

EXECUTIVE SESSION
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: IKE KAVELADZE

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room HVC-304, the Capitol, commencing at 3:20 p.m.

Present: Representatives Conaway, Rooney, Himes, Speier, Quigley,

Swalwell, and Heck.

Appearances:

For the PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE:

[REDACTED]

For IKE KAVELADZE:

SCOTT S. BALBER, ESQ.
JOHN J. O'DONNELL, ESQ
HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS NEW YORK LLP
450 Lexington Avenue 14th Floor
New York, NY 10017

██████████ Good afternoon, this is an unclassified transcribed interview of Ike Kaveladze. Mr. Kaveladze, thank you for speaking with us today and we apologize for the delay in getting started. For the record, I'm ██████████ a staff member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Others present today will introduce themselves when they speak. Before we begin, I just want to confirm that you've all left all of your electronics outside? Is that correct.

MR. BALBER: That's right.

MR. O'DONNELL: Yes.

██████████ And before we move on to questions, I'll state a few things for the record. The questioning will be conducted by staff, and also by Members during the allotted time period. Some of the questions may seem basic, but that is because we need to clearly establish facts and understand the situation. Please do not assume we know any facts that you have previously disclosed as part of any other investigation or review. We ask that you give complete replies to questions based on your best recollection. If a question is unclear, or if you're uncertain in your response, please let us know. And if you do not know the answer to a question or cannot remember, simply say so. During the course of this interview we'll take any breaks that you desire. The interview will be transcribed. As you can see, there's a reporter making a record of these proceedings so we can easily consult a written compilation of your answers. Because the reporter cannot record gestures, we ask that you answer verbally. If you forget to do this, you might be reminded to do so. You may also be asked to spell certain terms or unusual phrases. You are entitled to have a lawyer present for this interview, though you're not required to do so. I see that you have counsel

present and would ask your attorneys to make an appearance for the record,

MR. BALBER: Scott Balber on behalf of Mr. Kaveladze.

MR. O'DONNELL: John O'Donnell, also on behalf of Mr. Kaveladze.

██████████ Thank you.

To ensure confidentiality we ask that you do not discuss the interview with anyone other than your attorney. And consistent with the committee's rules of procedures you and your counsel, if you wish, will have a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of this interview in order to determine whether your answers were correctly transcribed.

The transcript will remain in the committee's custody. The committee also reserves the right to request your return for additional questions should the need arise.

The process for the interview as follows, the minority will be given 45 minutes to ask questions, then the majority will be given 45 minutes to ask questions. Immediately thereafter, we'll take a short break, if you'd like, after which the minority will begin 15 minutes to ask questions, and the majority will be given 15 minutes to ask questions. Time limits will be strictly adhered to with no exceptions being granted. Time will be kept for each portion with appropriate warning being given at the 5-minute and 1-minute mark.

Our record today will reflect that you have been compelled to appear pursuant to a subpoena issued by the committee. Additionally, you are reminded that it is unlawful to deliberately provide false information to Members of Congress or staff. This interview will be under oath. Could you please raise your right hand?

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do.

██████████ Do you have any opening remarks that you would like to make before we begin questioning?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not.

██████████ ██████████

EXAMINATION

BY ██████████

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Kaveladze. Am I pronouncing your name correctly?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q Again, we do apologize for the delay. We had another matter that went on longer than we would have liked. But on behalf of Congressman Adam Schiff and the other Democratic members of the committee, we thank you for being here today, despite that it is through the subpoena.

The committee's conducting, as you know, a bipartisan investigation that seeks to answer four questions: First, what Russian cyber activity and other active measures were directed against the United States and its allies? Second, did the Russian active measures include links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns or any other U.S. persons? Third, what was the U.S. Government's response to these Russian active measures? And what do we need to do to protect ourselves going forward? And finally, what possible leaks of classified information took place related to the Intelligence Community assessment of these matters?

You obviously came to our attention when your name arose in the context of a meeting that took place in Trump Tower on June 9th, 2016. Certainly, I'd

never heard of you before then.

A Yes.

Q I do have an article from The Guardian that, for good or for bad, has some information about you that will help us understand a little bit about your life. I will offer that into the record as exhibit 1 and provide you with a copy of that.

[Kaveladze Exhibit No. 1
was marked for identification.]

MR. BALBER: If I can just note for the record that there was a corrected version of this, I just want to clarify as to whether this is, in fact, the corrected version or --

██████████ I actually couldn't tell you, but I'm happy for you to correct us if we talk about something that's not correct.

BY ██████████

Q Mr. Kaveladze, you also provided a few documents to us, a series of emails, 21 pages. I'll go ahead and offer your documents into the record as exhibit 2. We may reference them during this conversation and it would be good for you to have a copy?

A Uh-huh.

[Kaveladze Exhibit No. 2
was marked for identification.]

██████████ ████████ do you have a copy?

██████████ I will happily take a copy. Thank you.

MR. O'DONNELL: I think that is the corrected version.

██████████ Absolutely. So the Bates numbers for what would be Exhibit 2 are HICKAV00001 going through the last number is 00021.

MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Just sort of as an initial matter, if you could just tell us a little bit about where you grew up and how you ended up coming to the U.S.

A Okay. I was born in Republic of Georgia. At that time, Georgia was a part of the USSR. In 1965, when I was 14, my parents moved to Moscow, therefore, I moved to Moscow where I graduated high school, and then continued my education, and got my graduate degree from Moscow Finance Academy.

Q What year did you graduate from the Academy?

A I believe the year was 1989, 1989.

Between the time I became a student of the Moscow Finance Academy and the graduation, I was drafted into the military. So I had 2 years in the Soviet military. The years were 1983, 1985.

Q Is that mandatory service?

A Yes, it is. So after graduation I spent 2 years working with a company called Crocus International, C-r-o-c-u-s, International

Q What year was that?

A I believe I joined them around 1989 and I quit in 1991.

Q Okay. And that's Mr. Agalarov's company?

A Yes, yes. It was Mr. Agalarov's company.

Q And how long had the company been around? Fairly new?

A Since -- it wasn't in existence, either since 1988 or 1989. It is an old company, I mean, considering Russian realities.

Q Right.

A Yeah. Whenever Mr. Gorbachev permitted to have a private

ownership, private companies, pretty much within that period of time it was formed. So, yes. I would say 1988 when the company was formed.

Q And what did you do for them initially?

A Well, my initial position was a messenger.

Q What does a messenger do?

A In my case, messenger would buy a lot of paint and special -- some kind of covers for -- at that point of time, we were making locker boxes and nesting dolls so you needed paint for that. So I would go and buy paint and deliver them to Crocus' office.

Q Sounds about like the jobs I had during that time. And so when did you quit Crocus, or why did you leave?

A Well, it was 1991 when I decided to continue my education in the United States. I did -- I became a student City University of New York, Baruch College. In 1992, got married and that kind of delayed my return back to Russia, and apparently I decided to stay here. My wife at that time was a U.S. citizen. I mean, I'm divorced and remarried right now.

Q So did you form a company when you came here in 1989?

A 1991.

Q 1991?

A I did form a company in 1991.

Q No, was that before you went to school?

A No, it wasn't parallel to my education here.

Q And how did you plan, like, your business? Had you planned that before you came here that you would move to the U.S., form an LLC?

A Well, I didn't form an LLC, I formed a corporation, and it wasn't

planned. It was -- Mr. Agalarov had some interest in U.S. as far as purchasing. He owned a chain of -- by 1991, we went into an exhibition business and retail business. So for his retail stores, he needed someone like me who would be in charge of purchasing. In that particular case, we would purchase a lot of shoes. We owned shoe stores, so I was pretty much appointed by Mr. Agalarov as he's represented -- as his purchasing agent in the United States.

Q So what was the name of your corporation that you formed?

A International Business Creations, Inc.

Q And was Mr. Agalarov your only client?

A Yes. At the beginning, yes.

Q Who were your other clients?

A Well, we also back in, I believe, in 1992 and 1993, I started offering the service of incorporation for international clientele, and we had some, I would say, were in 2 years, we had probably 136 clients more or less, mostly Russian individuals or companies, some eastern European companies, or individuals.

Q During the 2 years you served in the Russian military, what did you do, what was your job?

A It is called communication forces. We -- it is radio communications. So we pretty much make sure that the radio lines are in order and you provide the communication.

Q Who did you provide communications for?

A I particularly served in the training center so we prepare specialists for those radio centers. So we trained them in basic military disciplines and radio professional. So I provided to nobody, I was just teaching. Really, you know, young soldiers.

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Q Did you move to the U.S. alone, or did any of your family come with you?

A No, I was alone.

Q So the rest of your family is still in Moscow, I take it?

A My parents stayed in Moscow, unfortunately they passed away.

Q Sorry, sorry, to hear that.

And since you've been in the U.S., did you become a naturalized citizen at some point?

A Yes, I became a naturalized citizen in the year 2001.

Q You also retain your Russian citizenship?

A Yes, I did.

Q Do you hold passports for both countries?

A Yes.

Q Two passports?

A Yes, one for each country.

Q Right. How did you come to know Mr. Agalarov?

A Friend of mine, my childhood friend, started to work for him so eventually she made an introduction.

Q What was the circumstances of how you first met him?

A I joined a company. I was interviewed by someone else, and so for the first 3 months I don't think he paid any attention to me. Like I say, I was a pretty low positioned employee, but eventually he approached me as -- said, you're doing good, maybe you should do more, some more important things. So we had a little conversation, so that was -- that was how it was. He approached me at that point.

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Q Do you work for them today?

A I do.

Q So later in 1996 you reportedly set up Euro American Corporate Services?

A Correct.

Q How is that company distinguished from international business --

A Since we were setting up a lot of Delaware corporations, it was much cheaper to set them up through a Delaware corporation instead of going through someone else. So we decided for the sake of cutting costs to set up our own company.

Q And then at what point did you go back to working directly for the Crocus Group?

A In 2004.

Q How did that come about?

A A couple of things happened, one is that due to my wife's insistence, we were forced to move to L.A., and I kind of was a lot less productive there, than I was in New York. So -- and at that point in time, Mr. Agalarov offered me a position in Moscow, and I took that offer. I accepted that offer.

Q And did you move back to Moscow at the time?

A I pretty much did. Although it was not a full-time venture, I was still splitting my time between Moscow and U.S., but, yeah, I was kind of a -- you can call it I was based in Moscow for few years.

Q Are you still based in Moscow?

A No.

Q Where do you live?

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A Huntington Beach, California.

Q Have you ever worked for anyone other than Mr. Agalarov?

A Yes, I did.

Q Who was that?

A The company called Marlo Wines, the company was based on Westchester County, New York. I was involved in the distribution of wines and so I was a brand manager.

Q Do you have any knowledge or connection to the Fisher Island Development in Miami?

A My only knowledge is that Mr. Agalarov owns property at Fisher Island. And I don't have any other connection with these people.

Q Have you ever been there?

A Yes.

Q How many times have you --

A Twice.

Q Twice. I take it you were there with the Agalarovs?

A Yes. I think once I was without Mr. Agalarov, and that's the time where I met with real estate agent to check properties for Mr. Agalarov.

Q During the time you've been with Crocus, have you engaged in any business dealings with the Trump Organization?

A Yes.

Q Tell me about those?

A I was involved in preparation of initial set of documents on the Miss Universe contest. And later in year 2000 -- actually end of 2013 until the end of 2014, I was involved in the negotiations in regard -- in regards to a construction of

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a Trump Tower in Moscow.

Q Were you also involved in discussions for Trump Tower in Moscow 2015 to '16?

A No.

Q We understand that the Miss Universe contest came about, or the initial conversations for that started at the Miss USA Pageant in Las Vegas. I think that was earlier in the year. In 2013, did you happen to attend that?

A Yes, I have. Although I have to correct you, the initial conversation started 2 months prior to that date.

Q Oh, okay, prior to the --

A To that meeting.

Q Prior to the Miss USA Pageant?

A Correct.

Q How did it come about?

MR. BALBER: How did what come about exactly?

██████████ The conversations regarding the Miss Universe Pageant being conducted in Moscow.

MR. KAVELADZE: This idea was brought by the agent of Mr. Emin Agalarov, Mr. Rob Goldstone approached Emin Agalarov with a proposal, and it materialized. Actually, we signed a set of documents on that Las Vegas -- during that Las Vegas meeting.

BY ██████████

Q Do you remember the terms of agreements?

A Very vaguely.

Q This -- how much do you recall the Trump camp receiving for that

project? Does \$20 million sound correct?

A It does not sound correct. I think they received less, but I wouldn't quote any numbers right now, because I'm --

Q It could have been more though, right?

A No. It's definitely less, it's not more.

Q It's been widely reported to be \$20 million?

MR. BALBER: He said it's less.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Do you know how much it was?

A My understanding -- I mean I haven't seen the number, but --

MR. BALBER: She doesn't want you to guess. Nobody wants you to guess. If you know what it is --

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I don't have the number in my mind.

MR. BALBER: I'm sure there is a document somewhere that's accessible that might indicate that, but he doesn't know.

BY [REDACTED]

Q What's your sense as to why Mr. Goldstone sort of got this idea about proposing the Miss Universe in Moscow?

A Prior to this initiative, Emin Agalarov shoot a musical video with the help of Mr. Goldstone, where Miss Universe, I believe 2012 Ms. Universe, Miss Olivia Coful (ph) was featured, and I guess it started like this, and then eventually it -- I mean, you probably need to talk Mr. Goldstone what directed his --

Q Right.

A Yeah.

Q As an employee of Crocus, why did Crocus management choose to

host the Miss Universe Pageant?

A Well, first of all, we own one of the largest venues in Moscow called Crocus City Hall. And the idea kind of sounded good and natural for you know to populate this venue was that competition. I think the other reason why Crocus chose to get involved in that was the idea of promoting Emin Agalarov's art. Basically in the contract, it was indicated that Emin Agalarov would have the chance to perform two songs doing the contest, and considering the coverage of that contest it would have been tremendous exposure. And I think partially that's what kind of affected our decision to get involved.

Q I'm assuming he did, in fact, sing two songs?

A Yes, he did.

Q Were you involved in planning the event?

A No, I was involved in the negotiating initial sets of documents.

Q And that, again, was another couple months prior to Miss America --

MR. BALBER: Let her finish the question. Sorry, I didn't hear the end of your question.

BY [REDACTED]

Q It was 2 months prior to the --

A No.

Q Miss America --

MR. BALBER: Miss USA.

MR. KAVELADZE: Miss USA was the day where my -- kind of my involvement kind of ended because we signed the agreement.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Got it.

A I was preparing the agreement.

Q Did you attend the Miss Universe Pageant in Moscow?

A Yes, I did.

Q That was I think November 9th, 2013?

A Correct.

Q Did you attend some of the events at the pageant?

A No. I did not attend any event except the actual pageant.

Q Did you attend an event at Nobu?

A No.

Q Are you familiar with this restaurant?

A Nobu is a restaurant which is coined by Crocus and Nobu Matsuhisa.

No, I did not attend that event.

Q Were you aware of that event?

A I'm sorry, what event?

Q The event at Nobu?

A I overheard about that event during the meeting I had with

Mr. Agalarov, he mentioned there would be event.

Q What was your understanding of sort of the purpose of that?

A The meeting was business, circles of Russia, representatives of business circles of Russia.

Q You may have seen some of the press reporting but apparently President Trump attended that event.

A Uh-huh.

Q It said, quote, "all of the oligarchs attended."

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry, what's the question? Did he see the article, is

that the -- I mean I don't --

██████████ No, you said you spoke with Mr. Agalarov about the event.

A Well --

MR. BALBER: Let her ask a question.

BY ██████████

Q What did Mr. Agalarov --

A I have a different recollection. I don't think all the oligarchs attended the event. I think the event was mostly for VIP clients of Burbank, which some of them may be were oligarchs, but I won't suggest that all the oligarchs attended that meeting.

Q Some oligarchs attended, though?

A Some loyal oligarchs, maybe.

Q Mr. Agalarov attended, he's an oligarch.

A Yes.

