to the next document
4 there, this is about the Senate Intel -- it's Bates No. 47
5 about the Senate Intel letter that we discussed a few
6 minutes ago. I think these are -- are these your
7 handwritten notes, your handwriting?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. This refers to a call we were talking
10 about earlier, your call with Chris.

11 "Got letter from the Senate Intel Committee."

12 I'm reading the second sentence.

13 "Got letter from Senate Intel Committee."

14 Asked, something, three questions. Is that roughly how
15 you read it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you know what that word is?

18 A. "Them", I believe.

19 Q. "Them three questions."

20 Can you read the last sentence on that note?

21 A. The last sentence?

22 Q. Yes. "Also", something.

23 A. "Also, Don Jones still in the picture, his
24 own channel."

25 Q. Could that be Dan Jones and not Don Jones,

1 possibly?

2 A. It might be.

3 Q. I asked you earlier about Dan Jones, and
4 you don't know who Dan Jones is?

5 A. No.

6 Q. The Penn Quarter Group?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And you don't know whether at some point,
9 Dan Jones or the Penn Quarter Group took over paying for
10 research from Christopher Steele?

11 A. No, I don't.

12 Q. Let's go to Bates 49, the next page.
13 Again, I think it's:

14 "Dan Jones, former FBI, was staff to Senate Intel
15 Committee."

16 Is that what that says there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you know what the next three words are
19 there?

20 A. "During water boarding."

21 Q. A little further down -- these are your
22 handwritten notes?

23 A. I believe so, yes.

24 Q. There's a sentence that looks like: "He
25 has talked."

1 Can you read that sentence?

2 A. "He has talked with current FBI, trying to
3 help discretely."

4 Q. Do you think this relates to Russia?

5 A. I don't know. I don't think -- as I said,
6 I don't think I'm familiar with Dan Jones.

7 Q. Whatever these notes are, do you believe
8 this is your notes on the phone call or some other, Skype
9 call or whatever, with Christopher Steele?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So this information you have here is from
12 Christopher Steele?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then if we go to the next page here, 50
15 relates back to the question I asked you earlier about Jon
16 Winer and the letter. The second sentence there, I think I
17 can read this one.

18 "Jon Winer bringing over a letter separately. They are
19 trying to keep a low profile as much as possible."

20 Did I read those two sentences correctly?

21 A. I believe so, yes.

22 Q. Does this refresh your recollection at all
23 about Jon Winer and that letter I asked you about earlier?

24 A. Yeah. I don't know what was in the
25 letter. I don't know what that was about.

1 Q. Again, this is information from
2 Christopher Steele, though, to you?

3 A. I believe so, yes.

4 Q. Turn to the next page, Bates 57. It's got
5 the date of November 8, 2017. There's a one, two, three in
6 the column, and then a little bit further down the page, it
7 looks like it says Mifsud. Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you -- there's an arrow through some
10 other words. I can't read those words. Can you -- I can
11 read some of them, but could you read the words that are
12 arrowed to there?

13 Again, these are your notes. Correct?

14 A. Yes. I have to admit I'm having a little
15 trouble here. I don't know what the first -- I'm not sure
16 what that first word is. Underneath, it says "con last
17 year", so conversation last year, and then Mifsud, maybe "to
18 Scotty", Mifsud, something Scotty, former battalion foreign
19 minister.

20 Q. Do you know who Scotty is?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You don't know who that is?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you know Joseph Mifsud is?

25 A. The name rings a bell, I think from the

1 newspapers, but I don't know who he is. I didn't have any
2 contact or any knowledge about it him.

3 Q. Again, I keep asking this question, I
4 guess, but these notes here are based on, to the best of
5 your knowledge, a conversation you would have had with
6 Christopher Steele?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So he was telling you something about
9 Joseph Mifsud, but you don't recall who Joseph Mifsud is?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Can you turn to the next page, page 58,
12 and again there is a Mifsud and some words after that.
13 Could you read that to us? I can't make that out.

14 A. I'm not sure. It looks like instru -- it
15 could instrumental, but I'm not sure. I think that's "R",
16 slash, "Saudi" relationship.

17 Q. What does "R", slash, "Saudi" mean?

18 A. I think Russia-Saudi relationship.

19 Q. So Mifsud is something, maybe
20 instrumental, in Russia, slash, Saudi relationship?

21 A. That's how I read that, yes.

22 Q. Do you know who Alison Saunders is?

23 A. Yes. Yes.

24 Q. Did you go serve her a dinner at her house
25 in 2016?

1 A. I believe I did, yes.

2 Q. Who is that?

3 A. She at that time may have been the chief
4 or the head of prosecution services.

5 Q. So you can save me a reading of George
6 Papadopolous' book, let me just read you this tweet from
7 George Papadopolous: "The person who introduced me to
8 western intelligence asset Joseph Mifsud also introduced
9 Alison Saunders, UK's top prosecutor to Bruce Ohr four days
10 before the Trump Tower meeting. I exposed this person in my
11 book. UK is the epicenter of a coup attempt from the last
12 two years."

13 Who introduced you to Alison Saunders, if you recall?

14 This is your saving me from having to look at George
15 Papadopolous' book.

16 A. Okay. I knew Alison Saunders for many
17 years. She was previously the head of their organized crime
18 branch in the criminal prosecution service, and I started
19 dealing with her -- I don't know -- five, ten years before
20 this.

21 Q. So you've known her for a long time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you ever discuss Russian interference
24 in the election with her?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you ever discuss Joseph Mifsud with
2 her?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Are you familiar with Link Campus in
5 Italy?

6 A. I'm sorry?

7 Q. Link Campus in Italy?

8 A. No. I don't think so.

9 Q. That will be my last Mifsud-related
10 question.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. If we could go to the beginning of those
13 documents.

14 Bates No. 1, down towards the bottom is an E-mail from
15 Christopher Steele to Bruce Ohr: "I heard from Adam Waldman
16 yesterday that OD is applying for another official U.S. visa
17 ICE APEC business at the end of February. Apparently, he is
18 being encouraged in this by the Agency guys who told Adam
19 that the U.S. Government stance on him is softening, a
20 positive development, it seems."

21 Who do you take OD to be in that sentence?

22 A. I believe he's referring to Oleg
23 Deripaska.

24 Q. And who is Oleg Deripaska?

25 A. He is a criminally-connected oligarch in

1 Russia.

2 Q. And what would -- why would Christopher
3 Steele being talking about Oleg Deripaska?

4 A. I think he had some kind of connection
5 with Deripaska.

6 Q. What would your interest is Oleg Deripaska
7 be?

8 A. Because he's a criminally-connected
9 Russian oligarch. That's my interest.

10 Q. Had you discussed Deripaska with Steele
11 over the years?

12 I'm trying to get some context here whether this is out
13 of the blue or whether this is an ongoing conversation that
14 you and Steele had been having about Deripaska in general?

15 A. We did have an ongoing conversation. I
16 don't know if it predates this E-mail.

17 Q. Who is Adam Waldman?

18 A. A lawyer.

19 Q. A private lawyer?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. For Deripaska, presumably?

22 A. I believe so.

23 Q. "The U.S. Government stance on him is
24 softening, a positive development, it seems."

25 What would be positive about the U.S. Government's

1 stance on this guy, who you said was a criminal, softening?

2 A. I think, as I said, Chris Steele had some
3 sort of a relationship with Oleg Deripaska. So I think he
4 thought Oleg Deripaska could be harmful.

5 BY MR. BAKER:

6 Q. What was your understanding of why the
7 U.S. Government's stance would be softening?

8 A. I don't believe it was. I may be wrong
9 about that.

10 Q. Do you know why he thought it was? Was
11 there anything specific that he --

12 A. He says he was encouraged in this by
13 agency guys. So he may heard something.

14 Q. But you don't know what specifically?

15 A. I mean, I think that it's just what it
16 says here. He was told by agency guys it was softening.

17 BY MR. SOMERS:

18 Q. Would you agree that it was a positive
19 development that the relationship was softening or the
20 stance was softening?

21 A. No, I would not.

22 Q. And, to your knowledge, Steele had some
23 sort of client relationship with Deripaska?

24 A. I don't know exactly what their
25 relationship was.

1 Q. Turn to Bates 2. This is an E-mail from
2 you back to Steele on February 9, 2016.

3 The one sentence there says: "I was aware of OD's
4 travel, and to the extent, I'll keep an eye on the
5 situation."

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What would you have done to keep an eye on
8 the situation?

9 A. Listen for any reports from the FBI or
10 anywhere.

11 Q. Do you have any concern that Steele
12 corresponding to you on your, I assume, unsecured account at
13 Justice about the agency guys claim to have a hand in this
14 and there was another reference to agency folks in the
15 previous E-mail we read? Do you have any concern about
16 that, related to discussing the agency?

17 A. Yeah. I -- yeah. Yes, I do have
18 concerns.

19 Q. Did you ever speak to him about the means
20 of communication not being appropriate?

21 A. Well, I think at some point, we switched
22 to encrypted communication, but I still wouldn't want
23 discussions, these kind of discussions, over E-mail.

24 Q. Turn to Bates 6. This is one that we
25 asked about a few times, but at the bottom there, you

1 probably know which sentence I'm going to ask you about, the
2 one with the exclamation point there: "It concerns our
3 favorite business tycoon."