Q Did Bill Ruffin attend?

A I have no idea. I don't know who Bill Ruffin is.

Q Did Carmen Graff attend?

A That event was hosted by Sperbank and as chairman of the board of Sperbank, I assume he was present at --

MR. BALBER: I don't think anybody here wants your assumptions.

MR. KAVELADZE: Well --

MR. BALBER: They want you to testify based on what you know and what you remember.

MR. KAVELADZE: I do -- okay. I do not know if he attended. No, I don't know.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Mr. Agalarov sponsored the event, right?

A Yes.

Q Did you stay at the Ritz-Carlton during this trip?

A No.

Q Did you have any interactions with Donald Trump on this trip?

A During that trip? No.

Q Had you ever met Donald Trump at the time of the pageant?

A Not at the time of the pa -- before the pageant in Vegas I met him.

Q You met him?

A Yeah.

Q And so -- actually, let the record reflect that two of our Members are here now, Congressman Swalwell and Mr. Quigley.

Gentlemen, would be like to -- we'll go off the record.

[REDACTED] 18 minutes.

[Discussion off the record.]

MR. SWALWELL: Good afternoon. My name an Eric Swalwell. We just had votes and we are another witness interview taking place. I want to make sure first that I understand, if you can just restate your appearances again, if you don't mind.

MR. O'DONNELL: John O'Donnell, attorney for Mr. Kaveladze.

MR. BALBER: Scott Balber.

MR. SWALWELL: Balber?

MR. BALBER: Balber, B-a-l-b-e-r.

MR. KAVELADZE: It's Kaveladze, K-a-v-e-l-a-d-z-e.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you. And I will try not to be redundant on what was already covered.

Where did you stay in November 2013 in Moscow for the Miss Universe Pageant, which hotel?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was staying at my apartment.

MR. SWALWELL: Did anyone -- during that trip, did you meet with anyone in Moscow from the Trump family?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: And I'm talking about not just Donald Trump, but also Donald Trump Jr.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. No, I have not met them during that --

MR. SWALWELL: Ivanka Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, not during that event.

MR. SWALWELL: Keith Schiller, did you meet with Mr. Schiller at all during that --

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know who Mr. Schiller is?

MR. KAVELADZE: I have no idea.

MR. SWALWELL: Was there an event at Nubu? Do you know what Nubu is?

MR. KAVELADZE: It's Nobu.

MR. SWALWELL: Nobu like the restaurant, okay. The sushi place.

MR. KAVELADZE: I overheard Mr. Agalarov talking about that event, so I cannot attest to that, but I assume there was.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. You knew that as an event that Mr. Agalarov

had talked about?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know who else -- and is this what [REDACTED] was asking you about right before I came in?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, uh-huh.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. I got it.

When is the last time you traveled to Russia?

MR. KAVELADZE: Fairly recently. I would say -- I don't have access to my emails, but I would say, like, a month ago, one month ago.

MR. SWALWELL: What was the purpose of that visit?

MR. KAVELADZE: It's a business trip, you know. I travel once every 2 months to head office, to Crocus.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you still keep an apartment in Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, we sold the apartment.

MR. SWALWELL: Where did you stay no?

MR. KAVELADZE: Huntington Beach, California.

MR. SWALWELL: I'm sorry. When you go to Russia, where would you stay?

MR. KAVELADZE: We're renting apartment right now.

MR. SWALWELL: Oh, so you still do right now --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: -- have an apartment in Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

[Discussion off the record.]

MR. SWALWELL: So, Mr. Kaveladze, can we start with when you first met

Donald Trump, President Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh. I met President Trump on June 15, 2013.

MR. SWALWELL: What was the context?

MR. KAVELADZE: The context was Miss USA Pageant.

MR. SWALWELL: Was that in Las Vegas?

MR. KAVELADZE: It was. It was in Vegas, yeah. And signing of the Miss Universe -- Miss Universe set of documents dedicated to Miss Universe Pageant for Moscow Miss Universe Pageant.

MR. SWALWELL: What were the circumstances that you met him? Was he introduced to you or did you introduce yourself to him?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't think I was introduced to him or and I certainly did not introduce myself. I was just there. We had -- that was the only occasion I spoke with him was -- I was with Emin Agalarov when he approach us and started talking to Emin, and so I happened to be there as well. I did not have direct conversations with Mr. Trump.

MR. SWALWELL: So that was the first time you had ever been in the presence --

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: When was the next time you saw Donald Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: Next saw I saw Donald Trump was during the Miss Universe Pageant in Moscow, November 8, 2013.

MR. SWALWELL: Where did you see him in Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: I saw him at Mr. Agalarov's birthday party.

MR. SWALWELL: Where was that held?

MR. KAVELADZE: A restaurant in Crocus City Hall.

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MR. SWALWELL: And what was --

MR. KAVELADZE: A restaurant located at Crocus City Hall.

MR. SWALWELL: Did he recognize you as someone who he had met before?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you engage or interact with him at all?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: So you just saw him there?

MR. KAVELADZE: I saw him there.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you see him with Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I think he sat at the same table with Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Agalarov's family.

MR. SWALWELL: Who in Mr. Trump's family did you see him with?

MR. KAVELADZE: Nobody, just Mr. Trump.

MR. SWALWELL: Now, you spoke earlier about the Ms. Universe business dealing. Can you talk to us also about negotiations for a Trump Tower in Moscow? Were you ever involved in that?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I was involved.

MR. SWALWELL: And that was in 2013, 2014?

MR. KAVELADZE: It started in December of 2013 and it ended some time in October 4, 2014.

MR. SWALWELL: Who initiated that negotiation?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was referred to and put into that conversation by Mr. Emin Agalarov. It was Emin now basically saying, let me intro -- hey, Donald, let me introduce you -- let me introduce Ike to you. He's our employee and he'll

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be negotiating with your side.

MR. SWALWELL: And Emin is the son of Aras?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. O'DONNELL: Which Donald?

MR. KAVELADZE: Donald Jr..

MR. SWALWELL: And so this was in -- you said this was post Miss Universe Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: And was there anyone else on that email chain, Emin, to Donald Jr., with you cc'd? Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. Well, I was cc'd, yeah. But was there anybody else? I don't remember.

MR. SWALWELL: What was Donald Jr.'s interest when Emin made that introduction? How did he receive the introduction?

MR. BALBER: What was his response?

MR. SWALWELL: Yes. What is his response?

MR. KAVELADZE: Response was basically good, you know, hopefully -- I think something like hopefully it would be an easy process or something like that, I mean, negotiating the contract, the agreement.

MR. SWALWELL: Was this your idea to have a Trump Tower in Moscow or was it or was it the Agalarovs?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think the idea was pitched by Trump's side to Agalarovs.

MR. SWALWELL: What gives you that impression?

MR. KAVELADZE: Whatever I heard in the news of Mr. Trump saying how

important it is now to build a Trump Tower. So based on what I read in the news I made an assumption.

MR. SWALWELL: And what would your role have been when Emin was making this connection?

MR. KAVELADZE: My role would be an actual -- a person who would negotiate the contract and the conditions and everything, you know.

MR. SWALWELL: When that email was sent, had you met in person Donald Trump Jr.

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I had not.

MR. SWALWELL: What was the next step after that introductory email?

MR. KAVELADZE: We've did numerous emails. We did numerous conference calls. It was like numerous people on the call.

MR. SWALWELL: Who else was on the phone, besides you and Trump Jr.?

MR. BALBER: I want to pause for a second. Why don't we distinguish between calls in which Trump Jr. was on the phone on the one hand and then how many other calls there were.

MR. SWALWELL: Relating to the Trump Tower in Moscow.

MR. KAVELADZE: All calls I'm aware of I think, except maybe two, where when Trump Jr. was on the phone with us.

MR. SWALWELL: How many calls would you estimate?

MR. KAVELADZE: My estimate is three, two to three conference calls with Trump Jr. and two without him. This is when the architect stepped in and we had a lot of, you know, architectural-related calls where, you know, his presence was not that important. Eventually I was kind of kicked out of that calls as well,

because I have no knowledge of architecture.

MR. SWALWELL: Who else besides -- so let's talk about the two, three calls with Donald Jr. on the line, who else would have been in those calls?

MR. KAVELADZE: I honestly don't remember, some employees of Donald Jr., but on our side --

MR. SWALWELL: Was Michael Cohen on the call?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't remember that name.

MR. SWALWELL: You don't remember that name?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: How about Jared Kushner?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Was Donald Trump Sr., the President, was he ever on any of the calls?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: And how about the two without Donald Trump Jr., who were on those calls?

MR. BALBER: I don't know if you would say two with precision, I think you'd probably say two or some other number approaching two.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. Architects. I don't remember the names.

MR. SWALWELL: Russian architects?

MR. KAVELADZE: Actually it was U.S. architects on both sides because we were represented by U.S. architect as well.

MR. SWALWELL: Were any Russian nationals on the calls?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't remember. I don't remember.

MR. SWALWELL: So what --

MR. KAVELADZE: I could go back and try to pull the records. I mean, I don't remember --

MR. BALBER: Just answer the questions.

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't remember at this point.

MR. SWALWELL: What -- could you just describe in more detail what you would have facilitated as a negotiator of the deal, what your role would have been?

MR. KAVELADZE: Basically there were three factors where I -- I -- my understanding why I was -- I got involved in this process was due to the fact that I'm usually a negotiator with commercial conditions, and some of the conditions were kind of unacceptable, that's an up front fee commission from sales was too high, incentive was too high and I could go over those.

MR. SWALWELL: When you say "unacceptable," unacceptable to you, unacceptable to The Trump Organization?

MR. KAVELADZE: Unacceptable to Crocus.

MR. SWALWELL: Why were they unacceptable?

MR. KAVELADZE: They are wanted too much money for something which was not that well-recognized or popular in Russia, meaning Trump luxury, Trump Tower in Moscow, they wanted too much money for that.

MR. SWALWELL: To your knowledge and what you understood at the time, how the -- did the Trump family have any prior business relationships in Russia?

MR. KAVELADZE: I have no knowledge of their previous business relationships.

MR. SWALWELL: Why would you have an interest in negotiating a fairly

large real estate transaction with a family that doesn't have much of a proven record in Russia?

MR. BALBER: When you say you, you mean him personally or --

MR. KAVELADZE: Me as a person?

MR. SWALWELL: Yeah. Crocus Group.

MR. KAVELADZE: Crocus Group.

MR. SWALWELL: If you know.

MR. KAVELADZE: It is hard for me to say because my position was strongly against this deal so it is kind of hard for me to say what motivated them. I guess it was initial, the initial relationship began with Miss Universe, and I guess they decided how to explore other opportunities of business relationships.

MR. SWALWELL: Who was someone at Crocus that was driving this?

MR. KAVELADZE: Emin Agalarov mostly.

MR. SWALWELL: How old was he at the time?

MR. KAVELADZE: Let me give you an approximate idea, he was 12 in 1989 so hold on.

MR. SWALWELL: He was 27, 26?

MR. BALBER: 36 roughly, right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. Something like tat. Hold on. I'm not that bad in math. 19 -- 33.

MR. BALBER: He's 40 now so 4 years ago so?

MR. KAVELADZE: 33? Yeah, 36, 36.

MR. SWALWELL: So 36-year-old, nothing against 36-year-olds, but if a 36-year-old was driving this deal and as far as your impression, why were you against the deal?

MR. KAVELADZE: I -- first of all, this is -- I mean, we are a pretty well-recognized company in Russia, and we are involved in both commercial and residential real estate. So by doing a Trump Tower in Moscow, we are pretty much creating a competitor for ourselves. So we're building someone else's brand as opposed to building our own brand. And that one thing.

And the second thing is, okay, once you have that brand and be a partners, why should we pay for that -- I mean, we are helping him to develop a brand in Russia, why should we pay some kind of up front fee. I thought it was ridiculous amount of money.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you express this to Emin?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did.

██████████ 5 minutes, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you express this to Aras?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did.

MR. SWALWELL: Did they have a response to your concern?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Well, you know, they are decisionmakers so I could just express my concern.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever meet Donald Trump Jr. before the June 9th meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever met Eric Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: Never.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to him on the phone?

MR. KAVELADZE: Never.

MR. SWALWELL: Ever communicated with him be email or other

electronic means?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not recall.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever met Ivanka Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I have.

MR. SWALWELL: When was the first time you met her.

MR. KAVELADZE: The first time I met Ivanka was, I believe it was sometime in February 2014. I walked into Emin's office to discuss some business, and then his secretary called and said that Ivanka is at the reception, and he said to let her in and so she walked in.

MR. SWALWELL: Which office is this?

MR. KAVELADZE: Mr. Emin's Agalarov's office at Crocus City.

MR. SWALWELL: In Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: In Moscow.

MR. SWALWELL: So the first time you met Ivanka Trump was February 2014 in Moscow. Who was she with?

MR. KAVELADZE: By herself.

MR. SWALWELL: Did she have a security person?

MR. KAVELADZE: Maybe outside of the office, but I didn't see security.

MR. SWALWELL: How long did she meet with Emin?

MR. KAVELADZE: The meeting started in the office, and then I kind of left them maybe 10 minutes later, and they want to see the site for the proposed building. So as far as I'm concerned, I was with her and Emin for 10 minutes, but then I'm not sure how long she stayed after that.

MR. SWALWELL: When you say proposed building, you're still talking about Trump Tower in Moscow?

MR. KAVELADZE: Trump Tower, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever met -- well, let me back up. Was that the last time you saw Ivanka Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: When you did see her next?

MR. KAVELADZE: I saw her on June 9, 2016, when we walked out of the meeting room, we were greeted by her. She was at the reception area. She said, hello and passed by us.

MR. SWALWELL: Was that on the first floor lobby area of Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: Upstairs.

MR. SWALWELL: Which floor?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not sure. Whatever floor the -- whatever floor the meeting was held, same floor. I mean we walked out from the meeting room and we saw her.

MR. SWALWELL: How long did you talk to her?

MR. KAVELADZE: 30 seconds. We didn't talk to her. We said, hello. She said, how are you? And we said, fine. And she said, fine. And she said, have a good day.

MR. SWALWELL: Her husband was coming out of the meeting too, Jared Kushner?

MR. KAVELADZE: He was in the meeting. I'm not sure if he was coming out, but he was in the meeting.

MR. SWALWELL: But I guess I'm saying that you saw her as you were wrapping up the meeting. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: We were exiting the room.

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MR. SWALWELL: And Jared was also exiting with you?

MR. KAVELADZE: This is when my recollection is kind of spotty, and I explain to you why, I don't remember -- like I read of newspapers articles about Jared actually leaving the meeting room earlier, but that's something I don't have a recollection of.

MR. SWALWELL: Your memory is --

MR. KAVELADZE: My memory is probably it was somewhere around there, yeah, but I don't have a recollection of him exiting earlier.

██████████ 1 minute.

MR. SWALWELL: Actually, I'm going to turn it back, because it is natural.

MR. ROONEY: Sorry for the back and forth. We have two separate meetings so I apologize.

I want to talk about, and get right to the heart of the matter here about the meeting at the Trump Tower. I'm looking at the emails that Donald Trump Jr. released. It looks like basically coordinating with this Russian attorney; when she can meet at Trump Tower; Paul Manafort will be there, maybe, sit in on a meeting. And then it says this Rob Goldstone guy who is the agent for Mr. Agalarov? Is that correct -- oh, no, he's the agent for the singer, his son, the pop star.

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct. That is correct.

MR. ROONEY: And he writes, This is the one question that I've always had, hopefully you can shed some light on it. "Don, I hope this is the June 7th email from Rob Goldstone. Don, I hope all is well. Erin is" -- Emin, I'm sorry, I need stronger glasses.

I ask that I schedule a meeting with you and the Russian government attorney who is flying over from Moscow for this Thursday. I believe you're aware

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of the meeting. So I wonder, 3:00 p.m. or Thursday works for you? I assume be in your office. Rob Goldstone.

The question that I've always wondered about this meeting is -- and certainly some of which has been represented in the media here since then is, was this Russian attorney -- first of all, who are we talking about? Do you know the name of this person?

MR. KAVELADZE: Natalia Veselnitskaya.

MR. ROONEY: It reads here when you read these emails, the Russian government attorney, was she an attorney that represented the government of Russia as far as what you know?

MR. KAVELADZE: As far as I know, no.

MR. ROONEY: What kind of attorney was she?

MR. KAVELADZE: Private attorney, real estate attorney who also has some other, you know, clients in other fields where she's involved in, but she was not a government attorney.

MR. ROONEY: As far as you know, she wasn't there representing the Russian government?

MR. KAVELADZE: As far as I know, she was not.

MR. ROONEY: When we talk about one the purposes of meeting was to discuss Magnitsky Act, which deals with Russian adoption. Was that what your understanding of this meeting was supposed to be about?

MR. KAVELADZE: The meeting was about Magnitsky Act. It does not deal with Russian adoption bill. It is two different topics.

MR. ROONEY: Tell me what your impression of the Act is.

MR. KAVELADZE: The Act is about -- the act was adopted after Sergey

Magnitsky and accountant for Bill Browder, U.S. now British businessman in Russia after he -- the Sergey Magnitsky was representing the Bill Browder, Bill Browder had some issues with Russian government. He left the country. Russian government arrested Sergey Magnitsky, and he -- Sergey Magnitsky uncovered some schemes or --

MR. ROONEY: That's okay, I got it. I was just --

MR. BALBER: Whatever you know about it, you don't know from personal knowledge.

MR. ROONEY: That's fine, that's fine.

I guess my question is, and you were invited to this meeting why?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was invited there for two reasons -- well, actually for the meeting there was one reason. I was supposed to be a translator, except I never was a translator, because she showed up with her own translator.

MR. ROONEY: So what did -- so Mr. Goldstone is the who organized the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. ROONEY: And is it your understanding or am I misinterpreting what I read since then with regard to this meeting being about getting dirt on Hillary Clinton? What do you know about that, at this time, not what you've read in the media since then?

MR. KAVELADZE: All previous communications prior to the meeting lead me to believe that the meeting would be about Magnitsky Act. When I received an email from Rob Goldstone suggesting that we're going to be meeting with Donald Trump Jr., Mr. Manafort, and Mr. Kushner, you know, huge question arose in my head, why are we -- why we meeting these people to discuss Magnitsky Act

in the middle of campaign, I suggested to go Mr. Agalarov the meeting should not be with these people but with attorneys. Since she -- since Natalia is attorney, I think the right thing would be to discuss this matter with someone -- attorneys from Trump Organization or somebody. And that's why I communicated to Mr. Agalarov, but I believe on June 7 when I received that email, I've called associate of Mr. Rob Goldstone, his name is Roman Benjaminov.

MR. ROONEY: Would you please spell that?

MR. KAVELADZE: R-o-m-a-n, Benjaminov, B-e-n-i-a-m-i-n-o-v.

MR. ROONEY: Thanks.

MR. KAVELADZE: And I asked directly that question, why are we meeting these with this people to discuss the Magnitsky Act? And he was the first person who mentioned something about negative information on the Hillary Clinton, she might -- she might be bringing some negative information.

MR. ROONEY: The attorney?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. So this was completely inconsistent to what I heard before, but that's the only time.

MR. ROONEY: So the email to you -- the email to you and Rob Goldstein -- Goldstone was -- what was the date on that June?

██████████ June 7th.

MR. ROONEY: And when did this Roman guy --

MR. KAVELADZE: Also June 7 right after, I called him within an hour I received that email.

[4:19 p.m.]

MR. ROONEY: Okay. So you were questioning what the whole purpose of the meeting was with the Trump campaign?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, prior to the email I was not questioning because I knew it would be about the Sergey Magnitsky Act. When I received that email, I saw those three names, I started to question. That's why I called Roman.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. So we have the meeting, and you're there, you're supposed to be a translator. But the Russian attorney brought her own translator. What was discussed?

MR. KAVELADZE: The meeting started with a short presentation of Natalia Veselnitskaya about Magnitsky Act and about this individual, Bill Browder, who was actually a major pusher of that act. And she stated that Bill Browder is -- in reality Bill Browder is a criminal, a tax dodger, and this act had false pretenses because it was based on false information coming from Bill Browder.

It was this kind of -- it was a lot of anti-Bill Browder statements made, which obviously at that time I could not evaluate. I didn't know the situation good -- well enough.

Then Mr. Akhmetshin joined into the conversation. He was the one who mentioned the adoption, children adoption. And I was a little bit familiar with this topic because I knew that Putin's government banned adoption of Russian kids by Americans.

And I had my strong opinion in regards to that ban. And so I've had, you know -- and I remember him saying basically he realized that if there was -- there's no Magnitsky Act, if we repealed -- if America repeals Magnitsky Act, Putin is going to or Russian Government would repeal the Russian child adoption ban by

Americans.

So there was -- this is the only mentioning of adoption during this meeting I recall.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. And during the meeting -- well, let me go back first, because we have this narrative that somehow this meeting was supposed to be about dirt on Hillary Clinton or opposition research, that that's why Donald Trump Jr. -- you might not know the answer to this, so if you don't know, you don't know -- and this is why Donald Trump Jr. wanted to take this meeting. Do you know anything about that?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. ROONEY: So as far as you were concerned, this meeting was supposed to be about this act. There was subsequent email by this Roman guy saying there might be something more.

MR. KAVELADZE: It's not an email. It was a phone conversation.

MR. ROONEY: A phone conversation, I'm sorry. And so you raised concerns about that, but we went ahead with the meeting. What was the date on the meeting? Do we know?

MR. KAVELADZE: June 9th, 2016. Well, at that time -- can I --

MR. ROONEY: Yeah, sure. No. No. Go ahead.

MR. KAVELADZE: At that time I was not concerned. Actually, when I walked into the meeting I knew it's going to be about Magnitsky Act, because prior to the meeting I met with Ms. Veselnitskaya, and she gave me a synopsis of what she's going to be talking about. It was all about Magnitsky Act.

MR. ROONEY: So Rob Goldstone, who set this whole thing up, asks you to go to be there as a translator?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, Mr. Agalarov asked me to do that.

MR. ROONEY: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

MR. KAVELADZE: Rob Goldstone just sent me that letter notifying, you know, what time should I be and where should I be and who I should be meeting with.

MR. ROONEY: And why do you think that Rob Goldstone was sort of the ring leader for organizing this? What relationship did he have with the Trump people?

MR. KAVELADZE: He has a long-lasting relationship with Trump Organization and the reason for that relationship being is the Miss Universe contest. He was always participating in organizational aspects of that contest.

MR. ROONEY: During this meeting, did Donald Trump Jr., did he say anything, or did he just listen to the presentation or --

MR. KAVELADZE: He listened to a presentation. One of them -- I'm not sure if it was Donald Trump Jr., maybe it was Kushner -- somebody said, do you have anything on Hillary? And the answer was, no, why don't you do your own research on that.

MR. ROONEY: Who answered that?

MR. KAVELADZE: Rinat Akhmetshin.

MR. ROONEY: And he's -- is that a male?

MR. KAVELADZE: He's male.

MR. ROONEY: Sorry.

MR. KAVELADZE: He's a partner of Natalia Veselnitskaya. They do -- yeah, that's a Magnitsky Act-related partner.

MR. ROONEY: So he's a lobbyist for this act?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. And you're not sure if that was Donald Trump Jr. or Mr. Kushner?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not. I think it was Donald Trump Jr.

MR. ROONEY: Was this the only thing that was said about Hillary during this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. Let me give you a little to --

MR. ROONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. KAVELADZE: The thing which was in that synopsis, whatever they distributed, was something which was not directly related to Magnitsky Act but could be qualified as something else, was the fact that Bill Browder's company in Russia is owned by a company called Ziff Brothers.

MR. SWALWELL: Can you spell that? Sorry.

MR. BALBER: Z-i-f-f Brothers, yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you.

MR. KAVELADZE: Ziff Brothers. And Ziff Brothers, apparently, are contributors into Democratic Party and have been contributors to Democratic Party. And what they assumed in that synopsis, because the money coming from Russia, because of tax dodging and other things, was considered to be a criminal money. They basically were funding Democratic Party with that money. And there was this little sentence: They could have as well funded Hillary's campaign.

MR. BALBER: Just so the record is clear, what you're reciting is what you saw in the document that that Natalia showed you --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. BALBER: -- not anything you know of your own accord?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. No. That's what she showed me.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. Do you know if Paul Manafort said anything during the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: My recollection is he didn't say anything.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. How long did this meeting last?

MR. KAVELADZE: I would say, 35 to 40 minutes.

MR. ROONEY: In 35 to 40 minutes, mostly about the act, a little bit about adoption, the question by Donald Trump Jr. about Hillary. Anything else?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Considering that the meeting was translated, the actual, you know, scope of information was exchanged within 20 minutes.

MR. ROONEY: Now, the question, I think, that a lot of people have on their minds is, Mr. Agalarov, who you worked for, and his relationship with the Russian Government, Mr. Putin, what is that relationship?

MR. KAVELADZE: Mr. Agalarov's company, Crocus International, was involved in three -- was and is involved in three construction projects funded by Russian Government.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. During the meeting at Trump Tower, was there any discussion of that relationship between the company, Mr. Agalarov, and his relationship with Putin, and/or the contracts that that company had?

MR. KAVELADZE: Neither Mr. Agalarov or company have ever been mentioned during that meeting.

MR. ROONEY: Was it ever mentioned during that meeting that there would be some kind of an understanding between the Trump campaign and the Russian Government, Mr. Putin, through Mr. Agalarov, or even in any way that they were going to coordinate efforts to defeat Hillary Clinton?

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MR. KAVELADZE: No, there was not.

MR. ROONEY: Aside from the comment by Donald Trump Jr. asking if there was any dirt on Hillary, was there any understanding that you had either before or after that the purpose of that meeting was to extend an invitation to try to coordinate between the Trump campaign and the Russian Government?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, nothing happened in that meeting has ever led me to believe.

MR. ROONEY: After that meeting was over, was there any kind of followup with regard to what next steps she would be taking with regard to the things that you talked about in that meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, there was followup.

MR. ROONEY: What was that?

MR. KAVELADZE: I believe one of the last words said by Mr. Trump Jr. is that, look, Natalia, we are in the middle of electoral campaign, your issues are probably important. If we win, we'll be glad to get back to you and look at those issues.

MR. ROONEY: So is your sense -- if I could summarize, and tell me if I'm wrong -- that you were there to talk about this act, and that's what the Russian lawyer -- I'm sorry, Natalia -- was there to talk about? The one time that Hillary came up, it was conveyed to the Trump people or Donald Trump Jr. that that's your prerogative not ours to figure that out, and that was basically the gist of the whole meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. ROONEY: So with the followup, as far as you were concerned or what you know, Mr. Goldstone or Mr. Agalarov, after Mr. Trump said that, you

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know, we'll maybe talk about your issue after we get elected, was there any followup after that?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, right after the election I got a call from Mr. Agalarov asking me to try to get in touch with Mr. Goldstone to arrange the second meeting dedicated to Magnitsky Act.

MR. ROONEY: And did you have that meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I undertook that. The meeting never materialized. I undertook an effort. I called Mr. Goldstone. Mr. Goldstone called Trump's people, got back to me, said they're all busy, they have no time for me. The meeting never happened.

MR. ROONEY: What's my time?

██████████ You have 25 minutes, sir.

MR. ROONEY: I guess -- and, again, I'm sorry if you don't know this, but I'm trying to unwrap the whole idea with regard to what the intentions were of the Trump folks versus what they got and what sort of the impression by, you know, the Agalarov people, yourself included, and Natalia -- I'm sorry for using their first names, but there's no way I'm going there -- the lobbyist, their intentions were.

I guess I'm trying to understand where this Mr. Roman guy, who you talked to on the phone, said that there might be more to this meeting than just talking about the act. It might have to -- it might be -- we might be discussing political things. Correct me if I'm wrong with any of this stuff, so just set me straight.

MR. BALBER: There's a lot in there, so --

MR. ROONEY: I know. I'm just trying to figure out --

MR. BALBER: There's a lot of things that I think are not accurate. So maybe --

MR. ROONEY: No. No. If what I'm saying is not accurate, tell me, because I'm --

MR. BALBER: I think the core of the question might be, and you'll correct me if I'm wrong is, I guess, where -- do you have any sense of where Roman would have gotten -- the one outlier statement you heard before the meeting about there being something regarding Hillary Clinton, you covered this with Roman, right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. BALBER: And I guess part of the question is, do you have any sense where Roman got that information from?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

MR. ROONEY: Go ahead.

MR. KAVELADZE: Rob Goldstone.

MR. ROONEY: So Rob Goldstone emailed you that there was going to be this meeting, that your understanding was it was going to be about the act, but then Rob Goldstone also, I guess, at some point told Roman that there was also going to be a discussion about Hillary?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. ROONEY: So are we safe to assume, or do you actually have facts or otherwise to show that Rob Goldstone must have told Donald Trump Jr. that too, about the political stuff, the Hillary stuff?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. He was the only -- oh.

MR. BALBER: Do you know anything that Rob Goldstone said to Donald Trump Jr., other than what you've seen reported in the press that we all have seen?

MR. KAVELADZE: Other than that, no. The only thing I know is the letter I received from him was those three names I was supposed to be meeting. If I knew something, I probably wouldn't call Roman, you know. I was trying to fish some information, figure out.

MR. ROONEY: So all we know about this meeting that was supposed to be about, if what you read in the newspaper is true, what their impression of what you all were going there to meet with them on was to get dirt on Hillary based on a phone call that you got from Roman, that Roman heard it from Rob, although they didn't tell you that, Roman did, to which you sort of objected to that being part of the meeting when you saw that there was attorneys present.

I guess my question is just, you know, at some point -- is it your testimony here today -- I'll just close this line of questioning -- that you never heard it from Rob Goldstone that that's what the meeting was going to be about?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. You just learned that subsequently in the news?

MR. KAVELADZE: [Nonverbal response.]

MR. ROONEY: And I guess I'm just trying to figure out, based on what your role was to be there, aside from everything that we just talked about, if there was anything else, any other impressions that you had about this meeting.

MR. KAVELADZE: I mean, as far as my role is concerned, there was one more thing. They were supposed to show me a more expanded synopsis prior to the meeting. We met for lunch with Natalia 2 hours prior to the meeting. And she gave me this 10-page document. It was all about same things, just more in detail.

MR. ROONEY: Same things what?

MR. KAVELADZE: Magnitsky Act. And so after that meeting -- when I stepped into the office building, Trump Tower, I was 100 percent sure this whole thing was going to be about the Magnitsky Act.

MR. ROONEY: So this lawyer, this female lawyer, did she ever talk about Hillary at all?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. My answer is no.

MR. ROONEY: The lunch that you had with the Russian lawyer, was anybody else there?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, her translator, Anatoli Veselnitsky.

MR. BALBER: What last name?

MR. KAVELADZE: Oh, I'm sorry. Anatoli Samochornov. Anatoli Samochornov, yeah. Did I say Veselnitsky? Yeah, I'm sorry. Samochornov.

MR. ROONEY: Got it.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Thanks again for being here. I just want to follow up on a few of the things that Congressman Rooney has asked about.

So if I understand you correctly, it was Mr. Agalarov who asked you to attend this meeting on June 9th. Is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q And how did he convey that request? Was it a call? An email?

A It was phone call on June 6th.

Q And to the best of your recollection, what did he describe what he wanted you to do and why?

A The best of my recollection would be there's a meeting in Trump Tower. Please attend. You might need to translate. Also, please meet with

these people prior. They're going to show you a document. And tell me what you think about stuff they show.

MR. ROONEY: And the people being the people at the lunch?

MR. KAVELADZE: Natalia.

BY [REDACTED]

Q And when you got this request, would you say this was an unusual request or a typical request that was typical of the duties you perform for Mr. Agalarov?

A It was unusual request.

Q And what -- why was it unusual?

A Because it was about something which was not connected to the business.