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you testified you believe that's
6 Deripaska?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's your recollection?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you do not think it could have been
11 Donald Trump?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Page 8 -- sorry -- Bates No. 8, at the top
14 of page, Chris Steele to Bruce Ohr on July 30th. This would
15 have been after the meeting you had with him in person on
16 July 30th.

17 "Great to see you and Nellie this morning, Bruce.

18 Let's keep in touch on the substantive issues. Glenn is
19 happy to speak with you on this if it would help."

20 I assume the substantive issues, you would take that to
21 mean the election reporting --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- he told you about earlier?

24 BY MR. BAKER:

25 Q. Did he bring up anything else in that

1 conversation that would have been of interest to the
2 Department, slash, FBI that had nothing to do with --

3 A. I don't recall.

4 Q. -- Russia?

5 BY MR. SOMERS:

6 Q. Why would Glenn have been of help on this?

7 I assume Glenn means Glenn Simpson.

8 "Glenn is happy to speak with you on this if it would
9 help."

10 Do you know why he thought Glenn Simpson could have
11 been of help?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Turn to Bates 14. It should be the next
14 in the packet there. There's not much information there. I
15 just want to focus on the subject line here. It's from
16 Chris Steele to Bruce Ohr.

17 "GOU Kraine", is that the government of Ukraine?

18 A. I believe so.

19 Q. "RUSAL". What's RUSAL?

20 A. Rusal is the Russian aluminum. That's
21 Deripaska's company.

22 Q. What was the dispute?

23 A. I don't recall.

24 Q. Do you recall discussing a Rusal dispute
25 with Christopher Steele around that time?

1 A. Based on this, yes.

2 Q. Did he ask you to take any action?

3 A. I don't think so. I don't believe so, no.

4 Q. Did Rusal have any issues with the
5 Department of Justice or the FBI, criminal issues, legal
6 issues?

7 A. I don't know about legal issues.

8 Q. Criminal issues?

9 A. There was concern about Rusal activities
10 as part of Deripaska's area of operations.

11 Q. But do you have -- it wasn't your
12 understanding that Christopher Steele through a lawyer -- do
13 you know Paul Hauser is?

14 A. Another lawyer.

15 Q. Do you know if Christopher Steele was a
16 client of his?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. Do you know that he Oleg Deripaska's
19 attorney?

20 A. Yes. I did know he had a connection to
21 Deripaska.

22 Q. I'm just trying to -- I sort of asked this
23 earlier, but I'm just trying to understand whether you
24 realized that Christopher Steele had been hired either
25 directly or indirectly by Oleg Deripaska to do some sort of

1 work for him.

2 A. Yeah. Again, I don't know the specific
3 nature of relationship, but I think it was clear to me that
4 he had some sort of relationship with Deripaska.

5 Q. Did he ask you to take any action that was
6 a favor -- any action with the U.S. Government, Department
7 of Justice, Department of state, whoever you had contact
8 with, did he ask you take any action that would benefit
9 Deripaska?

10 A. I don't believe -- I don't recall him
11 doing that, no.

12 Q. Let's switch agencies again, back to the
13 State Department here. Look at Bates No. 22.

14 Bruce Ohr to Kathleen Kavalec, November 21, 2016. You
15 say to Kathleen: "Kathy, thanks for taking the time to meet
16 with us. I really hope we can get something going here."

17 Do you know what that sentence, "I really hope we can
18 get something here -- I'll give you a chance to read the
19 E-mail, but my question is going to be, "I really hope we
20 can get something going here", what that refers to.

21 A. I think, just generally, the information
22 that she had provided. So I was trying to encourage her to
23 continue providing information.

24 Q. And that was information from Steele?

25 A. Oh, well, information she was providing,

1 some of it was from Steele.

2 Q. Why did you really hope to get something
3 going?

4 A. I think I was trying to encourage her to
5 give more information. It was just along the same lines as
6 information Steele had provided, because it could be
7 important. I was encouraging her to give me information to
8 pass along.

9 Q. Turn to Bates 24.

10 On 24, if you could just look at the article that was
11 linked here. I didn't pull the article. I think it's
12 pretty clear -- I think it was also attached to your 302.
13 So I believe you provided this document to the FBI at some
14 point in time.

15 It looks the subject of the article is about Kremlin
16 and GOP share a new friend and boy does she love guns. Do
17 you recall what -- this is on February 23, 2017 from -- it's
18 unclear, but it does look like on February 23, 2017 at 10:05
19 a.m., Glenn Simpson wrote and he attached this article.

20 Do you recall what they were wanting to do, if
21 anything, having to do with the Kremlin, NRA, and guns?

22 A. I remember he wanted me to have the
23 information. I don't recall if they asked us to do anything
24 with it specifically.

25 Q. I do think you provided that information

1 to the FBI. I believe that article is attached to your
2 302s.

3 BY MR. BAKER:

4 Q. Go back to Bates No. 2 for just a second,
5 the long E-mail at the bottom from Mr. Steele to you on
6 February 8, 2016, and about five sentences down, he has in
7 the sentence: "Our old friend OD apparently has been
8 granted another official visa to come to the U.S. later this
9 month."

10 He has "official" in italics. What meaning did that
11 have for you? Why would he have "official" in italics?

12 A. My understanding at the time was he could
13 not -- he was on a visa ban list or something like that. He
14 could not apply for a normal visa, but if the Russian
15 Government put him on a list official representatives or
16 something, then the State Department would issue a visa. I
17 think that's what he meant by official.

18 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q. We're almost out of time. Let me see.

21 I didn't, unfortunately, print out this particular
22 exchange, but it looks like you had a meeting with
23 Christopher Steele at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, D.C.
24 on Friday, September 23, 2016. Do you recall that?

25 A. Not the specific date, no.

1 Q. And he stated he was there on a
2 client-related program. Do you know what he meant by that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You don't recall why he was in the United
5 States around that time, September 23rd?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did he ever talk to you about his contacts
8 with the press?

9 A. I think he mentioned he was in contact
10 with the press.

11 Q. Do you know, roughly, when he would have
12 told you?

13 A. I don't.

14 Q. You didn't bring it up in the first
15 meeting in July?

16 A. I don't recall.

17 Q. Do you recall whether he mentioned in this
18 meeting or sometime between the July meeting and this
19 meeting on September 23rd that he was also speaking to the
20 press?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 Q. But you definitely knew that he was
23 speaking to the press?

24 A. I think I remember him saying that, yes.

25 MR. SOMERS: I think that's all the time we have

1 this round.

2 MS. SAWYER: In term of logistics, it's now
3 12:40. I'm just trying to get a sense of how long, how many
4 more rounds you guys think you have. Is now a good time to
5 take a break to get a little bit of food?

6 MR. SOMERS: I don't think we have any more than
7 one more round, I don't believe. I mean, we can take a
8 break now. It's up to you. I don't know how much more you
9 guys have.

10 MS. SAWYER: I'm guesstimating that we will have
11 questions for not more than an hour, but that would take us
12 to 1:40.

13 MR. SOMERS: I'm happy to take a break.

14 MS. SAWYER: We can take a half-hour.

15 THE WITNESS: Okay.

16 MR. SOMERS: Let's just make it 1:15.

17 [Whereupon, at 12:42 p.m., a lunch recess was
18 taken, to reconvene at 1:15 p.m. this same day.]

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1 A F T E R N O O N S E S S I O N

2 MR. HASKELL: It's 1:20. We are returning from
3 the lunch break.

4 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY
5 BY MR. HASKELL:

6 Q. So, Mr. Ohr, I want to follow up on some
7 of my colleagues' questions about Oleg Deripaska, who you
8 characterized before the break as a criminally-connected
9 Russian oligarch. Would you mind, given your extensive
10 experience and expertise dealing with Russian organized
11 crime, just tell us a little bit more about Deripaska.

12 MR. FINDLAY: Just before you answer, just one thing
13 there. I don't think we want to go into other
14 investigations or earlier investigations, so a general
15 overview.

16 BY MR. HASKELL:

17 Q. Absolutely. Just your general knowledge.

18 A. His is a figure that controls a large
19 portion of the Russian aluminum industry. The Russian
20 aluminum industry, the control of that industry famous
21 subject of a series of violent organized crime battle back
22 in the nineties.

23 He's been pretty notorious as having connections with
24 different criminal groups out there. He is also very well
25 connected with the Kremlin and, obviously, is the head of

1 one of the biggest, if not the biggest, aluminum company in
2 the world right now.

3 He has a great deal of influence not just in Russia,
4 but in many other countries. This is the kind of organized
5 crime thing that I think the Justice Department and the FBI
6 needs to pay attention to.

7 Q. Thank you. And just to pick up on one
8 thing you said, that he was connected with the Kremlin.
9 That aligns with how the Mueller Report characterized him,
10 as closely aligned with Vladimir Putin, and that's on page
11 131 of Volume 1 of the Mueller Report.

12 That also aligns with testimony you gave to the House
13 that, quote: The line between government business and
14 organized crime in Russia is gray, nonexistent. Russian
15 criminals, businessman, government officials often use the
16 government for their own private end and, conversely, the
17 Russian State often uses oligarchs and criminals for
18 government ends.

19 You provided quite a bit there, but can you just
20 elaborate a little bit on that, on the connection between
21 oligarchs, such as Deripaska, the government, and crime?

22 A. Well, Russia is not the place where the
23 rule of law prevails in most instances, unfortunately,
24 and they have had a legacy from the communist era where
25 criminals and the -- where a lot of the actual economic

1 activity was illegal under their law.