Q And most of the things that he asked you to do were connected to the business?

A Business or maybe some family matters, you know, buy some medication or something like that.

Q And so did you ask him why he was having you do something that wasn't related to business or family matters or you just followed his directive?

A I just followed his request. I didn't ask him.

Q And how did you form the impression that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Magnitsky Act or related matters? Is that something that Mr. Agalarov said to you?

A Communicated to me, yes.

Q Now, I assume you've seen -- and, in fact, it's -- a page of it is -- I think you produced to us is Bates No. 5, the emails that Donald Trump Jr. made public

where Rob Goldstone is offering him dirt on Hillary. It's at maybe two-thirds of the way down the page. Have you seen these emails that have since been made public?

A I saw the email when it became public.

Q Right.

A I believe it's July or June of this year.

Q Right. Of 2017?

A 2017.

Q And in this email, it basically says that on behalf of this prosecutor, the purpose of the meeting is to provide the Trump campaign with some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia.

So I'm just trying to understand this apparent discrepancy where Mr. Agalarov told you the purpose of the meeting was to talk about the Magnitsky Act, and Mr. Goldstone somehow got the impression -- again, indirectly from Mr. Agalarov -- that the purpose of the meeting was to provide official documents and information that are occurring on Hillary.

How do you square -- do you believe that -- or help me understand this apparent contradiction between what you were told the purpose of the meeting was and what Rob Goldstone apparently understood the purpose of the meeting to be.

MR. BALBER: Just to correct, I think, part of the question. I think you indicated maybe erroneously that Mr. Goldstone learned from Mr. Agalarov that the purpose of the meeting had to do with Hillary Clinton. I don't know any basis for that.

But I guess that's not ultimately embedded in the question. I think the only question is if you can reconcile what Rob Goldstone said in this email relative to what Mr. Agalarov said to you. Can you reconcile that email?

MR. KAVELADZE: I cannot reconcile. It's completely contradicting statements. It's just whatever, you know, I was getting ready for had nothing to do with what I was describing in that email, so --

MR. ROONEY: Hold on a second. Do you know who the crown prosecutor of Russia is?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, there's no such position in Russia. We -- I could only assume --

MR. BALBER: Nobody wants you to assume.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. There's no such --

MR. BALBER: Especially not me.

MR. KAVELADZE: -- no such thing as crown prosecutor in Russia.

MR. ROONEY: Do you know who that is that they're talking about here though?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. No. I could make some guesses, but --

MR. BALBER: You could, but I'm not going to let you, so --

BY [REDACTED]

Q But just to clarify my previous question, Rob Goldstone attributed his knowledge of the meeting to Aras Agalarov through his son Emin. And so it was indirect. Whereas you had talked to Mr. Agalarov directly. Is that right?

A Yeah.

Q Now, in -- on June 7th, you received and have produced to us, for example, on page 7 of your production, an email from Rob Goldstone to you which

begins, "Good afternoon. I have confirmed a meeting for you both at 3 p.m. on Thursday with Donald Trump Jr."

A Uh-huh.

Q It appears that you were one of the recipients of this email. I'm not sure we have the original one. When he says you both, who does he mean?

A Me and Natalia Veselnitskaya. Because the initial assumption was they would be meeting, you know, two people on Veselnitskaya side, me and her, and her translator being me. We did not understand that she's going to show up with a translator. And later, you know, Mr. Akhmetshin joined, too.

Q Now -- and we'll get to those other folks -- but just to unpack that, when you got this email on June 7th, that was after you had already spoken to Mr. Agalarov?

A Correct.

Q And so you were not surprised to get this email from Mr. Goldstone?

A The only reason I was surprised is the names of individuals we were supposed to meet. That surprised me.

Q And what about those names surprised you?

A We're discussing a congressional act about, you know, the Sergey Magnitsky Act, where, you know, these people in the middle of electoral campaign, why are they meeting with us about this.

And during the first conversation and during the following conversations with Mr. Agalarov, I kept saying, we need to meet with attorneys. She's a lawyer. We need to meet with lawyers. Let's have a discussion.

MR. ROONEY: Can I ask you something?

MR. KAVELADZE: Sure.

MR. ROONEY: Is it possible that the crown prosecutor of Russia is Emin, the pop star guy?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I mean, look --

MR. ROONEY: Here's why I ask that. "The crown prosecutor of Russia met with his father Aras." And this is Aras Agalarov. So his father means that that guy is Emin, unless there's two Arases out there.

I know. "Emin called and asked me to contact you with something very interesting. The crown prosecutor of Russia met with his father Aras." Could it be possible that Rob Goldstone is referring to his client, the pop star, as the crown prosecutor of Russia?

MR. BALBER: Maybe the king of pop, but not the crown prosecutor.

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, my personal opinion is no. I know that --

MR. ROONEY: Okay. I mean in sort of like a humorous way, like referring to this guy --

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I don't know. Could be, but I don't know.

MR. ROONEY: But it's not an official --

MR. KAVELADZE: All I know is that in order for the prosecutor in Russia to be called crown prosecutor, you have to have a monarchy as a political system. And since Russia is not a monarchy, you know, it's --

MR. ROONEY: That's why I thought it was a joke, so --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. It could be. Could be.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Now, you were -- prior to being connected with Ms. Veselnitskaya on this email, did you know her?

A No, I did not.

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Q Had you ever met her in person?

A I have never met her prior to June 9th.

Q Had you ever communicated with her?

A I started communicating with her on June 6th, right after I received a call from Mr. Agalarov to organize the meeting. I expressed my willingness to arrive to New York on the 8th and to meet with her to discuss the meeting. She said she was busy on the 8th and she could do lunch on the 9th. That was it. That was all communications with her.

Q And where were you on June 6th when you got this call?

A On June 6th, I was in -- hold on. I was in Huntington Beach, California.

Q And so you traveled from California to New York specifically for this meeting. Is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q And after you spoke with her -- is it fair to say that the primary purpose of your conversations with her were to arrange logistics for this meeting?

A That is correct.

Q Did you have any --

A A certain part of logistics, because the person in charge of the whole logistical aspects of the meeting was Rob Goldstone.

Q And did you discuss the purpose or content of the meeting with her?

A I didn't discuss. She gave me -- she was late for that lunch, and so we didn't have much time. So she gave me those 10 pages. I read those 10 pages. I've reaffirmed -- reassured myself this meeting would be about Magnitsky Act. And I don't believe I had any discussion about the matters.

UNCLASSIFIED, COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

Q And the 10 pages she gave you, were they in English or Russian?

A In Russian.

Q And so was there an English translation or just the Russian version?

A No. It was just Russian version.

Q Okay. And so the reason that you've been brought on as a translator is because she didn't speak -- Ms. Veselnitskaya doesn't speak English?

A Does not speak any English.

Q Okay. Now, I'm also on page 7 of the production, it's an email, appears to be from you to Mr. Goldstone. "Just spoke with that lady from Russia." I assume that's referring to Ms. Veselnitskaya?

A Correct.

Q "She asked if it would be possible to move the meeting to 4. She represents client in court that morning and is afraid of being late."

So that morning is the morning of --

A June 9th.

Q -- June 9th.

And in speaking with her -- so first of all, just to recap from earlier. You understood her to be a private attorney?

A That's correct, yeah. That business card that she handed to me said it was private law firm.

Q And she gave you a document relating to the Magnitsky Act?

A Correct.

Q Did you ask her or did she tell you why as a private attorney she was attempting to meet with the Trumps regarding the Magnitsky Act?

A I did not ask her that.

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Q And did you know who she was representing in court that morning?

A No, I did not know.

Q So you met with her and her translator for lunch on June 9th?

A Correct.

Q And who did you understand her translator to be?

A His name is Anatoli Samochornov. He used to be -- he used to work for State Department, if I'm correct, or something. Like he was a translator for State Department or something like that.

Q Okay. And so what was your reaction --

A Contractor for State Department, as a translator.

Q So what was your reaction when you met him? Here you had flown all the way from California to New York to be a translator and then here she's brought a translator.

A Well, I was a bit confused to say the least. But, you know -- well, look, I still kind of needed to -- like I said, you know, I was in charge of logistics. And I was glad I went over that presentation prior to the meeting, because Mr. Agalarov was -- you know, wanted to make sure this whole thing, whatever she presents, is in line, which was what initially was proposed to him by her.

Q So basically, even after your services were no longer needed as a translator, is it fair to say you still went to this meeting as basically a representative of Mr. Agalarov?

A Yeah, to report what happened during the meeting.

Q And to make sure that you sort of did what he asked you to do --

A Yeah.

Q -- and you achieved his objectives?

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A Exactly, yeah. Because he did call me afterwards and asked me how the meeting went, and I gave a little report.

Q And --

MR. ROONEY: Hold on a second.

Did he -- when you talked to him after that and he asked you how it went, did he ask you anything about the Hillary stuff?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, never mentioned Hillary.

MR. ROONEY: Are you pretty -- how close would you say you were to Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, it's a long-lasting relationship. So I'm a close associate, I would call myself.

MR. ROONEY: Do you think that you would know or would somebody else know in the Agalarov world if Mr. Agalarov was acting on behalf of the Russian Government to work with the Trump campaign on defeating Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. ROONEY: Would somebody else in the Agalarov world be clued in on that?

MR. KAVELADZE: I would say no.

MR. ROONEY: Okay. So you're pretty close with Mr. Agalarov. What would you say your title is for him?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, my title is vice president. Sometimes they call me senior vice president. And I'm mostly in charge of international projects. And I'm definitely 100 percent in charge of what's happening in America as far as buying product, buying, you know, equipment, buying construction materials.

MR. ROONEY: I got that. So he sent you to this meeting to make

sure -- first of all, maybe to translate but also, you know, to be sort of his guy in the room?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. ROONEY: And he doesn't ask you after this meeting was over anything about the Hillary stuff?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he did not.

MR. ROONEY: And ever since -- and at any time before or after that, did he ask you, as his guy in America, to coordinate with the Trump campaign on behalf of the Russian Government in any way?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, never happened.

MR. ROONEY: Because you realize that sort of the narrative and the possible accusation here is that this Agalarov guy, you know, you don't get to be a rich, powerful man in Russia unless the Russian Government allows you to be. Whether or not that's true, I mean, that's sort of like --

MR. KAVELADZE: To some extent.

MR. ROONEY: Yeah. And so, I mean, like, you know, if Putin wanted to ruin you, he could ruin you. So if Putin is instructing Agalarov to coordinate with the Trump campaign to help them beat Hillary and to do what needs to be done to get Russian help as, you know, per what we see in this email, that there's some dirt on Hillary, you're saying that there's nothing that you've seen Mr. Agalarov say or do that would perpetuate the narrative that he was acting on behalf of the Putin -- Russian Government to push that and to help coordinate or conspire or collaborate with the Trump campaign to help them do that?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I would say I saw nothing to back up those statements, nothing even close.

MR. ROONEY: Hold on a second.

I just -- I guess, I mean, you know, if Rob Goldstone said this stuff to Donald Trump Jr., that I've got dirt on Hillary, and Donald Trump Jr. said basically, okay, I'll hear it, Mr. Agalarov never talked to you about it, and you're his guy in America, I'm just sort of like lost as to what the -- how we can make the connection between Agalarov, the Russian Government, and the Trump campaign, that this was all some kind of coordinated efforts for them to be able to work together to defeat Hillary. That's where I'm confused.

MR. KAVELADZE: I was as confused when I saw that email on the television screen 3 months ago.

BY [REDACTED]

Q Mr. Kaveladze, is it possible that the dirt Mr. Goldstone was referring to is this information regarding the Ziff Brothers and their connection to Browder and to the Clinton campaign?

A Possible.

Q But you don't have any knowledge of that?

A Yeah. And it's certainly highly exaggerated and puffed up.

Q All right. In the 2 minutes we have left, I want to focus your attention on number 20 of your production. Who is [REDACTED]

A That's [REDACTED]

Q And this email chain concludes with an email -- or there's an email from her, June 15th, "How was the meeting with the Trump people? What happened?" I assume you had let her know beforehand that you were having this meeting with the Trump folks?

A Yes.

Q And your response was, "Meeting was boring. The Russians did not have any bad info in Hillary." I assume you meant on Hillary. Is that correct?

A Yeah.

Q So just curious, if the purpose of the meeting, as you understood it, was to discuss the Magnitsky Act and related matters, and then your daughter asks you what happened in the meeting, why is the one aspect of the meeting that you mentioned to her this bad info on Hillary or lack thereof? Help us understand that.

A A conversation I had with [REDACTED] was after the call -- after the call to Roman Benjaminov. Actually, that fact, whatever Roman told me, made me really concerned, and the phone call happened in the presence of my kids.

And, yes, I did discuss this information with [REDACTED] at that time [REDACTED]-year-old girl. It probably was stupid of me to discuss those things with her. But I discussed it with my three kids. I discussed it with my ex-wife, with my current wife.

So that's how this thing materialized, because, you know, I was concerned definitely after the Roman's call.

MR. ROONEY: Would you say that the Russian dirt on Hillary topic was probably more interesting than discussing the act stuff, which I can't even pronounce?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. But my daughter -- I mean, she's [REDACTED] and everything, but she was a Hillary supporter, and so she felt bad about someone producing dirt on Hillary. So I kind of calmed her down. There's nothing bad happened and was boring meeting.

BY [REDACTED]

Q So this email was sort of a sense of relief then almost?

A Yeah. Yes.

Q And so just to circle back, you've worked for Mr. Agalarov a long time?

A Yes.

Q But if this phone call that you had with this Roman was concerning enough for you to discuss it with your current wife, your ex-wife and three children, including your [REDACTED]-year-old daughter, it's fair to say that this was a sort of highly unusual event. Is that --

A Yes, it was highly unusual. Definitely.

MR. ROONEY: Yield.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you mind, Tom, if we go 30/30 again, because we came in late on the staff doing --

MR. ROONEY: Yeah. But before we do that, do you want to take a break or are you good? Okay. We'll take 5 minutes.

[Recess.]

MR. SWALWELL: All right. Mr. Kaveladze, I'm going to give you a diagram, it's a rectangle, and a pen. Can you use the initials of the people at the June 9th meeting at Trump Tower and just show me, to your recollection, where everyone was sitting.

MR. KAVELADZE: Okay. My recollection --

MR. SWALWELL: And I'll let you first draw it and then you can explain it.

MR. KAVELADZE: Right here is --

MR. SWALWELL: And, again, you don't have to -- I'll let you draw it so it

saves the court reporter, and then I'll ask you about that.

And can you sign the bottom of that, just your name at the bottom?

MR. KAVELADZE: And as I say, it's my recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: Yes. And I'll ask you some questions about it.

MR. BALBER: And do you know where the door was to the room? Do you want to mark that, too.

MR. SWALWELL: Thanks. Can I see that pen, too. Thank you.

So I'm just going to go through what you have drawn.

To your recollection, this is the way folks were seated at the June 9th meeting.

R.G., who does that stand for?

MR. KAVELADZE: Rob Goldstone.

MR. SWALWELL: J.K.

MR. KAVELADZE: Jared Kushner.

MR. SWALWELL: I.K.?

MR. KAVELADZE: That's myself, Ike Kaveladze.

MR. SWALWELL: P.M.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Paul Manafort.

MR. SWALWELL: A.S.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Anatoli Samochornov, the translator.

MR. SWALWELL: N.V.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Natalia Veselnitskaya.

MR. SWALWELL: And D.T.J.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Donald Trump Jr.

MR. SWALWELL: And you wrote at the bottom that, "It is my

recollection"?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: And you wrote R.A., question mark?

MR. KAVELADZE: Rinat Akhmetshin. I'm not sure where he sat.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. You were told on June 6th, when you were in Huntington Beach, by your boss, Mr. Agalarov, that on June 9th you needed to be in New York. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: He did not specify the date. He said -- he actually told me to jump on a plane and fly to New York as soon as possible. Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: Did it seem urgent?

MR. KAVELADZE: It did.

MR. SWALWELL: And you got on the plane on June 8th. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: Who paid for your ticket?