2 So, unfortunately, what we've seen over the last 30
3 years since the fall of communism is that there are very few
4 rules in Russia and that people who have power in one sphere
5 tend to use that to gain power in a different sphere. The
6 government is often -- they're often in the position of
7 working directly with criminals.

8 Also, I think businessmen feel that their property is
9 not safe from the government or from criminals. So they
10 tend to strike deals with both of them.

11 So the same figures tend to be prominent in more than
12 one sphere. So any time you look at something -- it could
13 be hostile state operation -- you have to look for other
14 criminal angles to it, criminals involved in that and vice
15 versa.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you.

17 With acknowledgment to the previous remark about not
18 commenting on any cases, could you tell us generally
19 about -- generally what you know with that limitation in
20 mind about Deripaska's relationship with Trump's former
21 campaign manager, Paul Manafort?

22 A. They had some business together, from my
23 understanding, and that was part of the information that I
24 passed to the FBI, was some information from that
25 relationship.

1 Q. Okay. And I assume you have some
2 familiarity with the Mueller Report. I hope, for your
3 benefit, it's not something you read frequently or have been
4 required to read the entirety of, but I want to ask you a
5 few questions about the report's discussion of the
6 Manafort-Deripaska relationship.

7 The report details how Manafort funneled internal
8 campaign data and strategy, including the campaign's plan
9 for winning in battle ground States like Michigan,
10 Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota to Konstantin
11 Kilimnik, who the FIB assesses has ties to Russian
12 intelligence.

13 For one example, Manafort personally briefed Kilimnik
14 on, quote, the state of the Trump campaign and Manafort's
15 plan to win the election, on page 140 of Volume 1, and
16 Manafort instructed Rick Gates, who was his deputy on the
17 campaign, quote, to send Kilimnik internal polling data and
18 other updates, and that was with the expectation that it
19 would be provided to Deripaska. Gates did, in fact, send
20 that type of information to Kilimnik.

21 Based on your experience, could information that was
22 transferred to Deripaska, a Russian oligarch also aligned
23 with Putin in a country with, as you said, nonexistent lines
24 between government and business, have ended up in the hand
25 of the Russian Government?

1 A. It could have.

2 Q. And given Deripaska's ties to Russian
3 organized crime, is it also possible that information was
4 directed to transferred or was -- that if it was transferred
5 to Deripaska, it could have ended up in the hands of other
6 Russians organized criminals?

7 A. It could have.

8 Q. Now, Special Counsel Mueller could not
9 reliably determine what happened to the internal Trump
10 campaign information after Manafort, through Gates, provided
11 it to Kilimnik, and Mueller couldn't do that because
12 evidence wasn't sufficiently available. That's in part, as
13 the Mueller Report explains, because Manafort and Gates
14 deleted and encrypted communications with Kilimnik and
15 because Manafort lied several times to the Mueller team
16 about, among other things, his interactions with Kilimnik.

17 So we don't know exactly what happened with that
18 campaign information, but given that we do know what we do
19 know with certainty, do you find it is concerning as an
20 expert in Russian organized crime that internal U.S.
21 campaign information was being directed to someone with
22 connections to organized crime and the Kremlin?

23 A. In general, yes.

24 Q. And would that raise national security or
25 counterintelligence concerns?

1 A. It probably would.

2 Q. Would you mind elaborating on what sort of
3 concerns that might raise?

4 A. Well, I think pretty much what I've said
5 earlier, that information that was being passed
6 to -- sensitive U.S. information was being passed to a
7 criminally-connected oligarch could end up in the hands of
8 what we regard as a hostile foreign power who could use it
9 to undermine the security of the United States.

10 Q. And would that concern be heightened if
11 that hostile foreign power was at the time actively engaging
12 in sweeping systematic interference in U.S. elections?

13 A. It would.

14 Q. Special Counsel Mueller also revealed that
15 Manafort had his deputy, again, Rick Gates, prepare a memo
16 for Deripaska and several Ukrainian oligarchs that details
17 Manafort's role on the campaign. That's on page 135 of the
18 report.

19 Manafort said that his role on Trump's campaign would
20 be, quote, good for business. He asked Kilimnik how, quote,
21 do we use my campaign position to get whole, and that we get
22 whole with Deripaska who had a pending lawsuit against
23 Manafort seeking millions of dollars.

24 Mueller also revealed that Manafort fully expected
25 that, and again I'm quoting from the report, if Trump won

1 Deripaska would want to use Manafort to advance whatever
2 interest Deripaska has in the United States and elsewhere,
3 page 137, Volume 1.

4 Given Deripaska's ties to organized crime in Russian,
5 is it fair to say that, quote, whatever interest Deripaska
6 has could include advancement of interests of Russian
7 organized criminals?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And do Russian organized criminals have
10 interests in the United States?

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. A similar question: Given Deripaska's
13 close ties to Putin, is it fair to say that, quote, whatever
14 interest Deripaska had could include advancing of Putin's
15 and, more broadly, Russia's interests?

16 A. It could.

17 Q. And do Putin and Russia have interests in
18 the United States?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I'll switch gears now, returning to the
21 Steele dossier.

22 You told the Inspector General that you viewed Steele's
23 reporting as raw and unfinished Russian source information
24 that the FBI needed to evaluate. You similarly told House
25 investigators when you were interviewed there in 2018 that

1 you viewed Steele's reporting as information that the FBI
2 collects, quote, not to present in court, but to see if
3 different sources corroborate each other and that you just
4 passed to the FBI for whatever it was worth.

5 Can you expand upon that?

6 A. I think as I said before, the FBI collects
7 a lot of information from many different sources and not all
8 of it pans out in terms of leading to a particular crime or
9 other basis for an investigation, but it's extremely
10 important for the FBI to get that information so they can
11 see potential threats, criminal threats or national security
12 threats to the country.

13 So I thought this information fell into the category of
14 information that could be very important, but that could not
15 be -- should not be relied on by itself. So it would go to
16 the FBI, the people who would no doubt have access to many
17 other sources of information so they that could evaluate it
18 properly.

19 Q. In fact, Steele wasn't the only person
20 outside the U.S. Government that you, over the years, had
21 received information from and passed along to the FBI; you
22 testified during your House interview that you've met people
23 over the years who would have information that they wanted
24 to tell somebody in U.S. law enforcement.

25 You said that because you had been working in this

1 area, meaning organized crime, transnational organized
2 crime, for many years: "Many people know me know, but might
3 not know an FBI agent. They would me things. I would pass
4 it to the FBI."

5 So is it correct that Steele was not the only person
6 that you would pass the information on from and, in fact, it
7 was something that happened with some degree of frequency?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you explained during your House
10 interview that you viewed this as, quote, part of your job
11 to gather as much information or introduce the FBI to
12 possible sources of information whatever ways to further the
13 Department's and the Bureau's goals.

14 So I take it that it wasn't just that you thought this
15 information might be useful to the FBI, but you viewed it as
16 your job to get that information to them if you thought it
17 may be useful.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Returning to the Steele information
20 specifically and what you had said about it being raw and
21 unfinished source information, notes of FBI personnel about
22 meetings with you state that intelligence Steele collected,
23 quote, may be exaggerated or conspiracy theory talk and that
24 even Steele doesn't know if all this reporting is true.

25 Again, that's on page 280 of the IG, notes from -- FBI

1 personnel notes from meetings with you.

2 Did you take any steps to conceal the nature of
3 Steele's reporting from the FBI?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And it's fair to say -- and I think you've
6 touched on this, but I'll ask again. Is it fair to say that
7 you assumed the FBI would take steps to corroborate Steele's
8 reporting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And it is also accurate to say that
11 Steele, himself, indicated that this information would need
12 corroboration?

13 A. I believe so.

14 Q. Okay. Since you have been questioned so
15 extensively today by the Inspector General and other
16 congressional committees because of your interactions with
17 Steele, it would seem that Steele and his reports must have
18 played a major role in all aspects of the government's
19 Russian interference investigation. So I would like to ask
20 you a little bit about that.

21 The Crossfire Hurricane investigation was opened on
22 July 31, 2016. The Inspector General in his nearly 500-page
23 report determined that Crossfire Hurricane team did not
24 become aware of Steele's reporting until September 19, 2016.
25 The IG confirmed that, quote, the Steele dossier played no

1 role in the opening of Crossfire Hurricane.

2 Are you aware of any evidence that disputes that
3 finding?

4 A. No, I'm not.

5 Q. This committee recently had a hearing with
6 former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein who supervised
7 the Mueller investigation. At that hearing Senator
8 Feinstein asked him to identify which finding in Special
9 Counsel Mueller's report relied on information from the
10 Steele dossier.

11 Mr. Rosenstein testified, quote: I don't believe there
12 is any such information.

13 Do you have any evidence that contradicts Rosenstein's
14 testimony that no findings in the Mueller Report rely on the
15 Steele dossier?

16 A. I have nothing to contradict that.

17 Q. Rosenstein also testified at that same
18 hearing that none of the 199 criminal counts resulting from
19 Special Counsel Mueller's investigation relied on the
20 information obtained from Steele. Do you have any reason to
21 dispute or any evidence that disputes that statement by
22 Rosenstein?