MR. KAVELADZE: Crocus.

MR. SWALWELL: Where did you stay in New York?

MR. KAVELADZE: You know, it's Intercontinental Hotel Times Square.

It's a block away from Times Square.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you travel with anyone else?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, by myself.

MR. SWALWELL: And you'd mentioned earlier that you had told your daughter, [REDACTED]

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, and my two sons.

MR. SWALWELL: Your two sons. How old are they?

MR. KAVELADZE: At that time one was [REDACTED] -- hold on -- yeah, [REDACTED] He just

turned [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. And, yeah, [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] yeah. So I told them.

MR. SWALWELL: And you said you told your ex-wife?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: And your wife?

MR. KAVELADZE: And my wife.

MR. SWALWELL: And what you had principally told them was that in your conversation with Roman, you said --

MR. KAVELADZE: His --

MR. BALBER: Let him finish the question.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you.

You principally told him that in your June 7th conversation with Roman that you believed that at the meeting dirt on Hillary Clinton would be conveyed. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: "You believed" is the wrong statement. I said that Roman mentioned something about that. I did not believe that would be a topic at that time.

MR. SWALWELL: But this was shocking enough to you that --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, it was shocking enough.

MR. SWALWELL: -- you told a number of your family members?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: And Roman is someone who you know to be a friend of Emin. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct. He is a childhood friend of Emin.

MR. SWALWELL: They went to high school together?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: So you on June 9th -- well, let's back up. June 8th, did you meet with anybody once you arrived in Manhattan?

MR. KAVELADZE: I arrived in Manhattan on the morning of June 9th. It was red eye flight. 7:10.

MR. SWALWELL: And so who was the first person that you met with back there?

MR. KAVELADZE: The first two individuals I met with were Natalia Veselnitskaya and Anatoli Samochornov during the lunch.

MR. SWALWELL: How did you get from the airport to the lunch?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, I got to hotel first. I checked into hotel from the airport. I went to Staples because I realized I didn't bring my business cards, and I ordered business cards, went back to hotel, did some work-related activities and some emails, and walked to the place at the agreed time.

MR. SWALWELL: What was your mode of transportation from the airport to the hotel?

MR. KAVELADZE: It's a car, car service, I believe.

MR. SWALWELL: Who prearranged that?

MR. KAVELADZE: If I'm not mistaken, Jason Tropea, a guy who worked with Roman.

MR. SWALWELL: And Jason went to school with Emin and Roman. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: Which airport did you fly into?

MR. KAVELADZE: Newark.

MR. SWALWELL: So where did you go to lunch with Natalia?

MR. KAVELADZE: It's a place called Nello located in Madison avenue between 62nd and 63rd, yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: And you stated that it was you, Natalia, and the translator at the lunch?

MR. KAVELADZE: Anatoli Samochornov.

MR. SWALWELL: And that was the first time that you learned that Natalia would have her own translator. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. It's the first time I learned there was going to be someone else in the meeting.

MR. SWALWELL: So you told us earlier that your belief was that Mr. Agalarov had asked you to go there to be a translator. And now before the meeting you meet Natalia and you see that she has a translator. Why did you go to the meeting at this point?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was still in charge of the logistics. I still needed to report, you know, to Mr. Agalarov about how the meeting went, and so I decided to go inside. Besides, according to protocol, I was supposed to be there, you know. Anatoli Samochornov was not.

MR. SWALWELL: Why did Mr. Agalarov need you to be there for logistics?

MR. KAVELADZE: He asked me to go over the papers during that lunch prior to the meeting. In fact, that's why he -- he wanted me to go there like day before the meeting so I could go over those -- the synopsis they prepared for the meeting.

MR. SWALWELL: I understand that, but --

MR. KAVELADZE: And he also wanted me to share my opinion about, you

know, that's a right crowd she's preaching to.

MR. SWALWELL: And the papers related to the Magnitsky Act?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: And they were in Russian?

MR. KAVELADZE: They were in Russian.

MR. SWALWELL: And there was already a translator with Natalia?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: After you met with Natalia, did you and -- well, when you met with Natalia, did the two of you discuss what your role would be in the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: What did you discuss?

MR. KAVELADZE: We discussed the synopsis. Honestly, we didn't even have a time for like a full-scale discussion because she showed up late. She showed up 45 minutes late for the meeting. I already went through my meal. And we kind of needed to go, so I hardly had time to go over that 10-page synopsis to understand what that thing was about.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ask Natalia if dirt would be shared with the Trump team on Hillary Clinton as you had heard just 2 days earlier?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Why not?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, she was consistent, you know. The previous information and whatever information she presented was consistent.

The only thing, as I said, there was this one sentence in this synopsis about possibility that since Ziff Brothers had been, you know, financing Democratic

campaign, they might as well could have financed Hillary's campaign.

So I assumed this whole talk about dirt on Hillary Clinton was about this one sentence, which it was not dirt on Hillary Clinton.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you and Natalia talk at all about the fact that you were going into not just The Trump Organization, but also the campaign headquarters? I mean, did you talk about the fact that this was in the middle of an election?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I don't believe we discussed the elections in any way, shape, or form.

MR. SWALWELL: But you believe -- your -- you thought it was unusual that in the middle of an election --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: -- for the highest office in the United States that the three highest-ranking -- three of the highest-ranking people on the campaign would be sitting down to meet with you about the Magnitsky Act?

MR. KAVELADZE: I thought it was highly unusual.

MR. SWALWELL: And when we're talking about the Magnitsky Act, you agree that that is a sanctions program against Russia?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. When did you talk to Mr. Agalarov when the meeting wrapped up? How soon did you get back to him?

MR. KAVELADZE: When the meeting wrapped up, I would say within 25 to 30 minutes, yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: How did you communicate with him?

MR. KAVELADZE: My recollection is that he called me.

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MR. SWALWELL: How long was that conversation?

MR. KAVELADZE: That conversation was maybe around 5, 6 minutes and -- yeah, 5, 6 minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: What did you convey to him?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, I said the meeting went well, and the reason I said that because Natalia was right there next to me and so I couldn't give a detailed --

MR. SWALWELL: What would you have said to him if she wasn't next to you?

MR. BALBER: Did you say anything after that initial call?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, there was another call, yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: When was the next call?

MR. KAVELADZE: I would say an hour and a half after, you know, we said good-bye to Natalia. I said good-bye to Natalia and Rinat. He called again and I said meeting was a complete loss of time and about nothing. And I suggested it would be much better if attorneys were present on the other side and not these three individuals.

MR. SWALWELL: Did he or you discuss the dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, we did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Going back to the meeting, you described it as lasting between 35 and 45 minutes. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. And to your recollection, did it start once everyone was there or were people coming in and it was kind of a rolling meeting? How do you -- describe to me how you remember it.

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MR. KAVELADZE: I don't believe it was a rolling meeting. I think within a period of 2 minutes everybody showed up, everybody was in the room. I don't think anybody was too late, tremendously late. Like I said, maybe a couple minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: Who kicked off the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't recall. I think it was Mr. Donald Trump Jr.

MR. SWALWELL: And what did he say?

MR. KAVELADZE: He says, you know, kind of welcoming words, and then basically gave a chance for Natalia to speak.

MR. SWALWELL: Now, again, you're in a campaign headquarters in June of an election year. The convention is about to happen. Does Donald Trump Jr. talk about the election at all or the campaign?

MR. KAVELADZE: As I said, at the very end of the meeting, he said, he told Natalia: Look, we're in the middle of electoral campaign. Your issue could be important issue. We cannot discuss it now. We will -- if we win, we'll get back to you.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. So once Donald Trump gave -- Donald Trump Jr. gave welcoming remarks, who spoke next?

MR. KAVELADZE: Natalia.

MR. SWALWELL: And what did she speak about?

MR. KAVELADZE: She spoke about Magnitsky Act. She spoke about Bill Browder. She apparently was -- she made a few statements about Bill Browder, the initiator of the Magnitsky Act.

[5:35 p.m.]

MR. SWALWELL: Did she make any derogatory statements about him?

MR. KAVELADZE: All of them were derogatory statements.

MR. SWALWELL: Did she talk about Mr. Browder or any of his associates providing funding to Democratic candidates in the United States?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, but she did -- either she or Rinat Akhmetshin mentioned this chain of Bill Browder being -- Bill Browder being executive for the company which has been owned by Ziff Brothers, Ziff Brothers being a heavy contributor to the Democratic party.

And then, in response to that from Mr. Jr.'s side is that companies like Ziff Brothers, they contribute to all parties. They're not only Democratic contributors, they contribute to both Republicans and Democrats, and it's not -- kind of the message was he was trying to convey that it's not important information for us.

MR. SWALWELL: So how long did Natalia speak? I just want to follow the agenda here. Welcoming remarks, Natalia spoke. And how long did that last?

MR. KAVELADZE: She was a major speaker. So I would say, you know, they made -- some remarks were made by Rinat Akhmetshin about child adoption, as I said.

MR. SWALWELL: Well, let me back up and we'll get to that. As Natalia is speaking, is her interpreter --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah, through her interpreter.

MR. SWALWELL: -- also speaking?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah, he would translate. She would speak Russian.

MR. SWALWELL: And then after that, who was the third person to speak?

Akhmetshin, you said?

MR. KAVELADZE: Akhmetshin. Rinat Akhmetshin, yes. He is a Washington lobbyist.

MR. SWALWELL: How long did Rinat speak?

MR. KAVELADZE: Not that long. Maybe 5 minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: And Rinat was the one that you mentioned earlier invoked Bill Browder's name?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Natalia Veselnitskaya was the one who invoked Bill Browder's name. He continued, he did mention Bill Browder a few times, but Natalia Veselnitskaya was the one.

MR. SWALWELL: As Natalia and Rinat are speaking, are any of the individuals there interacting or asking questions, like Mr. Manafort, Mr. Kushner or Donald Trump Jr.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Mr. Manafort was completely silent. He was on his phone all the time, you know, texting some messages. Mr. Kushner, I believe, asked one question, but I do not have a recollection what was the question about. Mr. Kushner was very frustrated. He looked very frustrated.

MR. SWALWELL: Did he ask a question of Rinat or Natalia?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think Natalia, he asked a question.

MR. SWALWELL: What was the question?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think that like -- I can't give you like word by word, but I think the general message he was trying to convey is like why are you here and why are you talking about this Magnitsky Act right now to us? He was extremely frustrated.

MR. SWALWELL: Frustrated do you believe because they were expecting

dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: I -- I cannot speculate on that topic, but I saw frustration, because he was sitting right next to me on my left.

MR. SWALWELL: And Paul Manafort was to your immediate right?

MR. KAVELADZE: On my right. There was no frustration.

MR. SWALWELL: What was Mr. Goldstone doing?

MR. KAVELADZE: Mr. Goldstone did not say anything. He was just sitting there. Actually, he was not supposed to be there, but he sat there.

MR. SWALWELL: Why do you say he was not supposed to be there?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, if you saw that email, he said, I walk out and you two could discuss this thing. And basically, he never walked out.

MR. SWALWELL: Did he ever say a word in the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. After the meeting, he approached Donald Trump Jr. and apologized for --

MR. SWALWELL: For what?

MR. KAVELADZE: -- useless meeting or something like that, he produced. He said, I'm very, very sorry.

MR. SWALWELL: So just going through the order of the meeting, welcoming remarks, Natalia, Rinat. Who speaks next?

MR. KAVELADZE: Like I said, there was this question from Jared Kushner, like, Why are we here? What are we doing here? And then at the very end, there was the little speech by Don Jr. basically saying, you know, Ziff Brothers contributes to everybody, both Republicans and Democrats. So it's not a big thing.

And like I said, either him or Mr. Kushner asked, do you have anything on

Hillary? And the answer from Rinat Akhmetshin was, why don't you do your own research on her, which I think completely frustrated, you know -- and then --

MR. SWALWELL: Who asked? I think you know who asked. Who asked?

MR. BALBER: Why do you think he knows who asked? If you know, testify to it. If you don't remember, then say you don't remember.

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't remember. I honestly don't remember.

MR. SWALWELL: Well, was it --

MR. KAVELADZE: I think it was --

MR. SWALWELL: Was it the person next to you or the person sitting across from you?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think it was the person across, Mr. Jr., yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: And when he said, do you have anything on Hillary, was he asking Natalia, or was he asking Mr. Goldstone, or was he asking Rinat?

MR. KAVELADZE: Natalia. Natalia. But Rinat stepped in and said, why don't you do your own research?

MR. SWALWELL: And Mr. Goldstone, you have seen now the email exchange between Mr. Goldstone --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did.

MR. SWALWELL: -- and Don Jr.?

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh.

MR. SWALWELL: And you've seen that in those emails, it is mentioned that there would be dirt on Hillary Clinton. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I saw that.

MR. SWALWELL: And you're telling me that Don Jr. looks at Natalia and

asks for the goods and Rinat speaks up, but Mr. Goldstone, who arranged this whole meeting under that premise, doesn't say anything?

MR. KAVELADZE: A single word. Nothing was said. He was sitting quietly there. At the end of the meeting, when the meeting was over, he approached Mr. Jr. and apologized. That I saw myself. I was standing there.

MR. SWALWELL: What did Don Jr. say when he apologized?

MR. KAVELADZE: Nothing I think, just smiled.

MR. SWALWELL: Had you ever met Mr. Goldstone before this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Oh, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Had you ever met Mr. Manafort before this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Kushner?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Rinat?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Natalia's interpreter?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. BALBER: When you say before the meeting, I assume you mean before the day of the meeting?

MR. SWALWELL: Yes.

MR. KAVELADZE: Before the day.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you, Counsel.

Now, in your email to your daughter on June 15th --

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. Before we leave the meeting, I just want -- I think there may have been one more thing that was said, just so the record is

clear. Was there any communication between Rinat and Mr. Manafort?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, Rinat approached Mr. -- Mr. Manafort, as I said before, he was busy texting or typing some messages on his phone. Rinat approached him, I think, prior to the meeting. Actually, when he walked into the room he saw Mr. Manafort and he says -- he said hello. And he says, Remember we met at some event. And he mentioned some event, like at Washington, some kind of event.

MR. SWALWELL: Rinat mentioned?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah, yeah. He's like, Remember us meeting at that event, we met. And so he tried to start some conversation with Paul Manafort. And Paul Manafort has not responded, like didn't even look at him. He just continued texting, like completely ignored the question. Yeah, that's the only detail.

MR. BALBER: I didn't mean to interrupt. I didn't want to leave --

MR. SWALWELL: I appreciate it.

So you emailed your daughter?

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh.

MR. SWALWELL: The meeting was boring. The Russians did not have any bad info on Hillary.

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh.

MR. SWALWELL: Right? Is that a yes?

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: When you write it like that, it sounds like you went there expecting that the whole premise of the meeting was going to be dirt on Hillary. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, it's not. The reason I wrote that thing to [REDACTED] like I said, she's a 13-year-old girl, is because we discussed in the family this phone call with Roman saying that there's some negative information on Hillary. And [REDACTED] although she's a little girl, she was a supporter of Hillary, and she was very concerned.

And that's -- that's where it was coming from. That's what I was trying -- maybe it's not a right choice of words saying boring, but when you talk to a 13-year-old girl, sometimes you don't pick the right words, but trying to look cool and sometimes you don't look cool.

MR. CONAWAY: Five minutes, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: Five days after the meeting, you receive an email from the convener of the meeting, Rob Goldstone, and the subject is "breaking news." Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: And Mr. Goldstone wrote: "Top story right now, seems eerily weird based on our Trump meeting last week with the Russian lawyers." Do you remember reading that?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

MR. SWALWELL: And then attached to that email, which is Bates stamped HIC-KAV_00001 is a CNN story that says: "Russian hackers stole Dems' Trump files, firms say."

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: So when Mr. Goldstone says "eerily weird," what do you think he's referring to?

MR. KAVELADZE: See, I don't know what he's referring to, because we

did not discuss anything near closely related to hacking, or Russian hackers, or anything like that. It's -- it was a weird email. I politely responded interesting, but that -- you know, I've got nothing to say --

MR. SWALWELL: Well, you actually wrote very interesting.

MR. KAVELADZE: Very interesting, yeah, okay.

MR. BALBER: When did you learn the meaning of the word "eerily"?

MR. SWALWELL: I'll ask him the questions.

MR. BALBER: I know, but I think it's important because you made a suggestion that was not accurate.

MR. KAVELADZE: Like months ago, I asked my attorney what "eerily" means.

MR. SWALWELL: I guess my question is, the email setting up this meeting discuss dirt on Hillary. The phone call you made to Roman 2 days before the meeting suggested that dirt would be offered on Hillary. And the follow-up email on June 14th from Rob Goldstone, who was in the meeting, to you says: "This story on Russian hacking seems weird based on our Trump meeting." And you, someone who was in the meeting, says that it actually wasn't discussed in the meeting. Does that seem unusual?

MR. KAVELADZE: What's unusual here is --

MR. SWALWELL: What am I missing here?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, first of all, I was not cc'd on that first email you're referring to. So there was no knowledge about existence of that email until July --

MR. SWALWELL: But Roman told you essentially what was in that email.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. No, I don't -- I didn't even know there was an email. He suggested this thing about dirt on Hillary, and which made me

extremely concerned, because I don't know if I wanted to be a part of a meeting on dirt on Hillary.

MR. SWALWELL: And you said earlier to Mr. Rooney, you said, I was 100 percent sure when I stepped into Trump Tower --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: -- that the meeting was about the Magnitsky Act.

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: But that's not true, because you were told 2 days before that dirt on Hillary would be a part of this meeting.

MR. KAVELADZE: Two hours prior to the meeting, not two because she was late, but an hour and a half prior, you know, I was given the full synopsis of what she's going to be presenting during that meeting. And there was nothing about --

MR. SWALWELL: But it also just seems so unusual that you wouldn't ask her about the dirt on Hillary. You don't think so?

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry, what's the question? Does he think --

MR. SWALWELL: When you had lunch with Natalia, you didn't ask her if there was going to be dirt on Hillary?

MR. KAVELADZE: First of all, that's the first time I see the person. I have a very limited knowledge of who she is.

MR. SWALWELL: But you've flown 5 hours across the country on a redeye.

MR. KAVELADZE: I know. But not because of Natalia, but because my boss instructed me to do that. So, I honestly, was not in the mood to converse with Natalia. You know, I was supposed to read that synopsis, and I was

supposed to reaffirm that the meeting was going to be about this Magnitsky Act. And, again, I was -- I made a suggestion to Mr. Agalarov that we're talking to the wrong -- you know, we're preaching to the wrong crowd. You know, we need to speak to lawyers from Mr. Trump's side, not to these people.

MR. SWALWELL: And I want to be clear that your recollection is that the person who was sitting immediately to your left, Jared Kushner --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: -- did not leave before the meeting ended?

MR. KAVELADZE: I read a lot of articles where --

MR. SWALWELL: No, I just want your recollection.

MR. KAVELADZE: My recollection, I don't remember that, unfortunately.

MR. SWALWELL: Why do you say unfortunately?

MR. KAVELADZE: Because I want to be in line with all those articles, but I'm not, because I don't have that recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: Why do you want to be in line with all those articles?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, because obviously, probably if 10 people said that this is what it was, maybe that's what it was. But --

MR. BALBER: You're just testifying based on your recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: But your recollection is that Mr. Kushner stayed the whole meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. I don't remember him leaving the room.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you. Just to follow up on that line of questioning.

BY [REDACTED]

Q You said you don't remember Mr. Kushner leaving. Is that correct?

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A Correct.

Q Do you remember seeing him after the meeting?

A I do not remember.

Q So you don't recall one way or the other whether or not he left?

A No.

Q Now, you've testified that you had not previously met Natalia before the day of this meeting. Is that correct?

A Correct.

Q Did you have any interactions with her after June 9th, 2016?

A Yes, I did.

Q And can you briefly describe those?

A One interaction, as I mentioned before, was about attempt to do the second follow-up meeting about the Magnitsky Act was, at that point, already, you know, because elections were over. It was like I believe end of November. And she wanted to meet again to continue that topic of Magnitsky Act. So I was helping to communicate that request to Rob Goldstone. A meeting never happened.

The other interaction was when she was looking for an attorney to -- to discuss the issues of Magnitsky Act. I referred her to my attorney.

Q And when you had lunch with her on the day of the -- before the meeting at Trump Tower, you said her translator was also there. Was anyone else with you for lunch?

A No, just three of us.

Q And I believe it's your testimony that you had not met Rinat Akhmetshin prior to June 9th.

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A No.

Q Did you know he was going to be there?

A No.

Q Or when did you learn he was going to be there?

A I learned he was going to be there during the lunch. She said one more person is going to be joining us. And I communicated to Mr. Goldstone that a person by the name Rinat Akhmetshin is going to be joining that meeting. He actually was not present at the lunch. He met us in front of Trump Tower.

Q And what is your understanding, or were you told on June 9th why he was there?

A Well, it was pretty clear he was there -- he's a lobbyist for Magnitsky, you know, Magnitsky Act repeal, and so he was there to discuss the Magnitsky Act.

Q Have you had any interactions with him since June 9th, 2016?

A Yes, I have.

Q Could you describe those for us?

A There was -- one was the communication. He was in Moscow and he wanted me to get him in touch with -- if I knew someone like in the pharmaceutical world. He's got some ideas. And he also wanted to know if I know someone in the sports world, and so he's got some business ideas to discuss with them.

Q And when was this?

A I don't remember. I don't remember. But I think it's within 4 months of the meeting, I would say.

Q Do you recall whether it was before or after the 2016 election here in the U.S.?

A Can I get back to you on that, because I have the text message?

MR. BALBER: Either you remember or you don't remember.

MR. KAVELADZE: At this point, I don't remember exact date. But there was -- the other interaction is when I was visiting Moscow, he texted me. And he said he wants to meet with me for a quick conversation. That was, I believe, in June of 2017. And -- June or July. And he told me that there was an article about him at CNN stating that he had some connections to military intelligence. And he told me that this is a complete lie, and the only connection with military intelligence he ever had was the mandatory service back when he was 18, and, obviously, happened at USSR and not Russia. And he was trying to like convey that message to me.

BY [REDACTED]

Q And did you ever get a sense of -- so like you, for instance, it's pretty clear that you work for -- you know, you work for Mr. Agalarov, but you've also known him a long time and represent his interests in a variety of manners. Did you get a sense of who Rinat was representing in this meeting?

A I'm not sure about representation, but I was pretty sure he was associated with Natalia.

Q But I guess I just -- I mean, maybe it's a question you don't know the answer to, but -- or certainly didn't know the answer to at the time, but they were clearly advocating a position, but, like, you were there for Mr. Agalarov, you've testified. That is clear. On whose behalf were they in this meeting? Do you know?

A I do not know.

Q And have you seen reporting very recently to today referring

to -- public reporting referring to talking points for this June 9th, 2016, meeting?

A I have not seen.

Q You have not seen the reporting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. As of today?

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. I think you confused each other. Was the question whether you have seen the reports today, or have you seen the talking points, or something else?

BY [REDACTED]

Q Have you seen the reports in the past couple weeks or so about talking points?

A I don't recall anything like that.

Q Okay. We can circle back to that later.

The other -- or the translator, Anatoli, I believe it is your testimony you had not previously met him before June 9th. Is that correct?

A Correct. Correct.

Q Have you had any interactions with him since June 9th, 2016?

A Yes, because I've met -- as I said, I met with Natalia and he was there. She invited me for dinner at Nello, the same restaurant we met. And apparently it was her birthday. And Anatoli was there, among other people.

MR. CONAWAY: Good afternoon. I'm Mike Conaway from Texas. And more out of curiosity than anything else -- and I'll preface all these remarks by letting you know I am one of those west Texans who is monolingual. I speak English, and my colleagues, many of whom would argue that I don't do that very well either. So as a curiosity, do you translate often in circumstances that you are asked to translate in, even though you didn't do it, is that something you do often?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't do it often. You know, obviously, it's not my primary responsibility.

MR. CONAWAY: While the meeting was going on and you were listening to the translation being provided to Natalia and then Natalia back and forth, anything about that translation either way, from Russian to English, English to Russian, that you would have quibbled with very much?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think Anatoli is an amazing translator. It was a very accurate translation.

MR. CONAWAY: Thank you.

Yeah, we'll yield to the other side.

MR. HECK: I want to go back to the exchange where you're now thinking that it was Donald Trump Jr. who asked, do you have anything on Hillary, to which Rinat responded, No, why don't you do your own research.

What was Donald Trump Jr.'s response to that?

MR. KAVELADZE: He laughed.

MR. HECK: He laughed?

MR. KAVELADZE: No response whatsoever. He laughed.

MR. HECK: He laughed, but said nothing?

MR. KAVELADZE: Nothing.

MR. HECK: Even though we know that he was invited to this meeting in the email by Rob Goldstone, in part, to be provided with dirt on Hillary, or promised?

MR. KAVELADZE: By this time, I think he realized the meeting was not about what was promised. That's why Mr. Goldstone was apologizing after the meeting.

MR. HECK: Now I want to transition to the synopsis. The first time you saw this was at the luncheon meeting with Natalia?

MR. KAVELADZE: The 10-page synopsis, yes.

MR. HECK: Do you recall if it had a heading?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't. I don't recall.

MR. HECK: Something at the top?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm sorry, I don't recall it.

MR. HECK: Do you recall if it indicated authorship?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't recall that. I'm sorry.

MR. HECK: Do you recall whether Natalia, in her, what you said was primary presentation, read from it, or directly referred to it?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't think she read from it. I don't think she referred to it. She was just presenting, you know, its -- I don't think she made any reference as to the synopsis. She was just presenting her case.

MR. HECK: Did she bring multiple copies?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't believe so. I think she had one copy.

MR. HECK: Did she leave it behind?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think she was offering to leave it with them. I don't think they took it. I don't think they accepted it. But she did offer to leave that behind.

MR. HECK: All right. Thank you, Eric.

MR. SWALWELL: Sure.

MR. SCHIFF: I apologize. It's pronounced Kaveladze?

MR. KAVELADZE: Kaveladze.

MR. SCHIFF: Kaveladze, Kaveladze.

I just want to go back over a few things before I hand the mike back to Mr. Swalwell. And I apologize if this goes over some of what you've already testified. We had sort of multiple events going on today.

Roman was the one who first raised the meeting with you?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Mr. Agalarov was the first person who communicated to me that there would be a meeting.

MR. SCHIFF: And he communicated over the phone with you?

MR. KAVELADZE: Over the phone.

MR. SCHIFF: And he called you how far in advance of the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: Three days prior to the meeting, June 6.

MR. SCHIFF: And what did he tell you about the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: At that -- there were numerous calls, and so he would gradually disclose this whole -- the first thing he told me, like, oh, can you be in New York like really soon, like tomorrow? And I kind of was hesitant to leave, because [REDACTED] was the next day, and I wanted to stay. And I basically said, Well, not tomorrow, but I could leave tomorrow on redeye and be in New York on the 8th. And then he gave me that phone number for Natalia and told me to communicate with her and coordinate, you know.

And then the next call, I think it was on June 7, where he basically told me -- early morning June 7, when he basically told me about Magnitsky Act. He says, do you know what Magnitsky Act is about? And I said, Yes, I do. And so he conveyed this information. He had some short information that the meeting is going to be about Magnitsky Act.

MR. SCHIFF: So he told you the meeting was about the Magnitsky Act?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you the meeting was also about providing dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he did not tell me that.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you how the meeting got arranged in the first place?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you whether he had a hand in organizing the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he did not tell me that.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you whether he had a conversation with I believe it's Mr. Chie, who's been referred to as the Russian crown prosecutor?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Do you know who I'm referring to that's been in some of the public reports?

MR. KAVELADZE: You mean Mr. Chaika?

MR. SCHIFF: Chaika.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. No. I did read about this in the media, but no, he did not mention his name.

MR. SCHIFF: To your knowledge, does Mr. Agalarov know Mr. Chaika?

MR. KAVELADZE: To my knowledge, yes.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you ever been in a meeting with Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Chaika?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SCHIFF: And on what basis do you conclude that the two know each other?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think Mr. Agalarov -- Mr. Agalarov knows a significant amount of Russian politicians in general. And I've heard him mentioning Mr. Chaika, that he had a meeting with him or something, maybe 6 months or 7 months prior to that meeting.

MR. SCHIFF: And did Mr. Agalarov tell you what the subject of the meeting was with Mr. Chaika?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he did not.

MR. SCHIFF: And what can you tell us about Mr. Chaika's responsibilities? What does his office do?

MR. KAVELADZE: I have -- I know his position. But I certainly don't -- I know he's a prosecutor general of Russian Federation. I don't know exactly what responsibilities that office performs. You know, I assume it's something similar to what prosecutors do here.

MR. SCHIFF: Now, had Mr. Agalarov -- I take it, since Mr. Agalarov was asking you whether you knew what the Magnitsky Act is, that he had never raised the Magnitsky Act with you before?

MR. KAVELADZE: Never.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you why he was raising it with you now?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Well, he told me it's the topic of the meeting I'm going to be attending.

MR. SCHIFF: And did he tell you what interest he had in facilitating the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he did not.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you whether this meeting was being taken by the Trump campaign at his request?

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MR. KAVELADZE: He didn't tell me, but I assumed it was.

MR. SCHIFF: And why did you assume that the meeting had been arranged by Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Because eventually, I received a letter from Rob Goldstone, and Rob Goldstone, at that time, worked for Emin Agalarov. Besides, Mr. Agalarov called me about that meeting. So I connected those two facts.

MR. SCHIFF: And I'm sorry, explain that to me. The letter you received from Emin or from Rob Goldstone?

MR. KAVELADZE: From Rob Goldstone.

MR. BALBER: And by letter, I think you may have meant email.

MR. KAVELADZE: Email.

MR. SCHIFF: And the email from Mr. Goldstone said what?

MR. KAVELADZE: I've set up a meeting. You're going to be meeting with Donald Trump Jr., Paul Manafort, and Jared Kushner. I'll escort you to the meeting and then leave.

MR. SCHIFF: And how did you deduce from that that this was a meeting that Mr. Agalarov had arranged?

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, we don't do political or Trump-related meetings that often. So we definitely were talking about the same meeting. I've never done meetings like that with Trump people before, so --

MR. SCHIFF: And what kind of work do you do for Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm in charge of international projects as far as U.S. concerned. I'm -- I act like a purchasing agent. I buy equipment and inventory for his stores. He owns a chain of stores, DIY stores, like Home Depot-style stores.

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MR. SCHIFF: And you're still in the employ of Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I am.

MR. SCHIFF: And I think you were explaining earlier that you also were in communication with someone named Roman?

MR. KAVELADZE: Roman.

MR. SCHIFF: Roman, I'm sorry. And I know you said this earlier, I apologize for the duplication, but Roman is related to the Agalarovs how?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. He worked as an assistant. He's a childhood friend of Emin Agalarov, and he worked as an assistant for Rob Goldstone.

MR. SCHIFF: And what was his connection to this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: He had, I believe, no connection. But since I was trying to get some information about what's going to happen and why -- my big question mark was why are these three highly positioned, important people meeting with us on the Magnitsky Act in the middle of an electoral campaign.

And Rob Goldstone, I'm not that close to him. I don't usually interact with him. We've got like two verticals of power. One would be Mr. Agalarov and one would be Emin. So Rob Goldstone is in Emin's vertical, and so I'm not involved with him. But I knew Roman for many years, and so I called him. I said, do you know anything about what's going to be happening about that meeting?

MR. SCHIFF: So you called him because it didn't make sense to you why these three top Trump campaign people were taking the meeting during the campaign?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, about the Magnitsky Act.

MR. SCHIFF: About the Magnitsky Act. That didn't make sense to you?

MR. KAVELADZE: It didn't connect.

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MR. SCHIFF: And you called Roman because Roman has a relationship with Emin or Aras?