23 A. No.

24 Q. So, in other words, you don't have any
25 evidence or reason to believe that Special Counsel Mueller

1 and his team relied on the Steele dossier for any of those
2 criminal counts that his office charged?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Despite the Steele dossier's minimal role in the
6 Crossfire Hurricane and Mueller investigation, as we just
7 discussed, the President's allies continue to suggest
8 otherwise. They've also suggested that none of the
9 information that Steele provided, meaning none of the
10 information in the so-called Steele dossier, proved true. I
11 wanted to just ask you a few questions about that.

12 In June-July 2016, Steele reported that, quote: Russia
13 has an extensive program of state-sponsored offensive cyber
14 operation, targeting, among other things, quote, political
15 opponents abroad.

16 That's in Memo 86 on July 26, 2016.

17 In fact, Russia did conduct cyber attacks on U.S.
18 computer systems, specifically, the systems of U.S.
19 political parties and members of political campaigns, stole
20 information and then used it to interfere in the 2016
21 election.

22 So Steele's reporting about Russia's, quote, program of
23 state-sponsored cyber operation that targeted foreign
24 political opponents proved true, did it not?

25 A. It appears that it did.

1 Q. In June 2016, Steele reported that Putin,
2 quote, supported and directed pro-Trump interference
3 efforts.

4 That's Memo 2016, June 20, 2016.

5 In January of 2017, which was six months after Steele
6 had reported that, the U.S. intelligence community assessed
7 that, quote: Putin ordered an influence campaign aimed at
8 the U.S. presidential election.

9 So Steele's reporting about Putin, himself, supporting
10 and directing Russian influence efforts also proved true,
11 did it not?

12 A. It appears so, yes.

13 Q. Also in June 2016, Steele reported that
14 Russia's interference efforts intended to, quote, show
15 discord and disunity both within the U.S. and the
16 Transatlantic Alliance, Memo 80, June 20th.

17 The intelligence community in that same January 2017
18 assessment said that Russia aimed, quote, to undermine
19 public faith in the U.S. democratic process and, quote, the
20 U.S.-led democratic order.

21 Special Counsel Mueller similarly found in his report
22 that Russia's goal was, quote, to provoke and amplify
23 political and social discord in the United States.

24 So Steele's reporting that Russia aimed, quote, to show
25 discord and is disunity both within the U.S. and the

1 Transatlantic Alliance also proved true; is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In July 2016, Steele reported that Trump
4 and Russia had, quote, a mutual interest in defeating
5 Secretary Clinton, whom President Putin apparently both
6 hated and feared. That's Memo 95, July 2016.

7 Again, many months later, January 2017, the U.S.
8 intelligence community wrote, quote, Putin and the Russian
9 Government had a clear preference for Trump, and they added
10 that Putin long had disliked Clinton.

11 Special Counsel Mueller similarly found that Russia,
12 quote, favored Candidate Trump and disparaged Candidate
13 Clinton and perceived it would benefit from the Trump
14 presidency.

15 So Steele's reporting about Russia and Trump's, quote,
16 mutual interest in defeating Clinton and his reporting that
17 Putin had a long-held dislike for Clinton also proved true;
18 is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I've got one last one for you, in August
21 2016.

22 So in August to 2016, Steele reported that, quote, the
23 aim of leaking the DNC E-mails to Wikileaks during the
24 Democratic Convention had been to swing supporters of Bernie
25 Sanders away from Hillary Clinton and across to Trump, Memo

1 102, August 10, 2016.

2 The Mueller investigation found substantial evidence
3 that that was true, including internal Russian intelligence
4 documents directing officers to, quote, post content that
5 focused on politics in the USA and to use any opportunity to
6 criticize Hillary and the test except Sanders and Trump. We
7 support them.

8 Russian Government-run Twitter accounts, quote, posted
9 pro-Sanders and anti-Clinton material. Russian Facebook ad
10 purchases pushed material to Sanders supporters that
11 criticized Clinton. This is evidence from our Committee's
12 investigation into Russian interference, the Mueller report,
13 and an indictment of the IRA.

14 So Steele's reporting about Russia's efforts to swing
15 supporters of Sanders away from Clinton also proved true; is
16 that correct?

17 A. Yes. It appears so.

18 Q. So just summarizing, as I said, the Steele
19 dossier played a limited role and confirmed that Steele's
20 dossier played limited role in the Russian investigation and
21 no role in the findings of the Mueller Report and no role in
22 any of the counts charged by Special Counsel Mueller, but
23 that is not to say that critical pieces of the dossier did
24 not prove true?

25 A. Yes.

1 BY MS. SAWYER:

2 Q. I have one or two, I think, questions.

3 You were asked -- I think you still have the documents
4 in front of you that my colleague had had you review about
5 some of the conversations that you had with Christopher
6 Steele --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- that were spanning a few months period,
9 and I'm talking about the documents that have the Bates
10 numbers -- in particular, I'll have you take a look at Bates
11 No. 29 where it appeared that Mr. Steele had been reaching
12 out to you over a period of months or at least at one period
13 of time and that you talked some of the communications, but
14 at top of that page, there is an entry, 10-26-17 at 7:12:47.
15 It appears that it's Mr. Steele reaching out to you and
16 wanting to speak about a story in the media about the Bureau
17 handing over docs to Congress in relation -- about the work
18 in relation -- and then it goes "with them". I assume
19 that's the Bureau.

20 It says, quote, very concerned about the people's lives
21 may be in danger, end quote.

22 You had indicated earlier you thought that he had
23 raised some concerns about safety. Does that help remind
24 you about some of his specific concerns regarding people
25 being in danger?

1 A. Yes. He was concerned about the safety
2 particularly of one source and he raised that on multiple
3 occasions, which if the source was somehow revealed, that
4 could put the source's life in danger.

5 Q. And one of the concerns was that some of
6 the materials that could be turned over could have
7 identified or put that source at risk?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that is sometimes something that the
10 Department itself is concerned about, protecting sources and
11 methods or at least sensitive information from public
12 disclosure?

13 A. Yes, and the physical safety of the
14 source.

15 Q. So would you have deemed his concern about
16 potential exposure that would put someone's life at risk as
17 a reasonable concern?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would it have been reasonable for him to
20 reach out to you to discuss that with you and try to find a
21 way to mitigate that danger?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did he ask you to do anything
24 inappropriate to try to help protect sources or methods or
25 him or his work?

1 A. I don't believe so, no.

2 MR. HASKELL: I think that's all we have for this
3 round. Thank you.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 [Chairman Graham enters the proceeding.]

6 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE MAJORITY

7 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you. How many times have
8 you done this?

9 THE WITNESS: Many.

10 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. This won't take long.

11 MR. SOMERS: I'll note the time for the record is
12 1:48.

13 BY CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:

14 Q. All right. Mr. Ohr, you were not part of
15 Crossfire Hurricane; is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Okay. And the way you knew Mr. Steele was
18 from prior engagements; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. What were those?

21 A. I had met him originally when he was
22 working for British intelligence and we had shared or he had
23 shared with me information about Russian organized crime,
24 and once he left the British Government and set up his own
25 firm, he continued to provide information from time to time.

1 Q. And when did he -- and he provided you
2 with what's now called the dossier, some excerpts from that;
3 is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Do you remember the first time you
6 got one from him?

7 A. Well, he provided information orally, and
8 the first one, I don't remember the date as I sit here, but
9 I am told it was July 30th, around that time.

10 Q. 2016?

11 A. 2016, yes.

12 Q. When did first become suspicious that this
13 was raw intelligence and you might want to check a little
14 bit further?

15 A. I think from the very beginning, it was
16 clear it was raw intelligence.

17 Q. Well, I think you did the right thing, for
18 what it's worth, to say, Hey, there's some accusations here,
19 but somebody needs to check it out.

20 Who did you tell you should be concerned about this
21 intel?

22 A. I spoke with various people at the FBI and
23 some people at Criminal Division.

24 Q. Did you ever talk with Strzok about it,
25 Peter Strzok?

1 A. At some point in the fall, I was
2 introduced to Peter Strzok and I believe I conveyed the same
3 information to him that I had conveyed to others.

4 Q. In your House testimony on November 21st,
5 you testified to the House Judiciary Committee that you have
6 to be clear that this is source information. "I don't know
7 how reliable it is. We're going to have to check it out and
8 be aware."

9 Does this sound familiar with what you said in the
10 past?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And that was sort of what you were trying
13 to convey?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. To be careful here?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So on November 21st, you previously
18 testified you had meeting with Peter Strzok, Lisa Page, and
19 several other members of Crossfire Hurricane during which
20 you provided information about the knowledge of Steele and
21 Steele's election reporting. Does that sound right?

22 A. Again, I don't remember the specific date,
23 but yes.

24 Q. That's what you said to the House?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. Did you report to them that
2 Steele appeared to be desperate that Trump not get elected?

3 A. Again, as I just mentioned to these folks
4 earlier today, I don't remember using that specific word,
5 but I certainly conveyed --

6 Q. That he had a bias?

7 A. Well, I wouldn't say bias. He was very
8 alarmed by the information, and if it were true, then he was
9 afraid that --

10 Q. Did he ever suggest to you that he wasn't
11 sure if it was true or not, Mr. Steele?

12 A. I think he found it -- I think he believed
13 it was credible, but as a professional, he knew as well as I
14 did that you can't trust everything. Anything like this,
15 you have to be careful with.

16 Q. Yeah. You previously said that reporting
17 of criminal activities may be exaggerated or conspiracy
18 theory talk. That's what Steele told you, saying you can't
19 know whether all the reporting is true. Does that sound
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So even Steele had questions about it?