MR. KAVELADZE: At that point in time, he worked as an assistant with -- he worked for Rob Goldstone.

MR. SCHIFF: He worked for Rob Goldstone?

MR. KAVELADZE: And he has connections.

MR. BALBER: Slow down. Answer the question.

MR. SCHIFF: And he has connections to Emin or --

MR. KAVELADZE: A childhood friend.

MR. SCHIFF: Of Emin's. And what did Roman tell you about the subject matter of the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: He said he doesn't know much, but he said that that lawyer has brought some dirt or -- I don't think she mentioned dirt, but she said negative infor -- I mean, he said negative information on Hillary Clinton.

MR. SCHIFF: And he got that information from whom?

MR. KAVELADZE: From Rob Goldstone.

MR. SCHIFF: And Rob Goldstone would have gotten that information from whom?

MR. BALBER: If you know.

MR. KAVELADZE: That I don't know. At that point, I didn't know.

MR. SCHIFF: Did Roman tell you how Mr. Goldstone knew that the meeting was about dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: He said he overheard Mr. Goldstone talking about that meeting being on the dirt. He also -- yeah, he definitely -- Mr. Goldstone mentioned that to Roman, and Roman shared it with me.

MR. SCHIFF: And when you say he also overheard it, do you know who he overheard Mr. Goldstone discussing the dirt on Hillary Clinton with?

MR. BALBER: The question is, do you know?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not know about. All I knew and all I know -- I mean, all I knew at that point is what I got from Roman, is basically that there is some negative information, derogatory information on Hillary Clinton.

MR. SCHIFF: And at what point did you have the conversation with your daughter about the dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: Right after.

MR. SCHIFF: After speaking with Roman?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And that conversation was how long before the meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: Two days prior.

MR. SCHIFF: And who is [REDACTED]

MR. KAVELADZE: He's my son.

MR. SCHIFF: And did you tell your son as well that the meeting was about dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Well, look, I didn't tell them about -- they knew the meeting was going to be about Magnitsky Act. That's the initial information I received. And -- but at that point, I said I had a conversation with someone I know, who suggested they're also going to be discussing some negative information on Hillary Clinton.

MR. SCHIFF: So you told your -- and I'm sorry, how old is [REDACTED]

MR. KAVELADZE: At that time, [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]

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MR. SCHIFF: So you told -- do you have just two kids?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I've got four kids.

MR. SCHIFF: You've got four kids.

MR. KAVELADZE: I discussed with three of them.

MR. SCHIFF: And so you discussed this with [REDACTED] and which other, one of your daughters or --

MR. KAVELADZE: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

MR. SCHIFF: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] And you told them both that this was about dirt on Hillary Clinton and the Magnitsky Act?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. But look, Magnitsky Act, I didn't care much. I mean, what I was concerned about was the dirt on Hillary Clinton. And, as I said before -- you were not here -- she's -- I mean, although she's a little girl, she's in support of Hillary Clinton. So -- and she felt very concerned.

MR. SCHIFF: And when you said earlier that it didn't make sense that these three top Trump campaign officials would be taking this meeting, did it make more sense to you when you learned from Roman that it was also about dirt on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: It did make sense. It made me concerned. And until the time I met with Natalia and read her synopsis, and realized there's only like one sentence mentioning Hillary Clinton, and you obviously cannot call that dirt, I realized there would be no -- no Hillary Clinton dirt discussion at that meeting.

MR. SCHIFF: And afterwards, you had the email interchange with your daughter that you described where she wanted to know if they had provided the dirt on Hillary Clinton, and you said, no, it was boring?

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh.

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MR. SCHIFF: Is that a yes?

MR. KAVELADZE: So can you rephrase your question? Like what was your question? Sorry.

MR. SCHIFF: How soon after the meeting did you email your daughter about the subject of the email -- of the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think it was the same day.

MR. SCHIFF: And --

MR. BALBER: Why don't you look at the email. It's right in front of you.

MR. KAVELADZE: Oh, okay.

MR. BALBER: It's important you answer precisely, so let's not guess. Nobody wants you to guess, especially not me.

MR. KAVELADZE: Okay. So June 14.

MR. SCHIFF: And on June 14th, your daughter emails you to ask you what?

MR. KAVELADZE: How was the meeting with Trump people? What happened?

MR. SCHIFF: And your response was the same day or the following day?

MR. KAVELADZE: Let me see. I thought it was the same day, but I'm not sure. Is that on the next day? I mean, I'm a bit confused with those dates, because this date says --

MR. BALBER: I mean you have the email. He doesn't remember, so --

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SCHIFF: And did you have any further conversation with your daughter about it, apart from this email exchange?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Not that topic, no.

MR. SCHIFF: Now, the email from your son in which he asks why did he release this email admitting to collusion, was this sent before or after the meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: It was way after. It was --

MR. SCHIFF: It was July.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah, July this year. So it was after this whole email got published when he, you know --

MR. SCHIFF: And did you ever respond to that question from your son in email form?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did.

MR. SCHIFF: I don't know if I have that in front of me. Do we have a response to that?

MR. BALBER: You're testifying under oath that you responded to this email. Are you sure you responded to this email?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm pretty positive I did.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you produce all the emails in your possession that were pursuant to the subpoena?

MR. KAVELADZE: I think we did. And I even know the text of the email. I mean, whatever I responded.

MR. SCHIFF: Do you know what you said in response to the email?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: What did you say in response to the email?

MR. KAVELADZE: Because at this point, it's important to be fully transparent.

MR. SCHIFF: I agree. What did you say in response to your son's email?

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MR. KAVELADZE: That's my response. That's what I said.

MR. SCHIFF: I'm sorry, say that again. You said?

MR. KAVELADZE: Because at that point, it's important to be fully transparent. His question was, why did he release the email?

MR. SCHIFF: Yes.

MR. KAVELADZE: And my response was, because it's important to be fully transparent.

MR. SCHIFF: And what happened to that email? Why hasn't it been produced to the committee?

MR. KAVELADZE: I have no idea. Can I consult with my lawyer?

MR. SCHIFF: Yes, of course.

MR. BALBER: Again, if it wasn't produced and it exists, it will be produced.

MR. KAVELADZE: It must be some kind of clerical mistake, because it was -- yes, I saw it in the documents and everything, you know, that response.

MR. SCHIFF: Are there any other emails, in looking through your document production, that are not included that are pertinent to the subpoena?

MR. KAVELADZE: To the meeting.

MR. SCHIFF: To the meeting or anything else that was requested in the subpoena?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I believe all emails are present.

MR. SCHIFF: So that's the only missing email?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And you'll search and produce it if you --

MR. KAVELADZE: Absolutely. It was not deleted. I saw it.

MR. SCHIFF: Just a couple more questions before I hand it back to Mr.

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Swalwell.

During the meeting, you mentioned -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- I think your best recollection was this was Mr. Kushner, but at some point he asked, Why are you here talking about the Magnitsky Act?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. Well, it's my recollection of a question, but that's -- that's the -- that's what he was trying to ask, you know, why are you here? What's Magnitsky Act going to do with us?

MR. SCHIFF: And did you understand from the way he asked that question that that's not why he thought the meeting was supposed to take place?

MR. KAVELADZE: That's not -- can you rephrase?

MR. SCHIFF: Yes. Was the implication of his question that is not why he expected the meeting was taking place?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And do you recall Don Jr. asking whether Veselnitskaya had anything on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: Apart from those two questions, do you recall other questions along similar lines, that is, why are we talking about this and don't you have something on Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I don't believe there were any more questions like that. I don't recall any other questions, let me rephrase myself.

MR. SCHIFF: Did Don Jr. or any of the others in attendance repeatedly ask Veselnitskaya or the other representatives present for dirt or derogatory information about Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't think there was any repeated requests. I think

he asked once.

MR. SCHIFF: I yield back to Mr. Swalwell.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you.

In [REDACTED] email to you, he uses the word -- well, let me back up. Had you told -- you testified that you told [REDACTED] there was no dirt. Did [REDACTED] ever ask if there was ever any dirt?

MR. KAVELADZE: He did.

MR. SWALWELL: And what did you tell [REDACTED]

MR. KAVELADZE: The same thing.

MR. SWALWELL: Now, in the email, the July 11th email to you, [REDACTED] uses the word "collusion." Why did he release this email admitting to collusion? Is that a word you had used with him before with respect to the June 9th meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I have never used that word with [REDACTED]. He saw it on TV. I guess that's where he learned that word.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Goldstone, in his email correspondence with you to set up the meeting, suggests that the two of you would meet at 3:30 before going into the building at 4. Do you remember that?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you and Mr. Goldstone meet at 3:30 beforehand?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't think it was half an hour before, no. It was maybe 10, 15 minutes prior to the meeting's start.

MR. SWALWELL: Was anyone with Mr. Goldstone?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, he was by himself.

MR. SWALWELL: Was anyone with you?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. Rinat Akhmetshin and Natalia Veselnitskaya at

that point in time.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you ever alone with Mr. Goldstone before the meeting started?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: What was discussed before you went into Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: Before -- with Veselnitskaya?

MR. SWALWELL: No. In the email exchange, Mr. Goldstone and you are discussing the timing of the meeting, and you suggest that it has to be moved back to 4 o'clock. And Mr. Goldstone says, We can still meet at 3:30 before the meeting. And I asked you if that occurred. And you said it wasn't 30 minutes before, but it was about 15 minutes.

MR. KAVELADZE: Fifteen minutes, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Where did you meet Mr. Goldstone 15 minutes before the meeting started?

MR. KAVELADZE: Inside of Trump Tower, by the reception area at the first floor, ground floor.

MR. SWALWELL: What was discussed when you met with Mr. Goldstone?

MR. KAVELADZE: Nothing. I said hello, and he just walked us through the security, and we were at the meeting.

MR. SWALWELL: Any discussion of candidate Clinton's emails at that point?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: And what was in the synopsis, the 10-page document,

what was the sentence about Hillary Clinton that you remember?

MR. KAVELADZE: The sentence about Hillary Clinton stated the same way Ziff Brothers could have financed Hillary Clinton's campaign.

MR. SWALWELL: In the expense report that you turned over to us, you spent \$57.21 on June 9th at Trump Tower.

MR. KAVELADZE: Correct.

MR. SWALWELL: What was that on?

MR. KAVELADZE: I bought one round of drinks for Veselnitskaya, Akhmetshin, and Samochornov and myself at the Trump bar right in the building.

MR. SWALWELL: Was that before or after the meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: After the meeting.

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: Can you say again who was at that round of drinks?

MR. KAVELADZE: Veselnitskaya, Akhmetshin, myself, and Samochornov.

MR. SWALWELL: That's an expensive round of drinks.

MR. KAVELADZE: Well, it's the Trump Tower.

MR. SWALWELL: How long did that meeting last?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was there for 15, 20 minutes during that -- yeah, 20 minutes. And then I left and then they continued. They stayed.

MR. SWALWELL: And did you discuss anything that occurred at the meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: Basically, Natalia expressed her satisfaction. And then we had a little discussion. She said, it's good that he suggested that they might return to the topic again, you know, if -- if they win the election.

And at some point in time, Mr. Agalarov called, and so I switched to the call.

So no, I didn't have much of a discussion. They were talking about -- her and Rinat were talking about going to some play. Russian theatre was in town and they were planning to go there.

MR. SWALWELL: Was there any discussion of Donald Trump Jr.'s request for dirt on Secretary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Was there any discussion of Jared Kushner's frustration over the Magnitsky Act being discussed?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you say anything during the June 9th meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did.

MR. SWALWELL: What did you say?

MR. KAVELADZE: I said one sentence, and the sentence was this: Before becoming, you know, a fugitive, Mr. Browder was darling of Putin, and he was promoting this whole, you know, doing business in Russia, investments in Russia, and was speaker on every invest in Russia conference. And -- but then he fell out of favor.

MR. SWALWELL: Prior to Mr. Agalarov asking you to go to New York as soon as possible, had he ever talked to you about the Magnitsky Act before?

MR. KAVELADZE: Never.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you think it was unusual that this was being brought up?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did. Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Had you ever translated on behalf of Mr. Agalarov

before?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I did, numerous times.

MR. SWALWELL: So that part was not unusual?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Lot of business.

MR. SWALWELL: Where does Roman live?

MR. KAVELADZE: New Jersey, I believe. I'm not sure, but it's somewhere in New Jersey.

MR. SWALWELL: Will you provide to us in a follow-up request not only the sent email response to [REDACTED] but also Roman's -- contact information you had with Roman?

MR. KAVELADZE: Absolutely.

MR. CONAWAY: Finish up.

MR. SCHIFF: What relationship, if any, is there between Veselnitskaya and Aras Agalarov, if you know?

MR. KAVELADZE: At the point of the meeting, I did not know anything about the relationship between Agalarov and Veselnitskaya.

MR. SCHIFF: So, prior to the meeting, you weren't even aware that Ms. Veselnitskaya knew Mr. Agalarov if, indeed, she did at all?

MR. KAVELADZE: I was not aware of that fact. The first time I realized they know each other is when the phone happened at the bar -- the phone call happened at the bar.

MR. SCHIFF: I'm not sure which phone call at the bar you're referring to.

MR. KAVELADZE: After the meeting, we went to the Trump Tower bar for a round of drinks. This is when Mr. Agalarov called.

MR. SCHIFF: Oh, I see. So prior to the meeting at Trump Tower, you

weren't even aware that -- you don't even know whether Veselnitskaya knew Aras Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Do you know -- how long have you been working for Aras Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Many years. Since -- I know him since 1989.

MR. SCHIFF: If she had a close relationship with Mr. Agalarov, is it the kind of thing that you would know about?

MR. KAVELADZE: Not necessarily, because, you know, in 2016, I was based in U.S., so he might have relationships which I'm not aware of.

MR. SCHIFF: And is she an influential figure in Russia?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, she's not.

MR. SCHIFF: So it would be unlikely that Mr. Agalarov would ask you to fly across country for a meeting with these three high-level campaign officials if it was coming only at a request from Ms. Veselnitskaya?

MR. BALBER: If you have any knowledge of that, answer the question.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. No, unfortunately, I don't, do not have knowledge of that. And yeah, in --

MR. SCHIFF: Well, this is a person you've said that you're not even aware that he knew her before this time, correct?

MR. KAVELADZE: I assumed he did if he --

MR. SCHIFF: Is Mr. Agalarov the kind of person that would ask for a meeting with top officials during a Presidential campaign on behalf of someone he didn't know unless somebody else had asked him to do it?

MR. BALBER: If you possibly know the answer to that question.

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MR. KAVELADZE: I think I don't know the answer. I mean, I really don't know. It's --

MR. SCHIFF: You don't know Mr. Agalarov well enough to know whether he would expend whatever capital he has to set up this meeting on behalf of someone he doesn't know?

MR. KAVELADZE: I -- I don't know. I mean, it's hard to answer, give answers on behalf of someone else. And I really don't -- I mean, it's a hard question to answer, for sure. I mean, I could have some guesses and assumptions, but to say for sure that he knew or didn't know, I mean, I don't know.

MR. SCHIFF: If Mr. Chaika had asked Mr. Agalarov to arrange this meeting, is that the kind of request that Mr. Agalarov would act on?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not know.

MR. SCHIFF: If Mr. Putin, or someone close to Mr. Putin had requested him to set up this meeting, would Mr. Agalarov have done it?

MR. KAVELADZE: Again, my assumption, I guess he would.

MR. BALBER: Nobody wants your assumptions.

MR. SCHIFF: We want your opinion, based on your knowledge of working for Mr. Agalarov for years.

MR. KAVELADZE: So, I mean, my opinion, probably, yes.

MR. SCHIFF: What do you know of the relationship between Aras Agalarov and Donald Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: The relationship started in 2013, when we decided to host the Miss Universe contest, 2013 Miss Universe final in Moscow at the Crocus City. I don't know if, you know -- I don't know when he was introduced, when Mr. Agalarov was introduced to Mr. Trump, but I know that he had no knowledge

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of Mr. Trump prior to 2013.

MR. SCHIFF: And since meeting him in 2013, have Mr. Agalarov, Aras Agalarov and Donald Trump engaged in any business transactions?

MR. KAVELADZE: They tried to. It fell apart. But --

MR. SCHIFF: And which business transaction was that?

MR. KAVELADZE: They were trying to finalize the project, the Trump Tower project in Crocus City in Moscow.

MR. SCHIFF: And when were they trying to finalize that project?

MR. KAVELADZE: Negotiations lasted from December 2013 to the end of the year 2014.

MR. SCHIFF: And how close did they get to consummating the transaction?

MR. KAVELADZE: Not too close. I think they signed the letter of intent, and that was it.

MR. SCHIFF: Now, the transaction that was attempted in 2015 and beginning of 2016 that Mr. Cohen was involved with, did that involve Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you have any involvement in that transaction?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Since the original Trump Tower deal that you described that was attempted between Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Trump fell through, are you aware of any other attempted or consummated business transactions between Mr. Aras Agalarov and Donald Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I'm unaware of anything.

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MR. SCHIFF: You understand the question, right? It was a long question.

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SCHIFF: I barely follow it myself.

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't think there were any other projects if -- or potential projects negotiated.

MR. SCHIFF: So have they done any business together since the Miss Universe Pageant?

MR. KAVELADZE: It depends what you call business. If that negotiating part, whatever, led to signing of a letter of intent you consider business, then yes. But actual business-business as opposed to -- building the Tower or -- no, it never got there.

MR. SCHIFF: And apart from the letter of intent and that attempted transaction, is there any other business that you're aware of that Mr. Agalarov attempted with Donald Trump?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not aware of any other business.

MR. SCHIFF: Do you know whether Mr. Agalarov was involved in purchasing any Trump properties?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I don't believe Mr. Agalarov ever purchased Trump properties.

MR. SCHIFF: Do you know whether Mr. Agalarov or any of his associates ever attempted to launder money through The Trump Organization?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't know anything about that.

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. CONAWAY: Yeah, let's take it back, because you guys are 40 minutes into a 30-minute deal. I thought you only had a couple of questions.

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MR. CONAWAY: That's all right.

MR. SCHIFF: I'm sorry.

MR. SCHIFF: We'll yield to you all.

BY [REDACTED]

Q I just want to show you a couple documents briefly, which I'll hand you and then describe.

A Sure.

Q So I've just handed you two documents. One is in Russian; one is in English. I don't --

[REDACTED] Can we get a copy of those documents before you ask the questions so we know what you're talking about?

MR. CONAWAY: Do they not have them?

[REDACTED] It's just recent press reporting on the talking points for the Trump Tower meeting. Are you asking us to take a break and print them or --

[REDACTED] Yes. If you're introducing a document, we --

[REDACTED] Okay.

MR. BALBER: We wouldn't mind a break, in any event.

MR. CONAWAY: Take a 5-minute break, and the closer it is to 5 minutes the closer it is to us getting out of here.

[Recess.]

[6:43 p.m.]

MR. SWALWELL: How long did you stay in New York on that trip? You arrived the morning of the 9th. When did you leave?

MR. KAVELADZE: Next morning.

MR. SWALWELL: Where did you go?

MR. KAVELADZE: Back to L.A.

MR. SWALWELL: I saw on your expense report that you -- it's Aeroflot, right? That's the Russian airline?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: You -- in July, you purchased an Aeroflot ticket?

MR. KAVELADZE: July of what year?

MR. BALBER: July of what year?

MR. SWALWELL: 2016.

MR. KAVELADZE: Oh, yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do -- I mean, I do travel to Russia periodically, so --

MR. SWALWELL: Was that the first time you had gone to Russia since the June 9 meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't know. I don't know.

MR. SWALWELL: When did you first go to Russia -- when did you next go to Russia after the June 9, 2016, meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I need to pull my records. I have no idea. I need to pull my, whatever, ticket records.

MR. SWALWELL: But you did turn over to us an expense report that had a \$4,221.49 booking on July 4 to Aeroflot. Is that right? I can show it to you.

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MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah. It could have been, yeah, but --

MR. BALBER: If that's what it says, then that's what happened. I mean --

MR. SWALWELL: So when did you next go to Russia after this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not know.

MR. SWALWELL: Was it within a month? Was it within 6 months?

MR. KAVELADZE: I really need to pull my records and I'll be able to --

MR. BALBER: He has your records already.

MR. O'DONNELL: Yeah, it's right here.

MR. KAVELADZE: So --

MR. O'DONNELL: That's your extensive record. It shows you bought a plane ticket.

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. What's the question?

MR. SWALWELL: When did you next go to Russia after the June 9 meeting?

MR. BALBER: He said he doesn't remember.

MR. SWALWELL: Does the expense report on July 4, for a \$4,221 expense with Aeroflot, does that sound like it was a purchase of an airline ticket or look like it was for a purchase of an airline ticket?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah, it does look. What's the date of the ticket? That's what I don't know.

MR. SWALWELL: Sure. I'm asking you. So you don't remember?

MR. KAVELADZE: I don't know. I need to go back to my records.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you -- when you next went to Russia, did you discuss with anyone in Russia the June 9 meeting that you had had?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not recall discussing that meeting. There

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was -- back in November, when they attempted to do a second meeting, this is the next time I recall discussing the meeting.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: Mr. Agalarov called me again.

MR. SWALWELL: In November?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: And he lives in Russia. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: And you work out of Huntington Beach?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is right.

MR. SWALWELL: And how many times a year in 2016 did you visit to Russia to conduct work for Mr. Agalarov?

MR. KAVELADZE: I cannot state --

MR. SWALWELL: Was it more than six times?

MR. KAVELADZE: Definitely more than six.

MR. SWALWELL: Was it more than ten?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not sure. I don't think so.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. So approximately six to ten times in 2016, you went over to Russia on behalf of the work you were doing for Mr. Agalarov. Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes. But I really need to check my records. I cannot -- I mean, usually every other month like for a week or 2, sometimes 10 days. But I really need to check the records. I wouldn't make assumptions.

MR. SWALWELL: And would you go to Russia and not see Mr. Agalarov?

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. Ever? Is that the question?

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MR. SWALWELL: 2016.

MR. KAVELADZE: Like go to Russia and not see Agalarov, no.

MR. SWALWELL: So it's fair to say that the next time you went to Russia after the June 9, 2016, meeting, you saw Mr. Agalarov in person?

MR. KAVELADZE: Uh-huh.

MR. SWALWELL: Is that right?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Yes, okay. And I just want to be clear, you don't recall whether or not you talked to him about the June 9 meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: And you don't recall whether you talked to any person in the country of Russia about the June 9 meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: Could you have talked to somebody in Russia?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. The only person I would talk to would be Mr. Agalarov, but I don't recall.

MR. SWALWELL: Counsel, I know you're annoyed, but it's not going to move us any faster. He was an important witness.

MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. What? I mean, I'm tapping my pen because we're going over the same things over and over again, so --

MR. CONAWAY: Let's keep moving.

MR. SWALWELL: I'll turn it back over to you.

MR. CONAWAY: [REDACTED] you've got the floor, buddy.

Did everybody get their copies?

BY [REDACTED]

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Q So I handed you and the minority a copy of an English language document and a Russian language document. These were included in a recent article dated October 27 in The New York Times entitled, "Talking Points Brought to Trump Tower Meeting Were Shared With Kremlin."

Basically what I wanted to ask you is you've described throughout this interview the -- some documents that Ms. Veselnitskaya provided to you ahead of your Trump Tower meeting on June 9, 2016. To the best of your recollection, how did these documents that I've just showed you relate to or resemble the documents that you were shown on June 9, 2016?

A To the best of my recollection, they look pretty close to what I read on June 9, 2016.

Q And what she showed you was just a Russian language version, or Russian and English?

A Yes, just the Russian.

Q So the five-page Russian document that you have in front of you, based on your brief review, is similar? Identical?

A No, it's not similar, and it's not identical, because the documents you showed me was maybe around nine and 10 pages. It's just a little bit more details about the same thing.

Q Okay. So the document that I provided you is consistent with the document that you saw --

A Yeah, the synopsis of that bigger document.

Q -- but not the same document, in part, because the document you saw was longer than the one that I showed you?

A Correct.

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Q Are you familiar -- do you know who Glenn Simpson is?

A Well, now I know from the media. I didn't know.

Q And when did you first -- so you first learned about him from media reports?

A Yes.

Q And so I take it that when you met Ms. Veselnitskaya in New York on June 9, did she talk to you about all about Mr. Simpson?

A No, she did not.

Q And you did not meet Mr. Simpson?

A No, I didn't.

Q Do you -- so -- and you have subsequently read about Mr. Simpson in the press. Do you know who he is now?

A Somehow related to Fusion GPS company.

Q And do you have any knowledge as to any relationship between Ms. Veselnitskaya and Fusion GPS, or Mr. Simpson?

A No, never discussed.

Q And you're not aware of either the relationships or any meetings that they may have had?

A No.

██████████ That's all I have, sir.

MR. CONAWAY: All right. Eric, back on the clock, buddy.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you.

Did you ever sign a nondisclosure agreement with the Trump Organization or the Trump campaign?

MR. KAVELADZE: I did not.

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MR. SWALWELL: I'm going to ask you a few names, and if you can just tell me whether you know them, and if you do, I may have more questions.

MR. KAVELADZE: Sure.

MR. SWALWELL: Rhona Graff, had you ever met Ms. Graff or communicated with her?

MR. KAVELADZE: That name was mentioned in Rob Goldstone's emails. Like, again, I know it now because I saw that name in the media.

MR. SWALWELL: But have you ever spoken with her?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: How about Boris Goldstein?

MR. KAVELADZE: Boris Goldstein.

MR. SWALWELL: Or Baruc Goldstein? B-a-r-u-c.

MR. KAVELADZE: Boris Goldstein was the representative of Commercial Bank of San Francisco.

MR. SWALWELL: I'm just asking if you know him.

MR. KAVELADZE: I know him.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. And how do you know him?

MR. KAVELADZE: Back in early '90s, we've attempted to conduct some business with him.

MR. SWALWELL: When was the last time you spoke to him, or communicated with him?

MR. KAVELADZE: Hold on. I'll tell you exactly. The year 2000.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. So it's been a long time?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yeah.

MR. SWALWELL: How about Congressman Dana Rohrabacher?

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MR. KAVELADZE: I do not know him.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever spoken with him?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Communicated with him in any way?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Michael Cohen?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you have any relationship with the Silk Road Group?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you heard of the Silk Road Group?

MR. KAVELADZE: In the media I've heard that name.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever spoken to or communicated with Felix Sater?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Sergi Millian?

MR. KAVELADZE: Sergi?

MR. SWALWELL: Millian, M-i-l-l-i-a-n.

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: George Papadopoulos?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever spoken with Mr. Papadopoulos?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Tefik Arife?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

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MR. SWALWELL: Erik Prince? Have you ever met Erik Prince or spoken to him?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Sergei Kislyak, have you ever met him?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. That's the Russian ambassador, right?

MR. SWALWELL: Yeah.

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever communicated with him?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: President Vladimir Putin, have you ever met him?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know -- do you have any knowledge as to whether Donald Trump has met Vladimir Putin? Do you have personal knowledge?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. I mean, look, it was in the news that he --

MR. BALBER: Do you have personal knowledge of him meeting Vladimir Putin, yes or no?

MR. SWALWELL: Did you -- did somebody tell you --

MR. KAVELADZE: If I read it in the paper, is that my personal knowledge?

MR. SWALWELL: I understand. It's confusing. My question is, do you have independent knowledge of a press report of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I do not.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you.

Did you ever -- after the June 9 meeting and you learned from Roman that

there may be dirt about Hillary Clinton, and you heard Don Jr. ask for essentially dirt on Hillary Clinton, did you ever take that information and report it to the FBI?

MR. KAVELADZE: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you spoken to the FBI about this meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: No, I mean, have you been interviewed about your participation in this meeting?

MR. BALBER: At the FBI.

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you been interviewed by special counsel?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you assist the Trump campaign at all through volunteer work, or any monetary contribution?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you attend the Republican Convention in 2016?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Can you tell me anything about the social media platform VK? Are you familiar with it?

MR. KAVELADZE: VK is short for conductor, right? Is that the same thing?

MR. SWALWELL: I'm sorry? Yes.

MR. KAVELADZE: Conductor. Yeah, it's a Russian social media platform. I never joined it, so --

MR. SWALWELL: You're not on there?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

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MR. SWALWELL: Do you know whether Rob Goldstone is on it?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I don't know.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Rob Goldstone or anyone associated with Ron Goldstone talk to you about VK?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: During the campaign did you ever provide the Trump campaign with any information about Hillary Clinton?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: During the campaign did you ever provide the Russian Government, or an agent of the Russian Government with any information related to Hillary Clinton or any other political candidate or party?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: During the campaign, did you ever provide any individual with any information related to Hillary Clinton or any other political party or candidate?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you aware of anyone who provided information about Hillary Clinton or any other political candidate or party to the Russian Government, an agent of the Russian Government, or any other party or individual during the campaign, other than what we've discussed about the June 9 meeting?

MR. KAVELADZE: I am not aware.

MR. SWALWELL: During the 2016 U.S. election period, did you ever receive information about Hillary Clinton or any other individuals related to the Democratic Party and Clinton's political campaign from Russia or an agent of the Russian Government?

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MR. KAVELADZE: No, I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you aware of anyone who received information from Russia or an agent of the Russian Government about Hillary Clinton or any other individuals related to the Democratic party and Clinton's political campaign during the campaign?

MR. KAVELADZE: I am not.

MR. SWALWELL: During the campaign, did you ever encourage then-candidate Trump or anyone on his team or any surrogate to share information that you knew to be false?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever become aware of news reports containing false information about the campaign?

Well, I'll withdraw that. Let me withdraw that.

MR. KAVELADZE: That's a hard question.

MR. SWALWELL: I'll withdraw that.

Have you ever been in contact with anyone that you knew to be Guccifer 2.0?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever been in contact with WikiLeaks or anyone affiliated with WikiLeaks?

MR. KAVELADZE: No. Have you ever been in contact with anyone from the GRU? Do you know what the GRU is?

MR. KAVELADZE: It's like a Russian Intelligence Service or something.

MR. SWALWELL: Well, what do you think it is?

MR. KAVELADZE: Let me -- yeah, it's like intelligence service. No, I was

not in contact with GRU.

MR. SWALWELL: SVR?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know what SVR is?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do know what it is, and I was not in contact with them.

MR. SWALWELL: FSB?

MR. KAVELADZE: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you familiar with what the FSB is?

MR. KAVELADZE: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: And your testimony today is that you were also not in contact with --

MR. KAVELADZE: I am testifying today that I was not in contact with the FSB.

MR. SWALWELL: I yield back. That's all I have.

MR. SCHIFF: And I just wanted to make sure I wasn't too narrow in my question earlier. When asked about whether you were aware of any effort by Mr. Agalarov to launder any money through any Trump properties, I want to make sure I'm not restricting it to any properties belonging to the President.

Let me ask you the same question with respect to Jared Kushner. Are you aware of any effort by Mr. Agalarov to launder any money through any properties owned by Jared Kushner?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not aware of any.

MR. SCHIFF: Or any member of the Trump family?

MR. KAVELADZE: No, I'm not aware of those.

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MR. SCHIFF: Are you aware of any money laundering by Mr. Agalarov in the United States, regardless of whether it involves the Trump family?

MR. KAVELADZE: I'm not aware of that.

MR. SCHIFF: I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SWALWELL: And, Mr. Chairman, I just ask that we enter into the record a copy of what Mr. Kaveladze drew as to the June 9, 2016, meeting at Trump Tower, his recollection of the seating chart there.

MR. CONAWAY: Without objection.

MR. SWALWELL: Thanks.

MR. CONAWAY: You all done?

MR. SWALWELL: Yeah.

MR. CONAWAY: Gentlemen, thank you very much. Thank you for the extended day. Appreciate that. And we're done. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 7:00 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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