23 A. I don't recall specifically, but that
24 sounds right.

25 Q. All right. Have you ever obtained a FISA

1 warrant?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Were you ever -- have you ever been
4 involved in obtaining a warrant at all?

5 A. Criminal search warrants, not FISA.

6 Q. Okay. Would you have used this
7 information to get a warrant based on your past behavior?

8 A. I would want to have it corroborated.

9 Q. That's fair enough.
10 Do you know what was done to corroborate the dossier
11 before it was used?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. Okay. Are you aware that the dossier was
14 the primary source for obtaining the warrant against -- the
15 primary document for obtaining the warrant against Carter
16 Page?

17 A. I have seen press reports about it.

18 Q. Did you ever talk with Mr. McCabe about
19 this?

20 A. I conveyed the information I heard to Mr.
21 McCabe on the one meeting we had in the fall of 2016.

22 Q. In the fall of 2016, you put McCabe on
23 notice, Hey, you need to watch this, you need to verify?

24 A. I certainly gave him the same caveats.

25 Q. Yes. Your concerns?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know when Mr. McCabe first
3 became aware of the Steele dossier?

4 A. I do not.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know how people in New York
6 became aware, the FBI in New York became aware, of the
7 Steele dossier?

8 A. At that first meeting with Chris Steele,
9 he mentioned to me that he had provided information to the
10 agent in New York.

11 Q. Okay. And how many times do you -- did
12 you ever talk to Director Comey about this?

13 A. I did not.

14 Q. But you did talk to McCabe.

15 All right. Were you aware that the FBI interviewed the
16 primary Russian sub-source in January 2017?

17 A. No. I don't think so.

18 Q. Okay. Did you ever hear any chatter from
19 anybody that they found the primary sub-source who provided
20 Steele with all the information and it was not adding up?

21 A. I did not.

22 Q. Okay. So in the normal course of
23 business, if you have exculpatory information or information
24 that challenges the reliability of a document presented to
25 the court, what should happen?

1 A. You should inform the court.

2 Q. Okay. And you should inform your
3 superiors?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know why that didn't happen
6 here?

7 A. I do not.

8 Q. Okay. So but you heard nothing at all
9 about multiple interviews with the primary sub-source
10 questioning the reliability of the dossier?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Did you keep talking to Page and Strzok
13 after November 2016?

14 A. I don't believe so, no.

15 Q. When is the last conversation you can
16 remember with anybody related to Crossfire Hurricane?

17 A. Well, I didn't know who was working on
18 Crossfire Hurricane. So I continued to report what I heard
19 from Chris Steele to an agent from the FBI.

20 Q. When did you pick this group?

21 First, when you go to Strzok and Page and that group
22 and talk to them about your concerns, what made you pick
23 them?

24 A. I picked Andy McCabe and I went to him
25 because I knew him. We had worked together on Russian

1 criminal matters over the years.

2 Q. What did he say when you told him that you
3 were concerned about you need to be careful, for lack of a
4 better term?

5 A. I think he understood, because he also
6 worked on Russian criminal matters.

7 Q. But he acknowledged to you that we should
8 be careful?

9 A. I don't remember what he said.

10 Q. So on November the 21st, you previously
11 testified you met at length with Peter Strzok and Lisa Page
12 and several other members. How did you know to talk to
13 them?

14 A. I think they called me and asked me to
15 come in.

16 Q. Did you then know they were working on
17 Crossfire Hurricane?

18 A. I did not.

19 Q. Okay. They called you?

20 A. Well, after I spoke with Mr. McCabe, I
21 think that he said that they would follow up with me and
22 they did.

23 Q. So McCabe, your understanding is that
24 McCabe called Strzok and Page and they wanted to hear what
25 you had to say?

1 A. Something like that. I'm not sure.

2 Q. You don't know for sure --

3 A. Right, exactly.

4 Q. -- but you talked to McCabe first. Then
5 you talked to Strzok and Page, and your previous testimony
6 is pretty clear that this is raw intelligence, you need to
7 check it out and be aware.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was their reaction?

10 A. I don't remember any disagreement.

11 Q. Did they say we'll do it?

12 A. I don't remember what they said.

13 Q. All right. So did you have any more
14 conversations with anybody about Mr. Steele after the fall
15 of 2016?

16 A. Well, I continued to report to an FBI
17 agent what I had heard from Mr. Steele.

18 Q. Who was that agent?

19 A. Initially, it was [REDACTED] and then
20 other agents were substituted in as time went on.

21 Q. How often did you talk to this person?

22 A. I would call him whenever I got a call
23 from Chris Steele.

24 Q. Did you get calls from Mr. Steele after
25 November 21, 2016?

1 A. After 2016, yes.

2 Q. Okay. Can you tell us the nature of those
3 calls with Mr. Steele?

4 A. He provided additional information that he
5 had learned. In one series of calls, he was very concerned
6 about the safety of his source, who he believed might be
7 exposed and in danger.

8 Q. When did he acknowledge to you that some
9 of this may be not reliable? Was that before or after 2017?

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. But he did mention to you some of this may
12 be exaggerated?

13 That's what you said to the House.

14 A. I mean, it was my understanding all along
15 that we would have to be very careful with information. I
16 don't remember specifics.

17 Q. I want to know what Mr. Steele said.
18 According to you, he said this may be exaggerated or
19 conspiracy theory talk. Does that sound right?

20 A. Yeah. I don't remember when he said it.

21 Q. Okay. But you previously said that. Is
22 there anything that would make you change your mind now?

23 A. I don't think so.

24 Q. So in 2017, were you talking to Mr. Steele
25 in January of 2017?

1 A. I believe I was, yes.

2 Q. Were you talking to him in February of
3 2017?

4 A. I don't recall exactly when the calls
5 were.

6 Q. When was the last time you talked to Mr.
7 Steele that you recall?

8 A. I believe it was in November of 2017.

9 Q. Okay. So, basically, you stayed in
10 contact with Mr. Steele all the way through November of
11 2017?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Did he ever mention to you about
14 the Russian sub-source being interviewed by the FBI?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Why was he calling you? What was the
17 purpose?

18 A. Well, he was passing some additional
19 information, what he had learned.

20 Q. Why would he pick you and not -- I mean,
21 you weren't working on the case. Why did he pick you?

22 A. Because we had known each other for some
23 time.

24 Q. Did you ever tell him you need to hand
25 this to the people running the operation, not me?

1 A. They weren't speaking with him. At some
2 point, they terminated him as a source.

3 Q. I think In October of 2016, he was
4 terminated, but you kept talking with him. Did you know he
5 had been terminated as a source?

6 A. I became aware of that at some point, yes.

7 Q. Why did you keep talking to me?

8 A. Well, when he called and offered
9 information, I figured I would want to hear what he had to
10 say.

11 Q. Well, but the FBI said -- the people
12 running the operation had closed him out. Right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Why did you keep talking to him?

15 A. I was afraid that the information could be
16 important.

17 Q. Okay. Did you tell your superiors you
18 were still talking to him?

19 A. I did not.

20 Q. Okay. Interesting.

21 So you never heard of an interview by the FBI with what
22 is now called the primary sub-source?

23 A. I think it came out -- I saw it in the
24 press or the IG report or something like that.

25 Q. Before that, on your own, you never heard

1 anybody --

2 A. I don't think so, no.

3 Q. Did you tell Strzok and Page that you were
4 still talking to Steele?

5 A. Not directly, but I told the FBI agent I
6 was.

7 Q. What did the FBI agent say? Did he
8 encourage you to keep talking to him?

9 A. They just take the information.

10 Q. Do you know what the system did with your
11 concerns about the reliability of the information?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. What did you expect to happen? What were
14 your hoping to happen?

15 A. That they would analyze it and compare it
16 to other information that they had received.

17 Q. That's right, and is it fair to say that
18 you did not know it had already been used to obtain a
19 warrant in October of 2016? Did you know that?

20 A. I did not know that.

21 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Well, thank you very much.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 BY MR. SOMERS:

24 Q. You used the term earlier, and it's your
25 term, "source information". Could you just explain exactly

1 what "source information" is?

2 A. Information that has been offered to law
3 enforcement that comes from somebody who may or may not be
4 willing to testify and that it's information that law
5 enforcement can use for leads or other purposes, which
6 generally is not the same thing as testimony or evidence.

7 Q. So source information is information that
8 has be verified generally?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. If you want to use it?

11 A. Yes. You have to verify source
12 information.

13 Q. And as we discussed length earlier, you
14 had, obviously, a number of conversations with the FBI over
15 the relevant period of time. Did the FBI ever ask you to
16 help through Steele verify any of the information in the
17 dossier?

18 A. The only thing they asked me was at one
19 point to ask him whether he would be willing to talk with
20 them again.

21 Q. And you also talked about how Steele had
22 provided you information on all sorts of things over the
23 years. Had you ever met a source of Steele's before?

24 A. No.

25 Q. In the 302, the November 21st 302 of your

1 November 21, 2016 interview with the FBI, the 302 says that:
2 "Ohr met with Steele in July and September 2016 during which
3 Steele advised Ohr of Steele's election reporting and who
4 had hired him."

5 Does that sound right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And by "who had hired him", what did you
8 know about who had hired Steele?

9 A. He mentioned to me a name of the person
10 that had hired him, but I did not recognize the name and,
11 frankly, I couldn't remember.

12 Q. Obviously, Glenn Simpson directly hired
13 him. He mentioned who, basically, hired Simpson; is that
14 what you're saying?

15 A. I think that's my understanding, yes.

16 Q. Do you remember if that name was an
17 attorney?

18 A. I don't recall.

19 Q. You don't recall if it was Michael
20 Sussman, that name?

21 A. No. I wouldn't recognize it now.

22 Q. But the bottom line is Steele was willing
23 to tell you who the ultimate client was?

24 A. He did, I believe.

25 Q. Did you have an understanding that this

1 ultimate client, whose name you can't remember, was somehow
2 associated with the Democratic Party?

3 A. I don't recall, but I guess it had
4 something to do with the Clinton campaign. I didn't know.

5 Q. What was your understand of what Steele
6 and Simpson were doing with Sussman in that way?

7 A. My general impression is they were looking
8 into the possibility that there was some of collusion
9 between the Russian Government and the Donald Trump.

10 Q. But it was for -- this wasn't for their
11 own, you know, curiosity; this opposition research; is that
12 your understanding?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So it was to be used against Trump or the
15 Trump campaign?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And Steele didn't say to you, you know,
18 Oh, I can't tell you what this is for; he was forthcoming?

19 If you asked -- you would know right now if you could
20 remember who the ultimate client was; there was no hiding
21 this information by Steele from you?

22 A. Right.

23 BY MR. BAKER:

24 Q. You had previously indicated that he
25 indicated that it needed to be validated or vetted or

1 sourced when he gave it to you?

2 A. Yeah. Again, I can't remember exactly
3 when he said that, but yes.

4 Q. Did he ever add a caveat to any of the
5 information he passed to you that he, himself, questioned a
6 particular document or a particular reporting?

7 A. I can't remember that. He might have, but
8 I don't remember. I can't recall.

9 BY MR. SOMERS:

10 Q. But you weren't speculating this was
11 opposition research; you knew this was opposition research?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So if could just read -- I'm only going to
14 ask you about the last sentence in this, but I'm going to
15 read the entire footnote. This is Footnote 8 from the
16 Carter Page FISA application. I'm reading from the version
17 that appears in page 143 of the IG report.

18 "Steele, who now owns a foreign business/financial
19 intelligence firm, was approached by an identified U.S.
20 person who indicated to Steele that a U.S.-based law firm
21 had hired the identified U.S. person to conduct research
22 regarding Candidate 1's ties to Russia. He identified the
23 U.S. person and Steele had a longstanding business
24 relationship.

25 The identified U.S. person hired Steele to conduct this

1 research. The identified U.S. person never advised Steele
2 as to the motivation behind the research into Candidate 1's
3 ties to Russia."

4 And this is the sentence: "The FBI speculated that the
5 identified U.S. person was likely looking for information
6 that could be used to discredit Candidate 1's campaign."

7 But as far as you knew, that wasn't speculation; you
8 knew it was opposition research?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you conveyed at one or more meetings
11 with the FBI this was opposition research?

12 A. I think they knew it.

13 Q. So this wasn't a big topic of
14 conversation, because everyone was aware it was opposition
15 research? Would you characterize it that way, my
16 characterization?

17 A. I can't remember the exact words, but
18 somehow I thought that.

19 BY MR. BAKER:

20 Q. Did you ever follow up to see what either
21 Andy McCabe, Pete Strzok, or Lisa Page did with any of the
22 info that you provided to them?

23 A. No. No.

24 Q. Did they have any followup for you based
25 on information that you passed to them?

1 A. No. They just said to keep telling them
2 the information that I got.

3 Q. They said to keep telling them information
4 as you were getting it?

5 A. Yes. They probably put me in touch with
6 [REDACTED].

7 Q. Okay. So did you have any additional
8 followup or information to pass to Strzok, McCabe, or Page
9 that then went to [REDACTED]?

10 A. I didn't have specifically for Strzok,
11 Page, or McCabe. I continued to pass on whatever I heard
12 from Chris Steele to [REDACTED].

13 Q. So after that passing of information to
14 McCabe, Strzok, and Page, that was sort of the end of the
15 conversations with them?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. There wasn't a followup from you to them
18 or them to you?

19 A. I'm sorry?

20 Q. There wasn't a followup from you to see if
21 they did anything with it and there wasn't a followup from
22 them to you for clarification or additional information or
23 to let you know what they did with this?

24 A. That's right.

25 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

1 BY MR. SOMERS:

2 Q. Back to the point on opposition research,
3 that same 302 that I cited earlier goes on to say
4 later -- this is the November 21st 302 of your
5 interview -- I'm sorry -- the 302 of your November 21st
6 interview with the FBI:

7 "Ohr advised the FBI of the follow: Simpson, who hired
8 Steele, was himself hired by the lawyer who, quote, does
9 opposition research and Steele's reporting was going to
10 Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, an identified State
11 Department official, and the FBI."

12 So you knew that the reporting was going to Hillary
13 Clinton's presidential campaign?

14 A. As I indicated before, yeah.

15 Q. So it wasn't like it was going there; you
16 knew it was going there?

17 A. Yea. I didn't know the exact who, but
18 yes.

19 Q. And you conveyed that, obviously,
20 according to the notes in 302 to the FBI.

21 I think that the chairman sort of broached this
22 earlier, but also in this meeting -- this is a note from the
23 IG -- you must have conveyed to the FBI Steele may have some
24 doubts about his source network.

25 The IG report on page 286 says: The reporting of

1 Kremlin activities may be exaggerated or conspiracy theory
2 talk. So Steele could not know whether all the reporting is
3 true."

4 Could you elaborate on that comment a little bit?

5 A. I mean, that's certainly my understanding.
6 When you hear information from a Russian source, it's often
7 speculation, conspiracy, everything mixed in. So you have
8 to be very careful with any information you get that's
9 related to Russian criminal activity, Russian operations,
10 that sort of thing.

11 Q. So any information that comes from Russia,
12 you always should look at with a skeptical eye; is that
13 fair?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And is that something that you, in
16 particular, know as a Russia expert or do
17 counterintelligence people generally know that you don't
18 trust Russian information and you have to take it at face
19 value?

20 A. I would assume they know it well.

21 Q. Also, in this November 21 meeting, you
22 told the FBI that, quote: "Steele's reporting was shared by
23 Simpson with a lot of people."

24 This is in the IG report at page 280.

25 I think I asked you this earlier, but did you

1 acknowledge that included the press?

2 A. I believe so.

3 Q. A lot of people?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I talked over you.

6 A. I said I believe so, yes.

7 Q. According to the IG report, again on page
8 280: "Ohr told the FBI that Steele wrote well-sourced
9 reports, using a variety of sub-sources."

10 What's your basis for saying they were well-sourced?

11 A. I think he had -- I understand he had
12 multiple sources over the years that provided information.
13 I think he said that to me and the reporting he provided
14 seemed to reflect pretty -- not a single point of view,
15 different points of view of what was going on in Russia.

16 Q. But you had never met any of his sources?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Did anyone else vouch for Steele's
19 reputation with you before you started your relationship
20 with him or as you had a relationship with him?

21 A. I think the FBI found his information
22 useful. So at least in some circumstances, the information
23 was substantiated.

24 BY MR. BAKER:

25 Q. Was it your understanding that Mr. Steele

1 would deal with the primary sub-source himself or did have
2 an employee who would deal with the sub-sources?

3 A. I don't know.

4 BY MR. SOMERS:

5 Q. We spoke about the Manafort case earlier.
6 So at the November 21st meeting, I think it's in the IG
7 report that you were asked a question about whether there
8 was a prosecutor assigned to the investigation, and then the
9 IG report on page 280 indicates he, as you, Ohr: "He also
10 said that no one at the meeting told him about the Crossfire
11 Hurricane investigation, but that he was advised that the
12 FBI was pushing ahead on the Manafort case."

13 So were aware of the Manafort case before that November
14 21st meeting?

15 A. I believe I was.

16 Q. Did you share this Manafort case
17 information with Steele, about the Manafort case?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Getting back to what I asked you about
20 earlier, I just found the quote I was looking for that I
21 didn't have earlier.

22 This is about [REDACTED] [REDACTED] "Ohr said he introduced
23 Steele to -- this is page 269, I believe, of the IG report.

24 "Ohr said he introduced Steele to Handling Agent

25 1 -- who was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- "so that Steele could provide

1 information directly to FBI in approximately the spring of
2 2010. He told us that he pushed to make Steele an FBI
3 confidential human source because Steele's information was
4 valuable. Ohr also said that it was not efficient for him
5 to pass Steele's information to the FBI and he preferred
6 having Steele work directly with an FBI agent."

7 I mean, that seems to be in contrast with what you did
8 with election reporting.

9 "Ohr also said that it was not efficient for him to
10 pass Steele's information to the FBI and he preferred having
11 Steele work directly with an FBI agent."

12 What changed from that, you pushing for him to signed
13 up as a CHS, to the summer or fall of 2016?

14 A. Nothing changed. It was still better that
15 he was talking with them directly, but if he provided
16 information to me and the information seemed important, I
17 would pass it along to the FBI.

18 Q. But that wasn't the ideal setup?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. So you still agree with that.

21 Had you ever passed Steele information to McCabe prior
22 to the October 18th meeting?

23 A. I don't believe so.

24 Q. Then you said, I believe you said during
25 our first round, that when you got information from Steele

1 in the past that you would use your normal point of contact.
2 Not always, but your normal point of contact would be the
3 TOC East or West; is that accurate?

4 A. TOC East and the handling agent.

5 Q. And the handling agent.

6 So in normal course, not involving Crossfire Hurricane,
7 you receive information from Steele. You pass it to, let's
8 say, TOC East. Did you usually follow up on the information
9 after you passed it to TOC East?

10 A. I can't recall specific episodes, but
11 generally, I think when I passed information, I just gave
12 them the information. I don't recall following up.

13 Q. You don't recall following up?

14 A. [Gestures.]

15 BY MR. BAKER:

16 Q. Did you ever get any -- sort of like the
17 question we asked earlier about McCabe, did you ever get any
18 follow up on that information; Hey, is this really good;
19 we'd like keep this dialogue going?

20 A. I don't recall anything like that, no.

21 BY MR. SOMERS:

22 Q. I may have asked you about this in the
23 last round when I was going through the documents. Footnote
24 436 of the IG report: "Ohr said he understood Steele was,
25 quote, angling for Ohr to assist him with the client issues.

1 For example, Ohr stated that Steele was hoping that Ohr
2 would intercede on his behalf with a Department attorney
3 handling a matter involving a European company.

4 Ohr denied providing any assistance to Steele Steele in
5 this regard and we found no evidence that he did. The
6 attorney handling the matter involving the European company
7 told us that Ohr never spoke with her about the matter.

8 Steele told us that he asked Ohr about the Department
9 attorney involved in the case because he was considering
10 contacting the attorney about an issue involving his
11 client."

12 The long thing I just read, though, was prefaced by
13 "for example". So "Ohr said he understood Steele was
14 angling for Ohr to assist him with his client's issues."

15 Can you comment on what you meant by that?

16 A. Just that Bilfinger instance.

17 Q. There weren't other instances? I mean,
18 the lead-in says "for example".

19 A. I don't recall any other things.

20 Q. What about election reporting?

21 A. No. I think my impression on that is he
22 was giving us information because he thought it was
23 important, not that he thought it would help him in any way.

24 Q. What about Glenn Simpson?

25 A. Same thing. I don't think they were

1 particularly expecting anything from the government on that.

2 Q. If they weren't expecting anything from
3 the government, why did they follow up with you so many
4 times?

5 A. I think Chris Steele was concerned that
6 the government was involved, but I don't think it was any
7 personal gain.

8 Q. But he must have been expecting the
9 government to do something?

10 A. I think he hoped we would look into it.

11 Q. Did he ever express frustration with you
12 that the information hadn't come out publicly that there was
13 investigation into the Trump campaign?

14 A. No. I don't recall that, no.

15 Q. Did he ever express frustration that Comey
16 had made, Director Comey had made, announcements about the
17 midyear exam investigation around the time of the 2016
18 election?

19 A. I don't recall whether he talked about
20 that or not.

21 Q. So you don't recall having a conversation
22 with him about frustration about derogatory -- I'll strike
23 "derogatory" -- about information about an investigation
24 into Hillary Clinton's E-mail server coming out at the time
25 of the 2016 election, but similar about investigation into

1 Candidate Trump not coming out?

2 A. I don't think so. I don't recall that,
3 sitting here, anything like that.

4 Q. And you don't think that his contacts with
5 you about Oleg Deripaska fit this angling situation that you
6 described?

7 A. He never really asked me to do anything
8 with respect to Oleg Deripaska. So no.

9 MR. BAKER: I guess this is more appropriately
10 directed to Mr. Berman.

11 We talked about this before in the past, but a
12 different day, a different forum. I was wondering if we
13 might be able to -- I think you represent Ms. Ohr -- that we
14 might be able to get copies of her research she did at
15 Fusion that was turned over to some of the other authorities
16 by Mr. Ohr, if this committee could get a copy of that.

17 MR. BERMAN: If you want to reach out to me about
18 Mrs. Ohr to get a copy of that, I'll be happy to take your
19 call.

20 MR. BAKER: Thank you very much.

21 MR. SOMERS: I think that's all we have unless
22 you guys have questions. Do you have another round?

23 MS. SAWYER: I don't think we have a lot.

24 [Pause.]

25 We'll go back on the record. It's 2:25.

1 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

2 BY MS. SAWYER:

3 Q. I just had a couple of questions for you.

4 You were asked by my colleagues and also the chairman
5 about your outreach directly to Deputy Director Andy McCabe
6 and you were also asked whether or not it was usual for you
7 to follow up once you had passed information over to the
8 FBI, and from what I understood, you indicated it was not
9 your usual practice to then follow up again.

10 So to me, its sound like you did behave in this
11 instance differently than you might in others. I wondered
12 if that was accurate.

13 A. I'm not sure what you mean.

14 Q. Well, in this instance, it does seem like
15 you did follow up. You first reached out to the handling
16 agent in July and then, as far as I can tell, you also
17 later, in October, reached out at a higher level to Deputy
18 Director McCabe.

19 A. Okay. Yes.

20 Q. So there was that followup?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So it did seem different to me and I just
23 wondered if that was true and, if true, why that would be
24 the case here, why you felt the need to reach out?

25 A. Because of the potential importance of the

1 information.

2 Q. And do you recall contextually what you
3 were also seeing or hearing or, you know, even if it was
4 through public reporting about what Russia might be doing,
5 what Wikileaks might be doing, what generally going on with
6 regard to Russia and the election?

7 A. Very broadly, I remember there were
8 articles in the press about potential Russian interference
9 and -- yes.

10 Q. Do you remember whether you were aware at
11 the time that Wikileaks had started releasing information
12 that had been hacked from the computer systems of a U.S.
13 political party?

14 A. I think that was happening around that
15 time. I certainly read it in the papers, yes.

16 Q. So my recollection was, certainly, in
17 July, around the time of the Democratic National Convention,
18 Wikileaks had published some 20,000 E-mails that had been
19 stolen from the DNC. So that would have been two weeks
20 before reached to the handling agent.

21 A. Yes. I don't remember the dates, but yes.

22 Q. At it would have been about two weeks
23 before Christopher Steele first reached out to you and
24 reported to you, at least verbally, some concerns about
25 Russian interference and potential involvement in the Trump

1 campaign?

2 A. Yes. Going from your timeline, yes.

3 Q. Do you recall whether or not you were
4 aware or heard then Candidate Trump on the campaign trail
5 around July 26th making the statement, Russia, if you're
6 listening, in essence, inviting Russia to hack his opponent,
7 Hillary Clinton?

8 Do you remember whether you were aware of that?

9 A. I'm sure I was aware of it at the time.

10 Q. So just looking at a calendar, that
11 statement on the campaign trail would have come some four
12 days before Mr. Steele had first reached out to you and said
13 he had concerns or had gotten a reporting that Russia might
14 be interference and that the Trump campaign may know or be
15 involved?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So did that heighten your concern and your
18 desire to make sure that the FBI was aware of this
19 information?

20 A. I'm sure it did.

21 Q. And was that -- throughout that fall,
22 Wikileaks continued to release information that had been
23 hacked from the DNC. Do you recall that?

24 A. In broad terms.

25 Q. And do you recall the campaign, the Trump

1 campaign specifically, what I would term "weaponized", but
2 certainly tried to amplify the message of Wikileaks by, for
3 example, then Candidate Trump declaring on the campaign
4 trail, I love Wikileaks; Wikileaks just released
5 information; I encourage all of you to go and read the
6 information that Wikileaks just released"?

7 A. I remember something like that.

8 Q. Did that kind of behavior by a U.S.
9 presidential campaign, U.S. presidential candidate, have
10 heightened your concern about the reporting you had heard
11 from Mr. Steele?

12 A. I'm sure it did.

13 Q. So even though it was what we referred to
14 or described as raw intelligence, you felt it was something
15 that the FBI should certainly be looking into?

16 A. Yes. It potentially could be extremely
17 important.

18 Q. Certainly, it posed, potentially, a
19 extremely important national security risk to our country?

20 A. Yes. As I said before, yes.

21 Q. So when you took the -- when you had these
22 conversations with Mr. McCabe, in addition to noting that it
23 was raw intelligence that should be followed up on,
24 certainly, the underlying themes of the report that Russia
25 was seeking to interfere in our election and that there

1 could be potential knowledge of that and even the potential
2 assistance, whether witting or unwitting, from the Trump
3 campaign is something that you felt was important that he
4 know about?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Once you had conveyed it at that level,
7 did you seek then to recommend or follow up or suggest any
8 particular investigative steps?

9 A. I did not.

10 Q. At any point in either the Crossfire
11 Hurricane investigation or what then became the Mueller
12 investigation, did you recommend that anyone take any
13 particular investigative steps?

14 A. I did not.

15 BY MR. HASSELL:

16 Q. I first just want to clarify one point.
17 There's been -- both myself and my colleagues and Chairman
18 Graham mentioned a quote. I'll just read the quote, "may be
19 exaggerated or conspiracy theory talk", pertaining to Steele
20 reporting and there's been some mention that that was your
21 testimony in the House and I think there's also been just
22 some confusion about who that quote is ascribed to.

23 Just for the record, I want to make clear that that is
24 on page 280 of the IG report and it is a quote that is under
25 the heading "Notes Taken by Meeting Participants, FBI" and

1 indicates that "Ohr shared the following information", and
2 then it says:

3 Among other things, Kremlin activities, quote, may be
4 exaggerated or conspiracy talk, end quote, so Steele cannot
5 know whether all reporting is true.

6 So I just want to clarify that those are the words from
7 notes of FBI personnel, not the words of Mr. Ohr and not the
8 words of Mr. Steele.

9 Turning to page 270 of the IG report, and you do not
10 yourself need to turn there, although, you're welcome to.
11 It says that: "Ohr's contact with Steele did not end after
12 Steele formalized his relationship with Handling Agent 1 and
13 the FBI. Ohr told us that he viewed meeting with Steele as
14 part of his job -- as you again reiterated today -- "because
15 he needed to maintain an awareness of Russian organized
16 crime activities and Steele knew Russian organized crime
17 trends better than anyone else. Handling Agent 1, Steele's
18 handling agent, told the IG that he knew Steele and Ohr were
19 in contact after that relationship had been formalized."

20 So I think the report speaks for itself on that point,
21 but to be clear, you did not cease talking to Steele once he
22 had a formal relationship with FBI and then pick up talking
23 to him when that relationship changed; is that correct?

24 A. You're correct.

25 Q. You consistently spoke with him; is that

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You were asked questions by our colleagues
4 about your knowledge of the primary sub-source and the U.S.
5 Government's interactions with the primary sub-source and
6 you said that you were not aware of that, and that's not
7 surprising because of the limited nature of your role
8 vis-a-vis the Crossfire Hurricane investigation. We talked
9 about that throughout the day, but I'm just going to ask you
10 a couple of questions just to make sure we're absolutely
11 clear.

12 You were not a member of Crossfire Hurricane team; is
13 that correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. You played no role in the decision by FBI
16 Assistant Director Priestap to open the Crossfire Hurricane
17 investigation in July of 2016; is that correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you played no role in the decision to
20 open the individual investigations into Michael Flynn, Paul
21 Manafort, George Papadopolous, and Carter Page; is that
22 correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. You also played no role in the decision
25 seek a FISA warrant on Carter Page in October of 2016; is

1 that correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And you played no role in the preparation,
4 the drafting, or the reviewing of the October 2016 FISA
5 application; is that correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. No role in the approval process for that
8 FISA application?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And is the same true, that you played no
11 role in the decisionmaking, preparation, or approval for the
12 three subsequent renewals of that Page FISA application?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. I believe you already confirmed this, but
15 just for the sake of the record, were you even aware in the
16 fall and winter of 2016 that the FBI was seeking or had
17 obtained a FISA warrant on Carter Page?

18 A. I don't believe I was.

19 Q. You also weren't a member of Special
20 Counsel Mueller's team; is that correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And because of what we discussed about
23 your position on Crossfire Hurricane and what you just said
24 about your position on the Mueller team, am I right that you
25 weren't privy to the internal deliberations or decisions

1 of the Crossfire Hurricane and Mueller teams?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And, in fact, the IG reports states that,
4 quote: The FBI personnel we interviewed generally told us
5 that Ohr did not make any requests of the FBI, nor did he
6 inquire about any ongoing cases, or make any recommendations
7 about potential investigative steps."

8 Do you share the recollections of the FBI personnel,
9 the ones that you interacted with, that you didn't make any
10 requests, inquire about ongoing cases, or recommend
11 investigation steps?

12 A. I think that's right.

13 Q. The President has tweeted about your
14 family more than 30 times. You've also been singled out and
15 accused of various things, including of having, quote,
16 worked on behalf of the Clinton campaign by members of
17 Congress.

18 You didn't work for the Clinton campaign; is that
19 correct?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. You worked and you continue to work at the
22 Department of Justice. Why is it that you have elected to
23 dedicate your career over the last almost 30 years, I
24 believe, to the Department?

25 A. I believe deeply in the Department's

1 mission and I think it's a worthy goal to try to investigate
2 and prosecute criminal activity against the people of the
3 United States and I still believe it, obviously.

4 Q. And I apologize for asking this, but you,
5 obviously, continue to work there notwithstanding the
6 attacks I just mentioned. Why is it that you continue to
7 work there in light of the public targeting of you and your
8 family?

9 A. Well, the mission hasn't changed and the
10 need to keep trying to seek for justice is still present and
11 I still feel it and so I will continue doing it.

12 Q. That's extremely admirable and you may be
13 a rare bird in that regard. Do you ever have concerns that
14 public attacks like that make it difficult for the Justice
15 Department to maintain and recruit people like you to join
16 its ranks?

17 A. Yes.

18 BY MS. SAWYER:

19 Q. If I could just follow up on that for a
20 minute, I often hear people describe what the Justice
21 Department and the FBI do as investigating that is warranted
22 and necessary prosecuting in the interest of the United
23 States, and I often hear people use the phrase "without fear
24 or favor".

25 From your perspective, what does that mean?

1 A. It means that you shouldn't be swayed by
2 anything aside from the facts of the case.

3 Q. And do you believe that with regard to,
4 certainly, your behavior and the handling of the information
5 that Christopher Steele alerted you to and then you then
6 passed along, did you feel that you were behaving in accord
7 with that mission?

8 A. Yes. I certainly did my best to.

9 Q. I know this is a difficult question since
10 you're employed at the Department, but do you believe that
11 any of the efforts that have been undertaken to target
12 individuals have been an effort to diminish people's ability
13 to follow the facts where they lead, to engage in the
14 mission of the Department without fear or favor?

15 A. I can't speak to anyone's motives, but I
16 think some people, obviously, feel like they are being
17 discouraged, but I can't talk about or I can't say why
18 people are doing that. I wouldn't guess.

19 Q. Would you agree, at least, that there is a
20 risk that people are being discouraged to follow the facts
21 where they lead and to engage in the mission of the
22 Department without fear or favor?

23 A. Yes. I think there's always that risk.
24 So within the Department, we try to keep people encouraged.

25 Q. Understanding that there is always that

1 risk, do you feel that there's a risk when the President of
2 the United States is using a social media platform to target
3 people individually who work for the Department or the FBI?
4 And not speaking of you in particular.

5 A. I generally hear from people that they are
6 discouraged.

7 MS. SAWYER: I think that is all that we had. Our
8 colleagues may have some more questions, but we appreciate
9 your time today as well as your cooperation in the
10 investigation to date.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12 MR. SOMERS: We don't have any further questions.
13 I think we can conclude the interview, and I just want to
14 thank Mr. Ohr and counsel for coming here today and putting
15 up with us for a little while.

16 Thank you.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 [REDACTED]: I do have one statement for the
19 record.

20 The FBI and/or DOJ will provide a list of names
21 to the staff for redaction from the transcript.

22 MS. SAWYER: I guess while we're still on the
23 record, one of the questions that has come up, and I wasn't
24 here in the beginning, I just wanted to clarify. I mean, I
25 assume that we are providing the witnesses and including

1 this witness the opportunity to review the transcript, like
2 we usually do.

3 MR. SOMERS: Yes. We will provide the witness
4 the opportunity to review the transcript here.

5 MR. BERMAN: I would like to just thank the
6 Majority and Minority for their professionalism and their
7 civility all day today. Thank you so much.

8 THE WITNESS: Likewise, thank you.

9 MR. SOMERS: Thank you.

10 [Whereupon, at 2:41 p.m., the interview
11 concluded.]

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ERRATA

Notice Date:

Deposition Date: June 30, 2020

Deponent: Bruce Ohr

Case Name:

Page:Line	Now Reads	Should Read
<u>63:18</u>	<u>information</u>	<u>investigation</u>
<u>66:15</u>	<u>Russian</u>	<u>Russia</u>
<u>67:1</u>	<u>Russian</u>	<u>Russia</u>
<u>120:11</u>	<u>tell</u>	<u>telling</u>
<u>123:11</u>	<u>FIB</u>	<u>FBI</u>
<u>124:11</u>	<u>it to</u>	<u>to</u>
<u>126:4</u>	<u>Russian</u>	<u>Russia</u>
<u>126:22</u>	<u>Steele'S</u>	<u>Steele's</u>
<u>127:4</u>	<u>passed to</u>	<u>passed it to</u>
<u>128:3</u>	<u>would me</u>	<u>would tell me</u>
<u>129:15</u>	<u>today by</u>	<u>today, by</u>
<u>129:23</u>	<u>that Crossfire</u>	<u>that the Crossfire</u>
<u>134:6</u>	<u>test</u>	<u>rest</u>
<u>134:19</u>	<u>and confirmed</u>	<u>and the IG confirmed</u>
<u>135:20</u>	<u>about the people's</u>	<u>about peoples'</u>
<u>165:20</u>	<u>followup</u>	<u>follow-up</u>
<u>166:5</u>	<u>generally going</u>	<u>generally was going</u>

Notice Date:

Deposition Date: June 30, 2020

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Case Name:

Page:Line	Now Reads	Should Read
166:20	<u>before reached to</u>	<u>before you reached out to</u>
167:13	<u>gotten a reporting</u>	<u>gotten a report</u>
167:14	<u>interference</u>	<u>interfering</u>
168:8	<u>Did</u>	<u>Would</u>
169:19	<u>Steele</u>	<u>Steele's</u>
171:25	<u>seek</u>	<u>to seek</u>
172:12	<u>that</u>	<u>the</u>
172:25	<u>privacy</u>	<u>privvy</u>
173:3	<u>reports</u>	<u>report</u>
174:21	<u>that</u>	<u>what</u>
174:22	<u>necessary prosecuting</u>	<u>necessary, and prosecuting</u>
	<u></u>	<u></u>